

DISTRESSING HOMICIDE.—A Lady Poisoned by Her Servant.—The Denton (Md.) Journal records the death of a wealthy and most estimable lady of Caroline county, from the effects of poison administered by her servant girl, aged about 14 years. The victim of this diabolical act was Miss Mary Reed, who resided with Miss Elizabeth Baynard, a few miles above Greensborough. The Journal says:

According to the information in our possession, Miss Reed had had occasion a few days previous to the occurrence to correct the girl for some misconduct, and report says that the girl at the time made a declaration that she would "make a change there before long," or words to that amount. It appears that on Saturday last, the girl—not the regular cook in the family—volunteered her services to prepare dinner for the family, and according to her own subsequent admission, put arsenic or some other poisonous substance in the coffee, which was attended with the fatal result above indicated. Miss Reed and Miss Baynard, it appear, both drank of the coffee, and were both made very sick, but a physician being speedily summoned, the life of Miss Baynard was fortunately saved by administering the usual remedies. From feebleness caused by previous indisposition, Miss Reed was unable to throw off the poisonous substance. She lingered in great suffering until about 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, when she expired. The girl who perpetrated the deed was compelled to drink two cups of the coffee, and was made very sick from its effects, but was relieved by medical assistance. An old negro woman, the mother of the girl, also partook of the poisonous beverage, by way of asserting her daughter's innocence, and came very near losing her life thereby.

The girl was promptly arrested and lodged in jail. On her way to prison she told the gentleman who had her in charge that she poisoned her mistress, but that she did it through mistake, by putting polk-root in the coffee instead of trout-sound, which it was the custom of the family to use for the purpose of making it clear. Since she has been in prison, however, she has admitted that she put something in the coffee for the purpose of poisoning her mistress, but says she was induced to do so by another servant in the family, belonging to Miss Baynard. She says she procured it out of the clock, where it is known a quantity of arsenic had been kept. There was no post-mortem examination of the body, but the coffee was analysed by Drs. Goldsborough and Roussett, of Greensborough, and pronounced to contain a portion of arsenic.

Miss Reed was well known in this community, and universally esteemed and greatly admired for her many excellent traits of character; and we are assured that the treatment of the mistress to the girl had always been of the most kind and forbearing character.