

THE TRANSCRIPT EXTRA.

CHESTERTOWN, MD., FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1893.

THE MURDER

—OF—
DR. J. HEIGHE HILL,

of Millington.

A REVOLTING CRIME.

A Detailed History of the Brutal Killing of one of Kent's Most Respected Citizens.

THE MURDERERS.

Their Arrest—The Causes Which Led to the Crime—An Enraged Populace Forces the Officers to Seek Safety for Their Prisoners in Flight—A Full Record of the Later Developments.

Though a detailed statement of the facts in the murder of Dr. J. Heighe Hill, near Millington, on the night of April 23d last, was given in the TRANSCRIPT immediately following the crime, and has been followed by accurate statements of the events and incidents which have from time to time been unfolded by the trial and since, now, on the day of the execution of the parties who have been proven guilty of the crime, we deem it neither uninteresting nor unwise, to recall, in as concise a manner as possible, the harrowing details as then given, with all of the additional facts which have become interesting parts of the history of the murder.

For sickening brutality and beastly ferocity, the murder stands almost without a parallel in the history of the State, and from whatever standpoint the inhuman act may be considered, no extenuating circumstances present themselves, to plead in behalf of the men who committed the brutal killing which deprived a young wife of a husband's love, a helpless infant of a father's care and protection, the aged parents of a son who honored their declining years, and the community of a respected citizen and Christian man. Youth and the peculiar circumstances surrounding the case, appealed in the name of humanity for mercy for the boys who participated in the fearful deed, but the uncompromising demands of the law, and the rigid requirements of social safety and order demanded life for life, from the earliest stages of the case.

Without the slightest reason to suspect that a murder, which in brutal inhumanity stands second not even to the cold-blooded butchery of the Cosden family, more than fifty years ago, was to break upon the quiet of the community, the distressing and mysterious death of Dr. J. H. Hill, a prominent young physician and druggist of Millington, came like a thunder crash from a cloudless sky, and the home which had only a few weeks before been brightened by the birth of a little girl, was invaded by the hand of the assassin.

A Professional Visit.

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 23, Mr. James Shaw, living on the C. S. Hur-

lock farm, about two miles and a half from Millington and about one mile from Massey's, sent to Dr. Hill for medicine for a sick child. The medicine was sent, with a message that should the patient not become better, to let him (the doctor) know and he would drive out to see it. As was his custom, immediately after supper, the doctor read for an hour to his wife, who then retired, and her husband left for his store, but went from there to the office of Esquire W. M. Johnson to attend the formation of a Cleveland club, and was elected president of the organization, and about 10.30 o'clock left the meeting to answer a summons to Mr. Shaw's to attend his sick child. The doctor harnessed his own horse to a dog-cart, and was seen by several to drive out of town alone, but never reached Mr. Shaw's, though he was momentarily expected by the anxious parents of the little sufferer.

A Ghastly Find.

Dr. Hill frequently remained at his drug store until 12 o'clock, consequently his wife felt no uneasiness at his not arriving at home before that time, but as the hours drew on after one o'clock, she became fearful that something had happened to cause her husband's protracted absence. At four o'clock on Sunday morning she heard the noise made by wheels entering the yard at the end of the house, and after waiting sufficiently long for her husband to have stabled his horse, and still no signs of his return, she hurriedly dressed herself and went down to the yard, where a most ghastly sight awaited her. There stood the horse attached to the dog-cart, while in the cart lay her husband mangled and dying, with his head wedged in between the shaft and an iron brace. As she approached, a groan escaped her husband, which was the only sign of life given. Powerless to meet the fearful emergency alone, and having recently recovered from an almost fatal illness, the devoted wife summoned sufficient strength to arouse her neighbor, Mr. J. P. Ahern, and Justice W. M. Johnson, who lived just across the street. The two gentlemen at once set about extricating the unfortunate man from his fatal position and carried him into his home. This was truly a work of love, and required the full strength of both gentlemen. Dr. Hill's forehead rested upon the shaft support on the one side of the cart, while he lay partly upon his stomach in the bottom of the vehicle with his right foot caught in the iron shaft support on the other side.

