

## THE TRIAL OF MARSHALL E. PRICE.

A Baltimore Doctor Interviews the Prisoner—Talk of Hallucination.

The Masonic Hall is being put in order for the special session of court to be convened next Tuesday morning. The judges will occupy the stage and a place nearby will be set apart for the clerk and his deputies, the sheriff, and the members of the bar. Desk room will also be reserved for reporters. It is thought that not more than three hundred spectators will be able to find room in the hall, after these spaces are reserved. As a crowd of people will likely be in attendance there will probably be some restrictions limiting the number so that the room may not be overcrowded. It is said that several policemen will accompany Marshall Price and remain here during the trial. Judges Wickes and Stump are expected to preside.

Order for the summoning of tales was rescinded by the Judges and Price will be tried before the court, it is said, as per agreement of counsel.

### THE PROBABLE PLEA.

It is more than probable that the lawyers who have been appointed by the court to defend Marshall E. Price, the alleged murderer of Miss Dean, will seek to produce evidence of the prisoner's mental irresponsibility. Dr. John Morris, of Baltimore, recently called upon Price at the jail. The doctor did not make his call in any official capacity, but as he takes a deep interest in all such cases, he desired to satisfy himself by a personal interview with the accused as to what credence should be given to his statements. To a reporter Dr. Dr. Morris said:

"I am never governed in my conclusions regarding persons charged with crime by the alleged proofs of their guilt as set forth by persons whose business it is to find a thief to fit every larceny or a murderer to answer to every homicide. Nor do I take my knowledge of the facts in such cases from newspaper statements and publications. It is the business of the newspaper to reproduce everything which transpires or is said by any one connected with the matter, far or near. Editors and reporters cannot stop to sift the wheat from the chaff; if they did the story would grow old before the telling of it. When I talk with a man I can tell when he is feigning and when he is not. If he is lying I will know it, where the matter is of such moment as his accusation of being a murderer. Of one thing I am satisfied," continued Dr. Morris. "Price did not tell me any lies. He does not put forth any pretensions of innocence, and whether what he states is a matter of fact or not, of this I am assured, he believes it to be true. I would not feel justified in advance of his trial to rehearse in detail his statement to me of the circumstances of the case. This much I will say: The State will be totally

I will say: The State will be totally unable to show, in my judgment, any motive for the crime, and you know the motive is the essence of the transaction. Price's belief may be the result of hallucination, but it is, nevertheless, firmly fixed in his mind. He was led to say and do the things which have laid the foundation for his indictment by a plan conceived and executed by wills stronger than his own and when under influences to which his physical nature was unaccustomed. I am inclined to think that his trial will develop some very important, not to say startling, circumstances connected with this case. This question of a person subjected to the domination of a stronger will believing a thing to be true which has no existence in fact is not new. The medical books are full of such cases."

The *Philadelphia Record*, assuming that the authorities "have failed to discover a motive for the crime," says the counsel for Price, the accused, purposes to base upon this a contention that the crime was the result of hypnotic suggestion. "To thoughtful minds," says the *Record*, "which have inclined to view the whole business of hypnotism with mistrust, or at least as a ready vehicle for charlatancy, the idea of investing it with legal status will seem very ridiculous. But the attempt will be seriously made wherever cases of a sufficiently mysterious nature shall afford a plausible occasion for resort to it. Hypnotism is fast presenting a condition in criminal jurisprudence of which courts and Legislatures will be bound to take cognizance."

#### AN AFFECTING SCENE.

Mr. Joseph H. Price, father of the accused, visited his son at the city jail Saturday morning. The scene when the two met was very affecting. The men embraced and wept together for some time. As they met they kissed each other. Father and son talked together for some time, but made little reference to the accusation hanging over the son. The elder Price gave his son a small sum of money, a pair of shoes, and also carried him a pie from home. Mr. Price told his son that his mother was very ill, and that she would likely be in her grave before he could have an opportunity to see her again. The father repeated: "You may see your wife, but I hardly think that you will ever again see your mother. She is very sick."