

THE PRICE LYNCHING.

Approved by a Great Many People in Caroline County.

TROUBLE ABOUT THE BURIAL

Interment in the Denton Cemetery Will Not Be Permitted.

Price's Father Blames the Sheriff—Incidents of the Hanging—The Murderer's Abject Terror and His Piteous Appeals for Liberty—Dragged Insensible to a Tree and Hanged.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

DENTON, MD., July 3.—The lynching of Marshall E. Price, the self-confessed murderer of Sallie Dean, has been almost the only subject of conversation today in Caroline county and in fact this entire section of Maryland. A few deplore it, but the large majority of the people of the county approve of the lynching.

They say they were perfectly willing that Price should have been hanged by the regularly constituted authorities at the time originally set by Governor Brown, but they were not willing to see the execution of what they believed to be a just sentence postponed for reasons that they believed to be nonsensical. All things considered, they would rather Sheriff Berry had had the hanging of the prisoner, but as technicalities were about to delay matters no one knew how long, they took the law into their own hands.

Coroner Hutson began an inquest today, but it was not concluded. A large number of witnesses have been summoned and are expected to be present tomorrow and give their testimony. A verdict, it is thought, will be given late tomorrow or possibly not until the next day. So far the witnesses who have testified have given no evidence to fasten the lynching on anybody, and it is believed that the only verdict the jury will render will be the one that is customary in such cases—"that the dead man came to his death by being hanged to a tree by persons unknown."

Trouble About the Burial.

Even in death Price is in trouble. It is not known where his body will be laid. His father, Joseph H. Price, was in Denton today and bought a lot in the Denton cemetery from William H. Mowbray, the cemetery-keeper, but the cemetery association has declined to permit the body of his son to be buried there. As a matter of convenience Keeper Mowbray is permitted to allow persons to select and pay for lots, he giving his personal receipt for the money.

The deed for the lot thus sold is then made out by the secretary of the company, and upon the restrictions which are incorporated in the deed being agreed to by the purchaser, the deed is recorded. When it became known that Mr. Price had bought a lot in the cemetery the president of the cemetery association, J. W. Kerr, and the other officers held a consultation over the matter. They heard the opinions of a number of the lotholders and decided that it would be against the interests of the lotholders and in violation of the rules of the cemetery to permit the burial of Marshall Price in the lot which his father had purchased. Just outside the cemetery, however, is a large lot owned by the association which has not yet been improved. If Mr. Price so desires, the body of his son may be buried there. The body has been prepared for burial and will be interred tomorrow.

Price's Father.

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Mr. Price was in town the greater part of the day, but left here late in the afternoon for his home at Dover Bridge. He seemed very much affected at the manner of his son's death and denounced the lynchers. He also claimed that Sheriff Berry had not afforded his son the proper measure of protection. He visited Sheriff Berry in the afternoon, shook hands with him and talked to him rather incoherently, Sheriff Berry says, and intimated that the sheriff would be called in court to testify as to something he had said. Sheriff Berry says he has no idea what he meant.

Except for a livid bruise on the left side of Price's forehead and another across the bridge of his nose, as he lay in one of the cells today, after being prepared for burial there was nothing to show that he had suffered a violent death. His face was very white, but his features were by no means distorted, and he lacked the swollen appearance of the face usual in cases of hanging. One reason for this is that it is thought he was unconscious either from fright or from the blow he received on the forehead at the time he was hanged. All day long people have sought admittance to the jail to see where the lynchers had left their marks and also to see the body of Price; but few of these were gratified.

Thus far nothing has been disturbed in the cell which had been occupied by Price after he had been brought back to Denton from Baltimore. The room is lined with rough whitewashed boards, on which the prisoners who have been confined in the room have scrawled declarations of their innocence. Near the door is written in lead pencil such a declaration from Price. It is but a few sentences, stating that in that cell was confined Marshall E. Price, who was accused of killing Sallie Dean, but that the police had gotten the wrong man. This was written after Price had been brought from Baltimore for trial and before he had been tried. Later he drew lines across his statement as if to cross it out. On the wall hangs the pair of slippers he carried to Baltimore in his pockets when he was first taken there by Detectives Gault and Selhold, and on the stove is lying the blue yachting cap he wore at the same time.

Incidents of the Lynching.

