THE DEATH .... SENTENCE!

Last of the Price Trial — Judge Wickes' Solemn Words — With Hand's Uplifted Price Swears He is Innocent!

We gave in the NEWS last week the conclusion of the trial of Marshall E. Price at Denton for the murder of the school girl, Sallie Dean. Below we give the last chapter—the fearful words of the death sentence, pronounced by Judge Wickes:

The two judges, Wickes and Stump, entered the court-room at 10.30 on Friday. Price was brought in a few moments later. A handcuff encircled his right wrist as usual. He walked down the aisle to his seat with the erectness of a soldier and a brisk tread as firm as any man's in Denton. He looked straight at the judges as he walked, and kept his eyes on the men who were to place the legal seal upon his fate. After he had taken his seat he glanced from one to another of the attorneys and newspaper men within the rail.

The Dean family had remained in court up to this point, but before sentence was passed the mother and sister of the murdered girl walked from the room.

Grant Corkran, the young school teacher whose arrest was caused soon after the murder by Price's so-called confession, listened to the fatal announcement. He sat well within the rail, and was so placed that he could almost look directly into Price's eyes.

The Sentence of Death.

The short lapse of time between the accused's entrance and the pronouncing of the sentence and the death-like silence seemed to make him a little nervous. There was no positive indications that this was so, but he twaddled his fingers together and chewed more vigorously on the tobacco which he used constantly throughout the trial.

Judge Wickes asked Mr. Russum, Price's counsel, if he wished to make a motion for a new trial, and the lawyer replied: "I have no such purpose."

Then, looking at Price, the judge said: "Marshall E. Price, by the verdict of the court you have been convicted of murder in the first degree for wilfully and deliberately killing Sallie E. Dean. Have you anything to say why the court should not now pronounce judgement against you?"

Price arose. The ticking of watches and breathing of spectators could be heard.

"I have one word I have to say," said the man clearly and without a quaver. "I have in silence listened to all I have heard, and I will hold up my right hand and in the presence of Almighty God and this court I am not guilty. That is all I have to say, gentlemen."

When Price raised his hand it did not tremble, and outwardly he was as cool as any man in the room. He was very pale, but not more than he was during the trial.

Then Judge Wickes pronounced the sentence slowly, solemnly and deliberately. These are his exact words:

The duty which we are now required to perform is a painful one, as the judgment of the court which I am 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 the extreme penalty of the law. Not having yourself engaged counsel to defend you the court assigned to that duty two of the member 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 you in your defense. Availing yourself of the right given to you by the constitution of this 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.

When Sallie Dean left her happy home on the morning of March 26 she had no thought that she would be in any danger or would be molested by anyone. A child not 14 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 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 mutliated body of the innocent child to a secluded spot, you attempted to conceal it from view by covering it with the branches of a tree.

But to 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 perpetrators of the fearful deed, it would in all probability never have been known who committed it, and the people of this county and the whole State owe 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 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 judgment of the court is that you, Marshall E. Price, be taken to the jail of Caroline county from whence you came and from then 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."

After the Sentence.

Price, after he had been taken to jail, said he had expected nothing else but the death sentence. He thought it possible that he might escape, 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," he said with hand uplifted, "I do. I will not lie about it. He was with me. I know that all 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—Ross, the colored man—and I told Marshall 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?"

Doctor William Lee's Views.

Dr. Wm. Lee, of the State lunacy commission, was in Denton and spent an hour with Price. He said afterwards that there was nothing to show that Price was crazy. He was of rather a 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.

Best on the Market.

Mrs. T. B. Durding, of Rock Hall, Md., writes as follows to C. I. Hood & Co., of Lowell, Mass.: "I desire to say in regard to Hood's Pills, that after a trial of two years, I find that they are the best on the market."

HOOD'S PILLS cure indigestion, biliousness.

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Miss Della Stevens, of Boston, Mass., writes: I have always suffered from hereditary Scrofula, for which I tried various remedies, and many reliable physicians, but none relieved me. After taking 6 bottles of S.S.S. I am now well. I am very grateful to you, as I feel that it saved me from a life of untold agony, and shall take pleasure in speaking only words of praise for the wonderful medicine, and in recommending it to all.

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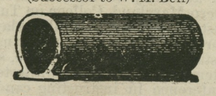

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RATIFICATION NOTICE.

John D. Urie, Assignee,
versus
Angeline Venable and Joseph Venable.

In the Circuit Court for Kent County, in Equity.

ORDERED, this 29th day of April, 1895, that the sale of the Real Estate mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported by JOHN D. URIE, assignee and trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 7th day of July next;—Provided, a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent county, once in each of three successive weeks before the 4th day of June next.

The report states the amount of sales to be $1,000.00.

SAMUEL G. FISHER, CLERK.

True copy, Test:
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May 4, 1895—4t.

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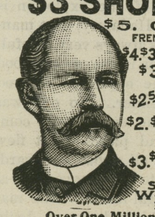

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