

THE SUN HAS DOUBLE THE CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN THE TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

ON GALLOWES FOR ANOTHER'S CRIME.

C. H. Franklin Convicted of Murder He Never Committed.

REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

He Stood On The Scaffold With The Noose Around His Neck—A 20 Minute Reprieve Secured—Commuted To A Life Sentence. The Deathbed Confession Of The True Murderer Secures His Release—An Effort Now Being Made To Get The Georgia Legislature To Remunerate Him For His Long Years In The Penitentiary As An Innocent And Persecuted Man

How it feels to stand upon the gallows with a rope around your neck, believing that in a few seconds your soul will be launched into eternity; what frightful sufferings of soul and body are undergone at such a cruel moment; the effects of the terrible reaction when there comes a sudden and unexpected reprieve; what an agony it is to be tried, convicted and sentenced for murder; what it is to serve a lifetime sentence with all hope gone—wife, children, home all blotted out forever; how mortal man can stand all these fearful ordeals and know in his soul that he is not guilty of the crime laid at his door, and vividly and thrillingly told in the story of his life as related by Charles Henry Franklin.

Arrested, tried and convicted in Bibb county, Ga., for a murder he never committed, Franklin stood on the scaffold with the noose around his neck; a twenty minute reprieve secured a communication to a life sentence, and for more than a score of years he toiled in convict stripes, only the deathbed confession of the true murderer securing a release from a life worse than death.

Bowed with age and the effects of many years of arduous toil, the man who suffered for another's crime came out of the convict camp like a prisoner from the Bastille to find his wife dead, his only child, whom he had never seen, married and a mother, bereft of friends, and home, ill and a pauper, were the more recent experiences of this victim of a foul plot for revenge.

THE CRY OF INNOCENCE.
Such terrible sufferings come to but few men in this world, and through them all—through the trial, where perjury stifled justice, through the solemn words of the judge, "to be hanged until you are dead," through the hopeless days in prison, the awful moments on the grim gallows, and through all the long, weary years of toil, there ever rang the heartrending cry:

"I am innocent!"
Franklin is in Atlanta awaiting the result of an effort which is being made to get the legislature to remunerate him for the years he lost, while working as a convict when he was an innocent man.

From his own lips I heard the story of his life, freighted with more suffering of mind, soul and body than can be conjured up in the tales of the Bastille and the Inquisition.
Franklin is 65 years old. He is stoop shouldered and there is a furtive hounded look in his eyes that only comes to the convict of many years. He says he has never taken a drink of alcoholic liquor in his life, and this probably accounts for his being in very fair health. His health, however was broken while in the penitentiary, and when a hand was cut off in a saw mill he laid in bed many months. After he was pardoned he went to a hospital, where he remained for over a year. He is a pauper, too old and weak to begin life over again; he depends upon the State that made him suffer giving a competence for the few remaining years of his life.

Recently he has been sleeping at the police barracks, and charitable people have given him enough to buy food. When asked about his life as a convict, he said:

STOOD ON THE GALLOWES.
"Whenever I think of the time I stood on the gallows with the hangman's rope about my neck, I shudder and cold chills run down my back. I dream sometimes of the awful moments, and when I look back upon them they now seem like an age. Before the day set for my execution I was frightened, but when I at last saw my mind that the time had come, I grew perfectly calm. I do not

believe people who hang have any real fear. I did not, and I felt a kind of curiosity about what I was going to see when I was dead. I even became impatient for the hangman to spring the trigger. While walking up the steps to the scaffold I reviewed my whole past life. I thought of enough to fill a book in four or five seconds. I watched with the keenest interest the sheriff while he got everything ready. I almost felt like helping him. But the terrible time was to come. When my lawyer cried out that he had a reprieve, a fearful reaction came, and I was awfully frightened. I could feel my heart beating against my ribs like a sledge hammer. My breath came with such difficulty that I could scarcely breathe. I looked upon the gallows and the rope and screamed in fright. My God, it was a horrible experience. Do you know, at that very hour my wife was dying? The thought that I was to die upon the gallows killed her, and she left a little girl only three days old. Then came all the years, twenty-one of them, when I worked as a convict. When I stood on the gallows, when I toiled in the stripes, there was but one cry in my heart, and it was that I was an innocent man suffering for another's crime. I don't know how a man feels when he is to be hanged for a murder he committed, but I know when he stands on the gallows an innocent person he has feelings that no words or pen can describe.

Franklin was asked for a full story of his life from the time he was accused of murder, for which he innocently suffered, and he replied:

STORY OF THE EX-CONVICT.
"I was born in Maine, in 1840, and came to Georgia in 1861. I enlisted in the confederate army in the Griffin volunteers. After the war I went to Macon. In 1880 I had a fight with Fred Knight, and whipped him. That same year, in July, Mit Bryant was found stabbed and in a dying condition. Knight informed the officers of the law that I had done the stabbing, and I was arrested and placed in jail. Bryant was engaged to be married to Knight's sister, and after he was stabbed he married her. It was thought he was getting well, and he went to Augusta where he died two months after he was stabbed. I believe that Knight stabbed Bryant because he did not want him to marry his sister. Knight did not say this in his deathbed confession, but I think that such was the case.