It was known early in the day that Price would be lynched and people came into town from all directions. By 8 o'clock at night there were three or four hundred people gathered about the courthouse green in the lower end in which the rickety old jail is situated. There was no attempt at violence, however, until about 11 o'clock, although everybody seemed to know of what was about to happen and an air of suppressed excitement prevailed the whole place. Price was informed of the gathering of the crowds and was told to prepare himself for the worst. The composure, or rather stolidity, which he had shown all through the trial and after sentence had been passed upon him culminating in his offer to help build his own scaffold a few days ago, was then shown to be assumed. When he saw that his end was at hand all his assumed fortitude forsook him. He broke down and begged to be allowed to run off and hide, promising to return when the crowd had gone. He was caught like a rat in a trap. He could not get out, and his trap could not keep those who wanted his life away from him. He ran up and down his cell, which is a good-sized room, in an agony of fear, wringing his hands and begging pitiously to be allowed to get out.

Price's Terror.

For two hours he went on in this way. Deputy Sheriff W. J. Roe was with him, while Sheriff Berry was down stairs keeping his eye on the crowds and consulting with State's Attorney Jump as the best means of thwarting the mob. "Oh, my God, please let me out of this," cried Price to Deputy Roe. "I will hide, I won't run away; I swear I won't. Please let me out, I will come back as soon as the crowd goes, I don't want them to kill me this way. Don't let them do it, please don't." He paced up and down the floor, peered out between the bars of his cell window and looked searchingly around the room, thinking that there might possibly be some nook into which he could creep and hide from his enemies.

The Mob Comes.

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A few minutes before 11 o'clock a crowd of men were seen to leave the front of the green and walk back alongside the jail. The sheriff and Mr. Jump were expecting the attack from the front and were puzzled at this movement. Just about this time a messenger hurried across the street to Mr. Jump with the information that his wife had been suddenly taken ill and wanted him. As he started across the green blows were heard coming from the rear of the prison. The door was an old one, with panels running its entire length. It was locked and a stout iron bar had been put across it. As soon as he heard the sound Sheriff Berry started in, but before he could go the length of the hall a big panel flew inward and struck him. A hand was passed inside, the bar removed and a dozen or more men all wearing pieces of white cotton cloth over their faces, passed in. The men were all armed, and Sheriff Berry said they carried their pistols in their hands. He was covered and ordered into the part of the

building reserved for his family and a guard stationed there. The remainder of the crowd went to Price's cell carrying the iron bar which had been across the door with them. Four blows of this upon the door of Price's cell broke the padlock hasp from the door, and the crowd jumped in. Price had not taken off his clothes, but was in his stocking feet. He was seized in an instant. "Wait a moment, I have a statement to make," said Price. "You have made enough statements already," some one said, and dealt Price a blow on the head, knocking him down.

Dragged to Death.

The rope, an ordinary piece of hemp plow line, with a regular hangman's knot in the end, was produced, the noose passed around the victim's neck, and he was dragged down stairs and out upon the green. The jail is surrounded by trees, and over a limb of a maple not fifty feet from the jail door the end of the rope was thrown and Price was drawn up. He never made a struggle, although neither his hands nor his feet were tied. The limb to which he was hung was hardly nine feet from the ground. His feet were not more than fifteen inches above the ground, and his head was hardly more than the same distance from the limb to which he was hung. Twice Sheriff Herry started to go out of the building, but was warned to go back. The third time he started he was permitted to go. He found that the body had been cut down and pieces of the plow-line were being distributed around. He took the body in the house and the crowd dispersed. At midnight the town was as quiet as it ordinarily is at that hour and there were no strangers about.

The Sheriff's Statement.

"I have been censured by some persons," said Sheriff Herry in speaking of the case tonight, "for not taking Price out of town or not making a fight against the mob; I did all that was in my power. It has been practically impossible for me to leave town with Price since he was brought here the last time. I received an intimation when I brought him home that he would never leave Denton again alive. Since that time I have been constantly watched, and had I attempted to have gotten Price out of Denton he would have been seized and hanged. There as to my not making a stronger fight, I and my deputy are two. At least a dozen armed men came in, and they had two or three hundred sympathizers at their back. After it was announced that a reprieve had been granted it was impossible for me to get a strong posse. Then, again, I did not propose to be killed, and I certainly did not propose to kill any one in defending Price. I did my duty. My conscience is clear on that point. I think I would have exceeded it had I shot three or four men and had gotten shot myself. Price practically gave himself away. I went out of town in the afternoon to take my children away. I had arranged for them to be away for July 5, the day set for the hanging. When I returned I found a man up a tree in the yard opposite the window of Price's cell. He came down and joined another man. They were both strangers to me. I told them that I had given them the slip and that Price had been sent away. 'Yes, I know he has been sent away,' said one, 'but he is up in that room all right enough, for we've been talking to him. You could not have gotten him away if you had tried.' I got a letter from Mr. Taylor, of Baltimore, one of Price's lawyers, telling me that Price would be respited and telling me to remove him to Baltimore. I wonder if he thought I was going to take his word for it, and act under his directions. It would not have been well for him had he been here last night. The people regard him as the man who has caused all the trouble. There were a number of calls for him, and if he had been here he would probably have gotten a coat of tar and feathers, or probably worse. I regret exceedingly that the thing has happened, but it was no more than I expected."

