

Transcript Daily.

Tuesday Morning, November 1, 1892.

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MONDAY morning showed the heaviest frost of the season. The thermometer registered 32°.

Mr. J. Frank Ernest has purchased of Mr. Samuel J. Hill, the dog-cart in which Dr. J. Heighe Hill was murdered.

ACCORDING to the last registration, Kent county has a total vote of 4,748—2,992 white and 1756 colored, or 1236 more white than colored voters.

THE peach tree inspectors have discovered quite a number of trees affected with the Yellows in Caroline county. The inspection costs about fifty cents per thousand trees.

B. F. FLOUNDERS, a graduate of Washington College in the class of 1890, has taken the stump for the Democratic ticket and made a rousing speech at Calora, Cecil county, last week.

THE remains of Mr. George M. Teyman, who was drowned near Shallcross' wharf, in Sassafras river on Monday afternoon, were recovered on Sunday morning and were interred in Shrewsbury cemetery on Wednesday.

CAPT. WM. PIERCE, brother of Mrs. George Lofland and for over forty years one of the most respected and trusted captains of the Clyde Line of steamers, visited his sister and other relatives in Chestertown last week.

WILLIAM H. COLEMAN, the four year old son of Capt. Isaac Coleman, rowed across Chester river and back on Friday morning for a pair of boots. The little navigator was in a seven foot long boat and had a large flag from each end of his craft.

COURT met on Monday morning with his Honor Judge Wickes on the bench. The grand jury continued its labors and in the meantime some criminal business was transacted. The case of Alonzo Lloyd for assault on Hester Porter was called and verdict rendered of guilty, Lloyd to be confined in the county jail for one month.

WITH the approach of winter, every effort is being made by those interested in alleviating the sufferings and distress of the poor and needy, to carry to a greater extent than ever before their God-given and noble work. The Emmanuel circle of King's Daughters will give a delightful supper in the house on Main street recently occupied by Dr. Samuel Beck, on Wednesday evening to secure funds for assisting the poor. The room will be beautifully trimmed and an elegant supper will be given.

THE house belonging to T. J. McWhorter and occupied by Thomas Crossley in Millington, near H. S. Cook's store on the road leading out of the town to Massey's, was totally destroyed by fire about noon on Sunday. The roof was in a light blaze when the alarm was given and it was impossible to do more than save the furniture in the lower rooms and keep the flames from spreading to adjoining property. The fire originated, it is supposed from a defective flue. A bucket brigade was formed, and though a frame building stood but a few feet off from the burning house, the vigorous efforts of the sturdy citizens of the town confined the loss to one building and a portion of its contents. Report says that there was an insurance of \$700 on the property.

Sentence Passed.

To Hang by Neck Until Dead.

Eight Men and Boys to Expiate Their Crime on the Gallows.

Judge Wickes' Strong and Impressive Sentence of the Prisoners.

The Men Appreciate the Terrible Import of the Occasion, but the Boys Remain Stolid and Unmoved.

Crowds of Persons in the Court-Room—Williams, Brooks and Brown Realize Their Awful Fate—Comegys Smiles in the Face of Death—The Bar and Spectators Moved to an Unusual Degree.

The most intense interest prevailed in Chestertown yesterday, and at an early hour persons from every section of the county, and many from Queen Anne's, crowded into town to hear the sentence of death passed upon the negroes proven guilty of the murder of Dr. J. Heighe Hill, on the night of April 23. During the entire day a feverish excitement prevailed, and it was not until a few minutes before three o'clock, that it became positively known that sentence would be passed. The uncertainty was occasioned because of the grand jury not having been discharged, but were held to investigate any developments of evidence which might in any way implicate the negro, John Potts, whom the public still considers the arch-conspirator of the crime, as an accessory to the murder.

The grand jury failed to find any evidence and at a few minutes before 3 o'clock reported and were discharged, and the court ordered the prisoners brought into the court-room to receive the sentence of death. The news spread like wildfire and in a few minutes the room was densely packed with interested persons, among whom were Mr. Samuel J. Hill, father of the murdered man, and C. S. Hill, a brother. Promptly at 3 o'clock the prisoners entered being strongly guarded by a posse of officers and deputies. In a moment the silence of death pervaded the court-room. The three men Brooks, Williams and Brown gave every evidence of a realization of the fearful import of the occasion, and gazed steadfastly at the court. The boys were at first unmoved, but afterward became more attentive and gave signs of nervousness, with the exception of Comegys, who wore a smile but was evidently nervous. Judge Wickes, at 8 minutes past 3 o'clock commenced to pronounce the sentence. The court said:

"Charles Brooks, Fletcher Williams, Moses Brown, Joshua Bainard, Louis Benson, Henry Hartt, Frisby Comegys and Charles S. Emory, by the verdict of the court you have been convicted of murder

in the first degree, for wilfully and deliberately killing Dr. James H. Hill. Have you anything to say, why the court should not now pronounce judgment against you? The duty I am called upon to perform, is a very painful one, as the judgment of the court, which I am about to pronounce, will send to the gallows eight human beings to suffer death. Never, in the history of this State, has such a scene been witnessed, and callous indeed, must be the heart, which does not feel the solemnity of the occasion. But, painful and sad as that duty is, I am sustained by the knowledge, that you have committed a most atrocious and brutal crime, and for that crime, that you deserve to suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

Not having yourselves engaged counsel to defend you, the court assigned to that duty, two of the most experienced members of this bar, and it is only proper to say that in the conduct of your defence, they faithfully discharged their whole duty. In the exercise 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 patient hearing and a most careful consideration of the testimony, the unanimous opinion of the judges was, that you had murdered Dr. Hill, and the verdict of the court was, that you were all guilty of murder in the first degree.