The right foot protruded through to the wheel which tore off the heel of his shoe, and wore away the flesh from the heel until the bone lay bare. The point of the spokes of the wheel which struck the foot was worn off, and the bone had worn into the well-seasoned hickory spokes. Some blood was on the seat of the cart and several spots were discovered on the shaft. Drs. Todd, of Millington, Jacobs, of Kennedyville, and Kelley and Latimer, of Galena, were promptly summoned. Dr. Todd was the first to arrive, and reported a cut in the right side of the throat an inch and a half long, and extending to the base of the tongue. There were also several abrasions of the skin and the upper side of the face was fearfully swollen. After having lingered in unconsciousness until 3.30 o'clock P. M., on Sunday, death came to the sufferer's relief.

Searching for Evidence.

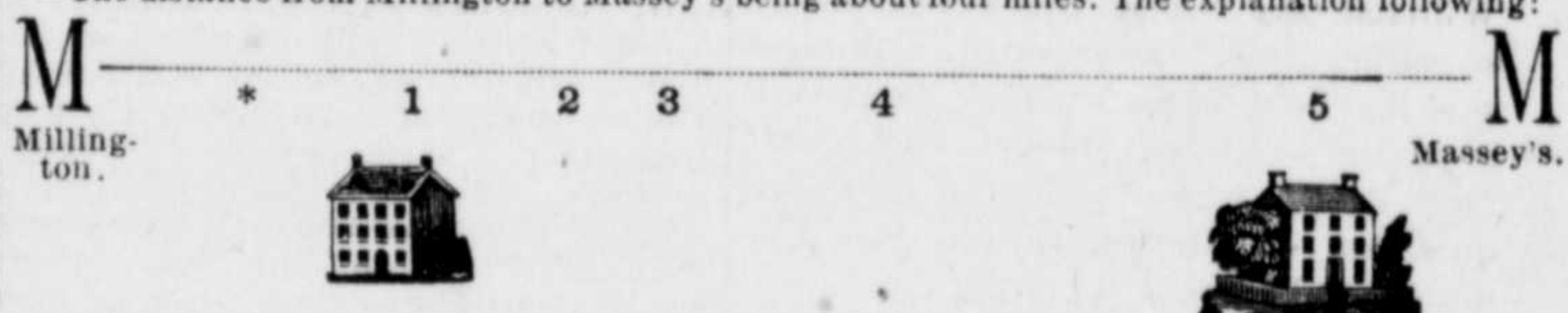
The town was at once aroused, and H. S. Cook, W. H. Ford, Joseph Poor, J. T. Power, T. J. F. Smith and hundreds of others formed searching parties and made an investigation of the roads leading from Millington to Massey's, when it was discovered that a scuffle had taken place not

far from Millington, and that at Ford's hill, the dog-cart had been drawn up on the bank. The first signs of blood discovered, were at E. Comegys' place, near Masseys. From this point to Massey's, around back of the storage building of A. F. Huey, the trail continued. Behind this building were two large pools of blood as

though the horse had stood for some time in the same spot. One wheel, which was chocked by the foot of the unfortunate man, failed to turn and left a harsh mark on the ground. The hat, cuff, shoe, and stocking of Dr. Hill were found on the road. Hundreds of people visited Millington during the day.

SCENE OF THE MURDER.

The following rough diagram indicates certain points on the road where the fearful tragedy occurred—The distance from Millington to Massey's being about four miles. The explanation following:



* The hill where the murder was committed. 1. Colored man Cooper's house, where there appeared some disturbance in the road and where a crowd of colored men were. 2. Price's lane, where the hat was found. 3. Where Walter Roe was passed by the doctor lying in dog-cart, and where the hat and cuff and shoe were found, about 100 yards apart, between Rolph's wheat field and Hurlock's peach orchard. 4. First blood seen in the road. 5. D. J. Shaw's residence, where the doctor was summoned to see the sick child.

The Coroner's Inquest.

The Chestertown officials were apprised of the murder on Sunday afternoon, and on Monday morning, Coroner Robert K. Pippin, of Chestertown, summoned the following jury of inquest: Foreman, Charles P. Loper; Henry S. Cook, Enoch J. Moffett, Benjamin P. Morgan, William Comegys, Wm. H. Ford, Fred G. Usilton, Joseph A. Edwards, Wm. F. Russell, Wm. O. Dugan, Charles L. Gill, John C. Moore, Amos B. Kelley, W. F. Collins, B. F. Vansant, John McWhorter. The hearing was held at Justice Johnson's office, and consumed all of Monday and Thursday.

