

# PRICE FOUND GUILTY.

## Murder in the First Degree for Killing Sallie Dean.

### BUT HIS SENTENCE IS DEFERRED.

How the Prisoner Conducted Himself During the Concluding Day of His Trial—Visited by His Wife and Attended by His Devoted Father—How the Verdict Was Received—Exceptions.

(Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.)

DENTON, Md., May 2.—Marshall E. Price, the young blacksmith and wheelwright of Harmony, in Caroline county, was this afternoon found guilty of murder in the first degree by Judges Wickes and Stump. The prisoner had been accused of way-laying Sallie E. Dean, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Jacob Dean, a farmer, of cutting the child's throat and hiding her body in a clump of trees after making an attempt to assault her, while she was on her way from her home to the schoolhouse in Harmony, on the morning of Tuesday, March 23. Sentence was deferred, and will probably be announced tomorrow or the next day at the latest. Judges Stump and Wickes regret the unseemly conduct on the part of the crowd during the first two days of the trial, particularly its conduct toward the prisoner. "I do not see," said Judge Wickes, in speaking of the matter, "how a man with a particle of manliness about him could taunt a poor wretch in a position such as Price is in."

#### Abrupt End of the Trial.

The trial, which was expected to last until Friday night or Saturday, was abruptly ended today with the testimony for the State. A number of witnesses for the defense had been summoned, but not one of these was put on the stand. Dr. John Morris, of Baltimore, was summoned, but he did not come. He would have been put on the stand to show that Price was subject to hallucinations, and that he could be easily influenced by a will stronger than his own. Dr. Dubadway, who testified for the State, had also been summoned for the defense. By him it was expected to show that Price was addicted to unnatural practices, which had affected his mind. He was not put on the stand. Dr. Charles G. Hill, of Baltimore, the medical director of Mount Hope Insane Asylum, and a noted expert on diseases of the mind, was here for the State, and would have been put on the stand had the plea of insanity been brought forward. He has several diagrams of Price's head, all of which show his head to be reasonably well formed. The failure of the defense to put any witnesses on the stand was a surprise to everybody.

#### Price's Demeanor.

When it was announced that the defense would examine no witnesses and would rest its case after noting two exceptions, the court took a recess in order to consult as to the verdict. The witnesses were all required to remain within call. Price was taken back to jail, and the judges retired to the hotel. It was then 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The counsel, witnesses and spectators took advantage of their opportunity to eat dinner. At 4 o'clock the judges were on the bench and the prisoner was taken before them. There was a struggle to get into the courtroom and the bailiffs had a great deal of trouble in keeping the entrance even reasonably clear. A crowd followed Price from the jail to the courthouse, and some one yelled "Shoot him!" Price was trembling when he entered the courtroom, but this disappeared very quickly and in a few moments he was as much composed as he had been at any time during the trial. He seemed to be recovering himself for the ordeal through which he was to pass.

#### Verdict of the Court.

Judge Wickes delivered the verdict of the court. When he arose there was an oppressive stillness in the room. "There is no doubt," he said, "that the girl was brutally murdered on the morning of March 23. The only question to be determined is the identity of the person who committed the fearful deed. The testimony is conclusive on that point, that is, that Marshall E. Price is the guilty man. Mr. Clerk, the verdict of the court is that Marshall E. Price is guilty of murder in the first degree." Price's lip trembled somewhat and his face became a little paler as he heard the verdict he had feared, but he showed no other emotion.

#### General Satisfaction.

The verdict gave general satisfaction, and as soon as it became known the crowds which have been in town every day since Tuesday began to disappear, and by night nearly all the strangers except those from a distance had gone.

#### The Day's Testimony.

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Price was taken into court even earlier this morning than yesterday. At 7.45 o'clock, some time before the crowds had begun to gather around the courtroom, he was conveyed from the jail in company with his guards. He walked quickly to the courthouse, which he entered without difficulty, although a number of persons followed him. He took a seat in the back part of the space reserved for the counsel and witnesses and set for a long time reading a copy of "A Step to Christ," a volume which some one, interested in his soul's welfare, had sent him last night. He seemed lost in the book and paid no attention to the few other persons who were in the room or what was going on. During the trial he seemed deep in thought. There was a far-away look in his eyes and his face had a careworn expression. The strain under which he has been since his trial began has begun to tell upon him. This morning he did not seem to realize his situation. He said he thought he would come out all right.

### Price's Appetite.

Since his arrival in Denton he has eaten and slept fairly well, although he is very weary. "This trial is very hard on me," he said to a deputy, "and I don't believe there are two other men in the country who could bear what I have gone through." He also said that he did not believe there was anybody in the country except Marshal Froy and the detectives who did not pity him. There were certainly three others who did not pity him, Mr. and Mrs. Dean and their daughter, Miss Florrie Dean. They sat within the railing and seemed greatly interested in the progress of the trial.

### Miss Dean's Mother and Father.

Some one remarked to Mrs. Dean that the State had made out a strong case against Price. "Yes," she replied, "and I hope it will be strong enough to hang him." Her husband and daughter nodded their approval of her sentiments. "Served him right," they said, when the verdict was announced. Price's father has sat by his side all during the trial, and at other times has been almost constantly engaged with the counsel for the defense. He said he was willing to spend every dollar he has in the world to clear his son, who is his only child.

