

PRICE TO BE HANGED.

Sentenced to Death for Killing Miss Sallie E. Dean.

CLOSING SCENE OF A NOTABLE TRIAL.

The Convicted Man Declares in Court that He Did Not Commit the Murder—He Still Holds to His Statement About an Accomplice—Address of the Judge.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

DENTON, MD., May 3.—"The judgment of the court is that you, Marshall E. Price, be hanged by the neck until you are dead. May God, in His infinite goodness, have mercy on you."

With these words, uttered in a solemn and impressive manner by Judge Wickes, the trial of Marshall E. Price for the murder, on March 26 last, of Sallie E. Dean, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Mr. Jacob E. Dean, while on her way to school, near Harmony, in this county, was ended. The scene in the courtroom when the death sentence was passed upon Price was dramatic in the extreme. Many of the strangers who had been in Denton since the beginning of the trial left immediately after the verdict of the court—that Price was guilty of murder in the first degree—but a large number returned to town this morning to bear sentence passed upon him. Among these were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dean, the parents of the murdered girl. They were among the earliest arrivals and went at once to the seats they had occupied during the trial. They waited there for nearly an hour, and then at the last moment left the room without waiting to hear the sentence.

Price in the Courtroom.

Price was brought from the jail shortly after 10 o'clock. Nearly everybody had been kept out of the courtroom until he was brought in and then there was a rush. In a few minutes all the available space in the courtroom was taken. There was a noticeable lack of the disorder that had prevailed in the courtroom early in the week. Everybody kept quiet, even though the court was not in session, and very little whispering was done. Everybody kept their eyes on Price and wondered whether he would break down or continue to the last the remarkable show of composure which has been one of the most noticeable things about the trial. He did not break down nor did he lose any of his wonderful nerve. He sat surrounded by his guards dressed as neatly as he has always dressed during the trial and having more the appearance of a man who was about to go to a dance than of one about to be condemned to death. The lawyers for the State and the defense sat around their tables and consulted law books; many of the bearded farmers pulled their whiskers nervously, the detectives who had woven the net around Price sat reading yesterday's papers while waiting for the judges to put in an appearance, and everybody seemed more or less depressed. Grant Corkran, who had been charged by Price with being the principal in the crime, was also present, and sat looking at the prisoner with a care-worn expression on his face. When Mr. and Mrs. Dean left the courtroom Price followed them with his eyes, but without showing any feeling.

An Oppressive Silence.

When Judges Wickes and Stump entered the room and took their seats the stillness in the room became oppressive.

"Mr. Russum," asked Judge Wickes of the chief of the counsel for the defense, "do you desire any more time or do you wish to apply for a new trial?"

Mr. Russum replied in the negative.

A moment later Judge Wickes announced the sentence: "Marshall E. Price," he said, "by the verdict of the court you have been convicted of murder in the first degree for willfully and deliberately killing Sarah E. Dean. Have you anything to say why the court should not now pronounce judgment upon you?"

Price half rose to his feet, then went back in his seat, as if undecided what to do, and then a moment later stood up. In a clear voice and with just the slightest suggestion of a tremor, he made this statement: "There is but one word I would like to say. It is this: I have been sitting here in silence all this time hearing all that has been said against me. In the presence of God and these men"—and suiting the action to the word—"I hold up my right hand and say that I am not the guilty man."

Judge Wickes's Orders.

The eyes of many of the men in the room filled up with tears, which were hastily brushed away and a murmur of sympathy swept over the room.

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filled up with tears, which were hastily brushed away and a murmur of sympathy swept over the room.

"The duty which we are now about to perform," continued Judge Wickes, "is a painful one, as the judgment of the court which I am now about to pronounce will send to the gallows a human being to suffer death.

"But painful as that duty is, we know that you have committed an atrocious and brutal crime and that you deserve to suffer the extreme penalty of the law. Not having yourself engaged counsel to defend you, the court assigned to that duty two of the members of this bar of ability and experience in the trial of cases, who have faithfully discharged their duty. You also, as you had the right to do, called to your aid other counsel to assist in your defense.

