

# PRICE'S TRIAL BEGUN.

He Is Charged with the Murder  
of Miss Sallie Dean.

## LARGE CROWDS GATHER AT DENTON.

The Case Heard by the Court—Lawyers  
for the Defense and for the Prosecution—The Murdered Girl's Father  
and Mother Testify—How the Prisoner  
Conducted Himself—General News.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

DENTON, Md., April 30.—Not for many years has a crowd visited Denton, the county seat of Caroline county, so large as that which gathered here today in the hope of being present at the trial of Marshall E. Price, the blacksmith of Harmony, who is charged with the murder of Sallie E. Dean, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Jacob Dean, a farmer, who lives near Harmony, ten miles from Denton. A drizzling rain, which has made an ordinarily cheerful-looking country appear cheerless, indeed, did not keep many persons away, and every available tree, awning post and hitching post in town had two or three teams tied to it. The visitors came from all sections of Caroline and the adjoining counties in swarms, and not one-fifth of those here could gain admission to the improvised courtroom. Every inch of standing room in the court was taken when the case was called and a great throng stood outside in the dripping rain nearly the whole day, awaiting standing room only. There was nothing to see or hear, for they could not get inside the building, and yet they waited with a patience which deserved a better cause and greater prospect of reward.

"Oyez, Oyez," said the Court Crier.

It was nearly 11 o'clock in the day before Mr. Henry Irwin, the white-haired crier of the court, called out the time-honored "Oyez, oyez. All manner of men who have business with the court draw near and give attention, &c., &c." Everybody in the crowd then tried to draw near, and the witnesses, counsel and others whose presence was necessary to the court had literally to fight their way through a mass of humanity that was packed almost as tightly as bales of cotton in the hold of a ship. Notwithstanding the efforts of Price's counsel to have the case transferred to Baltimore city or some other county for trial, Judges Wickes and Stump decided to hold it here. Under these circumstances it was agreed to try it before the court without a jury. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dean and Miss Flora Dean, the parents and sister of the murdered girl, were among the first witnesses to arrive in the courtroom. Soon after them came Grant Corkran, who was arrested and who was for a time confined in the Baltimore city jail, charged with complicity in the crime. He took a seat near them. Dr. Charles G. Hill and Dr. Pennington, of Baltimore; Dr. J. C. Clark, of Federalburg, and Dr. John Dubadaway, of Harmony, all of whom will give expert testimony, were present. Marshal Frey and Detectives, Selbold and Gault, who brought the prisoner from Baltimore in the patrol-boat Lannan, sat within the rail.

Price Under a Strong Guard.

Price was brought to court from jail under a strong guard and was surrounded by a crowd of 200 or 300 people. No hostile demonstration was made and it is not likely that any will be made, for the people seem to feel perfectly satisfied since it has been decided to hold the trial here. They have full confidence in Judges Wickes and Stump and seem to feel that whatever they decide will be proper. Price came into court handcuffed to Deputy Sheriff Roe. Both had their clothing somewhat disarranged in struggling to get through the crowd. Price wore a blue yachting cap, a neat black coat and vest and a white necktie. He looked like anything but a man who would murder a child in cold blood. When the indictment was being read to him the noise in and out the court was so great that Clerk Edwin C. Field had to stop the reading until order could be restored.

A Plea of Not Guilty.

When the reading was finished Mr. George M. Ruggum, of counsel for Price, entered the plea of not guilty and asked that the case be tried before the court. Price sat with his counsel all day and betrayed no agitation, although the session was long and tedious. He moved about occasionally, as if restless, but otherwise seemed to be unaffected by what was going on. With Mr. Ruggum are associated in the defense of Price Messrs. Henry H. Lewis, J. Kemp Stevens, of Dorton, and Millard F. Taylor, of Baltimore. State's Attorney R. J. Jump has associated with him for the prosecution ex-State Treasurer Edward H. Brown, of Centreville, who is conducting the examination of witnesses, and Mr. A. G. Towers, of Denton. Today fourteen witnesses of the thirty-nine summoned by the State testified, but so far but little evidence which was especially damaging to the prisoner was brought out.

Price's Confession.

#### Price's Confession.

In fact, the most damaging evidenced against him is said to be his own confession, which he made to the police and to the newspaper men who interviewed him. The defense, it is said, to prove insanity on the part of the prisoner, has telegraphed for Dr. John Morris, of Baltimore, and he is expected to arrive here tomorrow. It is thought that the case cannot be concluded before Thursday or Friday. Mr. M. B. Stevens, the surveyor who made a plat of the neighborhood in which the murder was committed, was the first witness for the State. He testified as to the location of the home of the dead girl, the house in which Grant Corkran lives, the clump of bushes in which the girl's body was found and the location of the other points in the neighborhood.