### Price's Wife.

Mr. Price went to Doyor Bridge last night and this morning brought to town Marshall Price's wife. Mrs. Price did not appear in the courtroom this morning and did not see her husband until late in the afternoon, when she was taken to the jail by her father-in-law. She is a rather pleasant-looking young woman, a decided brunette, and shows in her face that there is a great deal more force in her character than in her husband.

### As to Husband and Wife.

The Price case is certainly an instance of the advisability of a husband taking his wife into his confidence. If he had consulted her before having drums and taking the detectives into his confidence, he would probably not now be charged with the murder. While there was a certain amount of evidence against Price, it was not conclusive and no jury would have convicted him of murder upon it. The strongest evidence against him was that given by himself. He realized his mistake when Detective Gault was giving in his testimony this morning and learned that all the time they were apparently so frank with him and apparently looking for his assistance in getting some one else in the toils he really had been under close surveillance and they were allowing him to weave a web around himself. Price's eyes were filled with tears at one time this morning. This was the only time he showed any emotion.

### Detective Gault on the Stand.

Detective Gault resumed the witness stand this morning, telling the circumstances connected with the arrest of Price and his confession, then of the finding of the stone with which Price said the bruise on the girl's head was inflicted, the arrest of Grant Corkran, the meeting of Corkran and Price in the central police station, Baltimore, and his explanation as to the presence of the chloroform bottle, which Price said he had gotten out of Dr. Duhadway's carriage-house and which he threw on the ground at the time of the murder, and then in his way.

about a confession which Price is said to have made on Sunday, which was taken down in shorthand, but which was not signed by Price.

#### The Second Confession.

The counsel for the defense asked to have the second confession read instead of hearing Detective Gault's statement of his recollection of what occurred. The court ruled the point out of order. Detective Gault said that at the interview at the station-house Price said that while the murder was being done he saw Frank Friend, the colored man who lives near by, going from his house to his barn, and that he called Corkran's attention to it, but Corkran said nothing. The defense took the typewritten copy of Price's confession and made Detective Gault tell what Price said to Marshal Frey, making an effort to show that Mr. Gault's memory on the typewritten confession was erroneous. Marshal Frey, of the Baltimore police force, told of an interview he had at the jail with Price at the time of his indictment by the grand jury of Caroline county and Corkran's release.

#### Marshal Frey's Testimony.

At that time Price told him, he said, that he would stick to his statement about Corkran's complicity in the crime, and that Price had said in reply to a question that he thought that he would get off with a long term in the penitentiary if it could be shown that some one else actually cut the girl's throat. Grant Corkran testified that the last time he saw Sallie Dean alive was on March 20. He was sitting near an open door in his house at work on a horse collar. Sallie passed by and bowed to him. He returned the salutation. That was the last he saw of her. He worked on the collar for a good while; went out and plowed for a while. The collar did not suit, and he returned and fixed it again, returning to his plowing after dinner. About 5 o'clock a little girl called him and said that Sallie Dean had not been to school that day. Soon afterward he heard an outcry and went over and saw Sallie Dean's body. He was asked if he had struck the girl with a stone, and replied that he had not. The only time he saw Price on March 20 was at night. He said he was not in the slightest degree intimate with Marshall Price; had never said anything to him about Sallie Dean or any other girl, and denied all the statements that Price had made implicating him in the murder.

#### Close of the Case.

The State rested its case with the testimony of Grant Corkran and the counsel for the defense withdrew for consultation. When the counsel for the defense returned to the room Mr. Millard F. Taylor announced that no testimony would be offered for the defense, but asked the court to sign and seal two bills of exceptions. He asked that the confession which Marshall Price signed be ruled out on the ground that it was not the complete confession that Price made. Mr. Taylor made the point that as the grand jury of Caroline county had thrown out that part implicating Corkran as unworthy of belief, the part implicating the confessor could not be accepted as truthful. Mr. Edwin Brown argued against Mr. Taylor's point, citing authorities to show that it is proper to disprove any part of a confession and allow the other to stand. The other point on which Mr. Taylor noted an exception was that a statement made by Price's wife and quoted by Detective Seibold should not have been admitted as evidence. The court ruled that the statement of Price's wife was made in Price's presence and tacitly agreed to by him was evidence and that the written confession was evidence. Mr. Taylor asked for time to secure authorities as to the point about the confession, but the court would not agree to wait.

#### Price and His Wife.

Mrs. Price, wife of Marshall Price, visited her husband at the jail after the verdict was announced. The meeting was an affecting one, and they clasped their arms around one another and cried. Mrs. Price thinks that her husband was not alone in the crime, and, while she appreciated its enormity, she wants to see the man who she still believes led her husband into the crime share the penalty. She took the verdict very hard. Marshall Price had been told by his father not to expect any less verdict than that which was given and was in a measure prepared for it. He still adheres to his statement implicating Grant Corkran, and says that while he is willing to suffer for his share in the matter he is not willing to suffer alone.

"I think it is hard," he said, in the jail today, "that the man who suggested the whole thing and who struck her and cut her throat should go free, while I go to the gallows."

#### Put to a Severe Test.

Price's father says his son has been put to severe tests, and has always persisted in saying that Corkran was with him when the girl was killed. On Tuesday night he visited Marshall Price in the jail, made him kneel down and then implored him by everything he held sacred not to try to drag the innocent man into the case, but to be a man, and if he was guilty to say so like a man. Nothing, he said, that he could say or do could shake his son's insistence that Grant Corkran was his associate in the crime. Mr. Price said that no application will be made for a new trial.