James Hall, colored, first witness, testified to having heard Moses Hughes, the colored barber, say: "It seems as though as things have been going, it gives people license to do these things." It was supposed that reference was had to the killing of the colored man, Campbell, on Christmas Eve.

Steve Cooper, colored, who lives in a house at Ford's Hill, within a hundred yards of the spot where the fatal blow is supposed to have been struck, stated, that he left Millington between eight and nine o'clock, and saw no one on the road. No one stopped at his house on Saturday night except Mr. Hendrickson's cook; did not hear any noise on the road, nor did he sell oysters to any one; did not have an oyster treat at his house that night.

Fletcher Williams, colored, who lived with Charles Rolph, testified to being in town until 10 or 11 o'clock, and left for home with Moses Brown, Perry Bradshaw, Henry Hurtt, Joshua Baynard, Fris Comegys, Charles Emory and Charles Brooks. He saw a crowd of small boys on the bridge near Cooper's, dancing. Brooks went into Cooper's house, but did not stay long. Comegys and Emory also stopped at Cooper's, then went on to Mr. Hendrickson's, where they passed the night. A dearborn followed by three or four carriages, passed him near Cooper's house. Walter Roe went out of town before him on horseback. He found a hat between Rolph's and Hurlock's peach orchard. Brooks found a cuff about one hundred yards up the road from the hat. He and Baynard left the road, when Bradshaw and Hurtt called to them that they had found a boy's shoe.

Joshua Baynard, colored, who lived with Mr. Chas. Rolph, said that he, Williams and others left town between 10 and 11 o'clock. A cart with two men in it, as also three carriages, passed them on the road. Williams found the hat and Brooks the cuff. Williams, Bradshaw and Brown stopped on the bridge near Cooper's and made considerable noise dancing. Williams, Brooks, Emory and

Comegys all stopped at Cooper's. He went on and was soon overtaken by Williams and Brooks. Bradshaw did not call to them about the shoe and was not told of the finding until next morning.

Mose Brown, colored, who lived with Mr. Ford, was in the crowd which left town between 10 and 11 o'clock. He was passed by three teams first, then a dog-cart with one man in it.

Perry Bradshaw lived with T. B. Merritt, testified to several carriages passing him, and Spear boys in a buggy. He called to Williams that he had found a shoe.

Walter Roe, colored, aged about 16, worked for Mr. Bert Gilpin on the S. J. Johnson farm, left town about 10 o'clock on horseback and passed a crowd near town; did not know them; passed a milk wagon near Mr. Hendrickson's gate; saw no carriages; a road-cart passed him near Price's corner, and he saw a man lying in the foot of the cart with his arm hanging. Thought the man was drunk; passed the milk wagon near Price's corner, the curtains were down.

John Rees, the 18-year-old white boy who lived with Mr. Shaw, and went for Dr. Hill, swore that he went to town about 7 o'clock, and left word at the drug store for the doctor to go to Mr. Shaw's to see a sick child.

Dr. J. K. H. Jacobs, of Kennedyville, who examined the wounds, said that he was of opinion that death resulted from concussion of the brain caused from a blow received on the head. He found a wound in the throat one-half inch deep and one and a half inches long, but did not consider the wound sufficient to have caused death. Both the cut and the blow might have been received by falling in the dog-cart. The blow on the head might have been received from a fall, but the fall must have been from a standing position. The cut might have been made by striking the jaw-bone against some hard substance in falling.

Dr. Latimer, of Galena, testified in substance about as did Dr. Jacobs.

Dr. Todd stated that though he had said when he first saw the cut, that it must have been a stab or wound made by some sharp instrument, upon a further examination he coincided with Drs. Jacobs and Latimer.

Mr. Hurlock testified that Phil. Manda had said, that Comegys told him while in the stable Sunday morning, that Brooks picked up bats and Williams ran out of his coat on the road on Saturday night.

Manda lived with W. J. Hurlock, but denied having spoken of the bricks or of knowing anything of the affair. Upon being recalled to the stand, he said that

(Continued on Fourth Page.)