#### Miss Dean's Father.

Mr. Jacob Dean, father of the murdered girl, was the next witness. He said: "My daughter Sallie started to school on the morning of March 23 last. I never saw her alive after that. When my wife learned that she had not been to school during the day and became anxious she and I started out to look after her. My daughter Flora joined us later. We hunted around, and at the foot of the hill near Fowling Creek branch, I found the print of a heel, as if some one had jumped out of the bushes into the road. There were signs of a scuffle in the road. I went in the bushes and saw where some bushes had been cut. I kept up over the hill toward Frank Friend's place and found a napkin and then her basket. About twenty-five feet away was the body of my child, covered with a big dead bush. I took the bush off. She was dead and cold. Her head was lying toward the branch and her throat was cut. I called out that I had found her, and must have called pretty loudly for Grant Corkran, who was plowing in his field, heard me and came over. He was the first person there besides my wife and daughter. Marshall Price, the prisoner, drove us to our home."

#### The Mother's Evidence.

Mrs. Dean, mother of Sallie, told of her daughter's starting for school, of her learning of her child's absence from school and of the search for her daughter's body. Her testimony corresponds in every detail with her statement published in THE SUN after the murder was discovered. Mr. Brown opened a valise containing a lot of blood-stained clothing, which Mrs. Dean identified as that worn by her daughter on the day of her death. The sunbonnet she had worn was broken on the left side. Her coat had a gash in the collar on the left side, and her under-clothing was out and torn. The cut and tear in the garment were in front and were evidence of an attempt of rape. Flora Dean, the older sister of Sallie Dean, took the stand when her mother stepped down and corroborated her mother's testimony. No member of the Dean family was cross-examined.

#### Young Corkran on the Stand.

James Corkran, a boy of about twelve years, and brother of Grant Corkran, said he saw Sallie Dean on the road on her way to school. He was at the time in the yard of his home and Grant Corkran was in the house. When he started for school Grant was sitting in the doorway working on a horse collar. He started for school about fifteen minutes after he saw Sallie Dean. On his way to school he passed Marshall Price's shop, but did not see anyone in it. Upon being cross-examined by Mr. Russell he said that it was about fifteen minutes before nine o'clock when he started to school. He could not say that Price was not in his shop when he passed on his way to school. Marshall Price had never asked him where his brother Grant had been on the day of the murder.

#### German Wright's Evidence.

German Wright, a boy fourteen years old, testified that he had worked for Marshall Price the day before the murder and returned soon after sunup to go to work again. Price was at that time eating his breakfast. He heard Corkran tell his wife that he was going to the branch to get a piece of balse, and that if any one called at the shop to tell him he would soon return. Price then picked up an axe and went off toward the branch. This was soon after 7 o'clock. He remained away about an hour and returned with a piece of balse and an axe and went into his shop. Price afterward came out and got a bucket of water, which he took in with him. Wright said he remained at Price's until dinner time and did not return in the afternoon. He had seen James Corkran pass on his way to school. On cross-examination

taken the axe back into the shop. The bucket in which he took the water to the shop was used for cooling hot iron.

#### A Ten-Year-Old Witness.

Lillie Williamson, a ten-year-old school-girl, testified to having passed the bridge over Fowling creek branch on her way to school on the morning of the murder and to having heard some one cutting wood. Lagrall, the mail-driver on the road between Denton and Preston, said he stopped at Price's shop at about ten minutes after 8 on the morning of the murder, but not finding him went on. On the Friday following he met Price, who said he was confident that a colored man named Ross had killed Sallie Dean. This man, Price said, had been tracked to Fowling creek branch. He had afterward gotten in a boat and started to Baltimore, and efforts were being made to have him arrested at Cambridge.

#### Mr. William Dean.

Mr. William Dean said he had helped Mr. Stephens to survey the scene of the murder. He saw where the balzo had been cut, and from one place where some cutting had been done the road could be plainly seen. When the body was about to be removed it was lifted in a blanket and carried to Marshall Price's wagon. While this was being done Price stood at his horse's head. At night when the girl was being washed and dressed by himself and Dr. Dubadway, Price held the lamp for them. After a little while Mr. Dean said Price became sick and nervous and put the lamp down. Mr. Dean also said that on the Friday after the murder Price said he had a dream in which he saw a man bury a knife or razor a few feet from where the body was found. Mr. Dean advised him to investigate it and Price promised to do so at night. Mr. Dean said Price told him that he had looked for the knife, but had failed to find it.

#### The Dream Story Corroborated.

The testimony of Wm. Poole corroborated that of Mr. Dean so far as the telling of the dream concerned. George Christopher testified that Price had met him at Agner postoffice, about eight miles from Harmony, and had said that he had been looking for a tramp who, it was thought, had murdered the girl. Price, he said, had told him that three tramps had passed by while the girl was being murdered. On cross-examination Mr. Christopher said that Price said three tramps had passed about the time the girl was being murdered and that he had named Walter Todd and S. G. Langrell as two who had passed. Walter Todd was called and testified to seeing Price in jail in Baltimore. After talking about two or three things, he said, I asked Price if he still held to his statement to the effect that Corkran had been with him when the murder occurred he said he did, and said: "It was a wonder I had not seen him as I drove up the hill. In driving by the place where the murder occurred I heard a noise like the limbs of trees grating together. I paid no especial attention to it, however." Clarence Dean testified that Price had shown him a knife. He thought it was the one with which the murder had been committed. Price had said that he had found it near where the girl's head was lying when found. The knife was stained and muddy. Witness also saw Price show the knife to Detectives Gault and Selbold and tell them he had found it.