The State's Attorney.

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State's Attorney Jump said that he did not believe until last night that an attempt would be made to lynch Price. He said he regretted exceedingly that the lynching had happened, yet he could not speak harshly of the men who did it, for they had the sympathy of many of the most conservative men of the county. When the news that a writ of error had been granted was received the people all over the county began to mutter and talk about lynching. They were of the opinion that carrying the case to the Court of Appeals would entail a large amount of expense to the county, and they thought that Price had already cost the county enough. I did not think, however, that it would amount to much. The lynchers had evidently laid their plans well, and I believe Sheriff Berry did all that he could do in the case.

George M. Russum.

Mr. George M. Russum, who was the senior counsel for the defense at Price's trial, said the lynching was an outrage and a disgrace on the county. The people were tired of waiting, however, he said, and took the law into their own hands. They were afraid of the cost, but the cost to the county by the lynching will be at least five times what it would otherwise have been. The court will probably institute an inquiry, which will last about six days. There will be the grand and petit jurors to pay and about 150 witnesses at \$1.50 a day and mileage. Altogether it may cost about \$2,000. The cost in the Court of Appeals would have been light. There was but little in the points made and the Court of Appeals would without doubt have confirmed the decision of the lower court. The hanging of Price might, however, have been postponed for a year or so by taking the case to the United States Supreme Court on a writ of error from the Maryland Court of Appeals. Governor Brown could not have done otherwise than he did. He is an executive and not a judicial officer. Had he declined to issue the reprieve he would have practically set himself up as a judge and an autocrat, and in effect would have said to Price: "You have no case, but even if you have it makes no difference. You've got to hang anyway."

The Safety of Women.

One of the most prominent men in the county said tonight the atmosphere has been cleared up by the lynching of Price and everybody feels relieved. "We were afraid he might get off on a technicality of some kind, and we did not propose that he should. I had nothing to do with the lynching and did not know of it until it occurred, but I have two daughters and want them to be safe and to feel that they can go about without being harmed. With Price allowed to escape for an indefinite time the penalty of his crime, I do not believe any of our children would be safe. It would be putting a premium on crime."

That is the general opinion held by many of the most prominent people of the county. The people down here do not blame Governor Brown for granting the respite, for they realize he could not do otherwise. They do blame Price's counsel, however, for what they consider unnecessary quibbling over technicalities.

The Reprieve.

Governor Brown said yesterday that he based his action in issuing a respite for Price on the following opinion received from Attorney-General Poe: "I have examined the papers in the case of the State against Marshall E. Price, which you send to me. They show that a writ of error has been prayed by the traverser and allowed by the Circuit Court for Caroline County. In view of the fact there is nothing, in my judgment, for you to do but to grant a respite suspending the execution of the warrant until the Court of Appeals shall have passed upon the writ of error."

M. F. Taylor's Views.

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Millard F. Taylor was the only one of Price's lawyers in Baltimore yesterday. A telegram received by him from Denton yesterday after stating that Price had been lynched, continued: "Mob fairly orderly. Wanted you." Mr. Taylor said the lynching was a cowardly proceeding, and he blamed the sheriff of Caroline county. He said that after an appeal had been entered in the case, and Governor Brown had granted a respite the sheriff was written to and urged to bring Price to Baltimore for safe-keeping. The sheriff was also urged, Mr. Taylor said, to say nothing about the Governor's action until Price had been removed to a place of safety. There was ample time, he claimed, for the sheriff to get Price away from Denton.

Appeal for Aid for the Parnellites.

NEW YORK, July 2.—The executive council of the Irish independent parliamentary party met at the Irish National Club tonight and adopted an address appealing for money for the purpose of helping the election of Irish representatives who will pursue in the next Parliament the policy so long identified with the name of Charles Stewart Parnell.