"Availing yourself of the right given to you by the constitution of the State, you selected the court as the tribunal by which you would be tried. After a full and patient hearing and a careful consideration of the testimony, the opinion of the court was that you had killed Sallie E. Dean and that you were guilty of murder in the first degree.

Miss Dean's Happy Home.

"When Sallie Dean left her happy home on the morning of the 26th of March she had no thought that she would be in any danger or would be molested by any one. A child not fourteen years of age, it was her daily habit to walk to school alone or in company with one or more companions. You knew it, and having determined to gratify your brutal lust, you went to the woods she had to pass to await her coming. You went for the ostensible purpose of cutting a piece of wood for your work, and there secreting yourself until she approached and finding that she was alone, you advanced upon her from behind and struck the blow with the heavy stone which you had secured which knocked her senseless to the earth. Whether you then accomplished your wicked purpose is known to no one but yourself. If you did not it was because you became alarmed and feared detection by those who were passing on the public road. To conceal the fearful crime you had committed or attempted to commit you deliberately cut her throat, and dragging the mutilated body of that innocent child to a secluded spot you attempted to conceal it from view by covering it with the branches of a tree.

Detection of the Crime.

"But for the fidelity to duty of Marshal Frey and the industry and sagacity of Mr. Seibold and Mr. Gault, the detectives who were sent by the police authorities of Baltimore to aid in finding out the perpetrator of the fearful deed, it would, in all probability, never have been known who committed it, and the people of this county and of the whole State owe to them a debt of gratitude for the faithful and successful manner in which they have performed that duty.

"A more atrocious and cruel murder has never been committed. With unrelenting cruelty you attacked and killed an innocent child who had never injured you, and whose misfortune was that she possessed personal charms which had excited your brutal lust.

"During the short time you have to live do not expect human aid, but look to a higher power for forgiveness. You have forfeited your life by committing the terrible crime of which you have been convicted, and you cannot expect relief from any human power. During the brief period you have to live, seek to make your peace with an offended God, who will extend mercy to those who truly repent and ask His forgiveness.

The Death Sentence.

"The judgment of the court is that you, Marshall E. Price, be taken to the jail of Caroline county, from where you came, and from thence to the place of execution, at such time as shall be duly appointed by the Governor of this State, and there be hanged by the neck until you are dead.

"May God, in His infinite goodness, have mercy on you."

Instructions to the Sheriff.

The sheriff was instructed not to allow any person to leave the courtroom until the prisoner had been taken to jail. Price was taken out in silence and a few minutes later the court was cleared of spectators. These gathered in little knots about the streets and discussed the sentence, although everybody knew perfectly well what it would be. It was what they had been looking for and was the only one that would have been satisfactory.

Price, after he had been taken to the jail, said he had expected nothing else but the death sentence. Up to yesterday he had thought it possible that he might escape it, but gave up hope before he had been convicted. He refused to retract one word from his original statement in which Corkran had been implicated.

"Do you realize," he was asked, "that you have been convicted and sentenced to death and that this effort of yours to implicate

another man can have not the slightest effect in your case?"

"Certainly I do," he responded.

"You also know that even if the other man should ultimately be convicted of complicity in the crime—even of being the principal—your connection with it would be sufficient to hang you."

"Yes."

"And you still persist in saying the other man was with you."

"Yes, I do; as God is my judge, I do. I will not lie about it. He was with me. I know that all that I can say will not help me, but if it is the last thing I'll say on earth, it will be that he was with me. Why should I lie? Another man had been arrested—Rose, the colored man—and I told Marshal Frey that he was innocent, and had nothing in the world to do with the murder. Why should I try to get him out of it and put another man in?"

Dr. William Lee's Views.

Dr. Wm. Lee, of the State lunacy commission, was in Denton today and spent an hour with Price. He said afterward that there was nothing to show that Price was crazy. He was of a rather low order of intelligence, but was certainly not insane.

Price's wife and her father-in-law left Denton early this morning and were not present when sentence was pronounced.