"There is no doubt, that some time prior to the 23d of April that you, Charles Brooks and Fletcher Williams, and probably Moses Brown, had formed a conspiracy to commit that fearful deed, and that you met in Millington, on the evening of that day, to carry out your hellish purpose. It was then that you informed Bradshaw, Comegys, and the others who joined you, of that purpose, and invited them to go with you. With alacrity they agreed to do so.

"Having heard in Millington, that Dr. Hill would leave the town in a short time to visit a patient, who resided on the road from Millington to Masseys, you started, nine in number, on your mission of death. With songs and dancing, in anticipation of the feast of blood which you were soon to enjoy, you proceeded, at a late hour of the night, on that lonely road until you had reached Ford's Hill, and there you awaited the coming of your victim. Dr. Hill had left his young wife and her infant child, and started on his errand of kindness to relieve human suffering, happy in the thought that he would soon return to that peaceful home, which you had determined he should never see again. When he reached the spot where you had assembled, you seized the bridle of his horse, and arrested his progress. Becoming aware of your purpose to kill him, he offered you his money to spare his life, which you rejected. He then begged for mercy, declaring that he had never injured you, but had always been your friend. Of the nine who then surrounded him, not one protested against the bloody deed, which was about to be enacted, or made any effort to save the life of the man, who had been your friend and benefactor. Bradshaw and Comegys were called to hold the horse, which summons they promptly obeyed. It was then that you, Charles Brooks, with savage cruelty struck Dr. Hill, defenceless and pleading for his life, the fatal blow with the heavy stone, which knocked him senseless to the earth. You, Fletcher Williams, not to be outdone in that work of blood, with the ferocity of a tiger, sprang upon the prostrate body of your victim, and plunged into his throat the knife you had for that purpose. You, Moses Brown and Louis Benson, to appease in part your thirst for blood, seized the dying man, and with fiendish glee, cut and hacked, with your knives, his body, as it lay bleeding before you.

"The motive which induced you to murder Dr. Hill, is no longer a mystery. Who that heard the testimony, and is acquainted with the passions of the human heart, on the indications of human feeling, can for a moment hesitate to believe that for some time revenge had lurked in your hearts, and that you only waited for a favorable, and as you believed safe, op-

portunity to gratify it. It was not to rob, or for any personal grievance, that you killed him. He had been kind to you, and had given professional aid to several of you, when sick. But there is little doubt that he had incurred your displeasure and hatred by giving testimony at the coroner's inquest, held over the body of Thomas Campbell, in the discharge of a sworn public duty, contrary to your wishes. For that you killed him.

"A more atrocious and cruel murder has never been committed. With unrelenting ferocity, you attacked and killed a man who had never injured you, and whose only offence was, that he had performed a sworn duty. By that cruel act, you have deprived the community of a useful citizen; you have blasted the life of the young wife, whose happiness depended upon the love of the man you murdered; you have robbed her infant child of the father, upon whose support and guidance, she would have depended; you have crushed the hearts of the aged parent who with just pride, had watched over the son of his old age, and had seen him enter upon a career of honor and usefulness. As with the Patriarch of old, all rise up to comfort him, but he will not be comforted, and well may he exclaim, 'I will go down to the grave, unto my son mourning.'

"When we consider the motive, which led you to commit that fearful crime; the savage ferocity with which you attacked and assassinated upon the public highway a peaceful citizen, it is not a matter of surprise that popular feeling was roused to madness; and that there was great fear that the strong arm of the law might not be able to save you from the hands of an infuriated people. But, happily, wiser counsel prevailed, and the people of this county, by practising that self-restraint, which should always govern those who respect the law, forbore to attempt any violence. The charge against you has been submitted to judicial investigation, by which you secured the right, which every man should have, of a fair and impartial trial, in a court of justice.

"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 lives by committing the terrible crime of which you have been convicted, and you cannot expect relief from any human power. During the brief remnant of your lives seek to make your peace with an offended God, who will extend mercy to those who truly repent and ask His forgiveness.

"The judgment of the court is, that you, Charles Brooks, be taken to the jail of Kent county, from whence 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. [A like sentence was imposed upon Fletcher Williams, Moses Brown, Frisby Comegys, Charles S. Emory, Louis Benson, Henry Hartt and Joshua Bainard.] Judge Wickes closed by saying: "May God in his infinite goodness have mercy upon you."

THE CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY.

In his charge to the grand jury, Judge Wickes said: "Since the last grand jury was in session, a most atrocious murder has been committed in this county, which not only shocked the community in which it occurred, but the circumstances were such as to create a feeling of uneasiness and insecurity among the people of this county, and throughout the whole State. On the night of the 23d of last April, Dr. J. H. Hill, who resided in the town of Millington, in this county, was sent for to visit a person who had been taken suddenly ill, and who resided some distance from that town. With prompt obedience to the summons, he started in his carriage on his errand of mercy, but had proceeded only a short distance, when he was attacked by a band of ruffians, who had waylaid him on the public road, and brutally murdered. I am informed that eight or nine persons were present when this terrible deed was committed. How many and who participated in committing the act, either by striking the blows which caused the death of Dr. Hill, or who aided or