"I was placed on trial in October, 1880. Knight swore that he saw me with Bryant a short while before the stabbing, and he stole \$900 from his father with which he hired two negroes to swear against me. One of the negroes testified that he heard me say that I would fix Bryant. I was convicted and sentenced to hang by Judge T. J. Simmons, now chief justice of Georgia. My attorney made a motion for a new trial, and Judge Simmons granted it. I was defended by Bartlett & Dessau.

"At my second trial in April, 1881 I was again convicted, and sentenced to hang on July 1, 1881. When the appeal to the supreme court had failed I gave up all hope and prepared for death. Three days before the day for my execution my wife gave birth to a little girl, our first born. I heard that my wife was very ill, and not expected to live. She died on the morning of July 12 and it was my expected death that killed her.

"On the morning of July 12 I was dressed for the gallows, and all the last formalities were gone through with. I heard the death warrant read without a tremor. I had been afraid in the days before, but I was calm and self-possessed. I used to wonder how a man felt when about to be hanged, and I thought as many others do, that there was a terrible fear and a fright that was horrible, but I know better now. The good God that prepares a man for death under other circumstances, is with him on the gallows, and mercifully gives courage for the ordeal. I was made to stand on the trap-door, the trigger having been set and the noose was tied about my neck. I closed my eyes and made a short, fervent prayer.

SAVED AT LAST MOMENT.
"One of my attorneys, Charles Bartlett, the congressman, jumped upon the scaffold and said: 'This man is innocent, and I will die by him.'

"Judge Simmons had granted a twenty minute reprieve in order that Governor Smith, who was then governor of Georgia, could be heard from by wire about a petition asking that my sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. The governor wired to the sheriff that my petition had been granted. The noose was taken from my neck and I was told that life was mine.

"Life? What had I gained? I had made up my mind to die, and even courted death, and now I was to be given a living death that was to last for years and years, until my hair grew gray and my body was old and feeble. I believed when I stood on the scaffold that I was going to heaven, and now I was to be placed in a hell on earth. Still life is sweet, and knowing I was innocent, there was the hope that some day justice would be

done. It came at last, but it came late, very, very late.
"My first work in the penitentiary was done on the Old Town farm in Jefferson county. I stayed there only three weeks when I was removed to the East Tennessee railroad, now a part of the Southern system, where I worked grading the roadbed for about four years. I was not used to such work and I suffered terribly. When the grading was finished I was taken to the Alexander quarry in Fulton county, where I helped to get out rocks with which Atlanta's streets were paved. In May, 1884, I went to Cole City to work in the coal mines and I stayed there twelve years, when I was removed to James' lumber mills and farm in Emanuel county. It was there that I had my left hand cut off in the saw mill. When I had served six years in the mill I was pardoned. Knight had confessed on his deathbed that he killed Bryant and that I was innocent. He confessed, I suppose, because he wanted to make peace with his God before he died. May God forgive him for what he did to me. It was worse, far worse than the murder of Bryant.

FREEDOM GAVE NO JOY.
They say it is a glorious thing to be told you are a free man when you are a convict, but I did not feel that way. I was too old to begin life again. I went into the penitentiary when I was only 44 years of age, in the prime of life. Everything I had on earth had gone to pay for my defense in the courts, and I was a pauper, without home and friends. I was in feeble health. I went back to Macon and remained in the hospital several months. When I was strong enough I tried to make my living by serving as a night watchman. I had spent twenty-one years as a convict, and the best years of a man's life.

"I had never seen my daughter. I ascertained that she was married and living in Fernandina, Fla. She helped me to visit her, and saw a grown woman, who was a babe three days old when her father stood with the hangman's rope ready to strangle him. She was a mother, and I was a grand-father. It all sounds very strange, doesn't it? Just like some of the stories you read in the old time dime novels, but it is all true—yes, too true.

"How was my daughter raised and educated? That is another story. You know that convicts are allowed to work overtime and they are paid for extra work. I worked in this way as often as I could, and every dollar I made I gave to the education and the raising of my child. I am trying to be thankful for what blessings have come to me late in life, but the shadow of the gallows and the penitentiary is over it all.

When the old man had finished his story he arose abruptly and walked away.
"He will go into the woods somewhere and brood for hours over his troubles," remarked a police officer who knows Franklin and his history. "He has spells of melancholia very often when he speaks of his terrible experiences."

The bill for the relief of Franklin is now pending in the legislature. He has been told that as much as \$50,000 might be given him, and he will remain in Atlanta until the legislature adjourns.—Gordon Noel Hurlst in Atlanta Constitution.

—Messrs. H. P. Hines and George Smith have purchased the mill property of Mr. R. M. McEntire, near Nanito, and took charge of the business Wednesday of last week. These are two of the county's best business men and that they will succeed goes without saying.

How Is Your Heart?

Is your pulse weak, too slow, too fast, or does it skip a beat? Do you have shortness of breath, weak or hungry spells, fainting, smothering or choking spells, palpitation, fluttering, pains around the heart, in side and shoulder; or hurt when lying on left side?
If you have any of these symptoms your heart is weak or diseased, and cannot get better without assistance.
Dr. Miles' Heart Cure strengthens weak hearts, and rarely ever fails to cure heart disease. Try it, and see how quickly you will find relief.

"About January 1st, 1892, I took down with weakness and dropsy, and gradually grew worse. I was told by my family physician that my case was hopeless. My neighbors and family had given me up to die. My limbs and body were swollen to one-third larger than normal size, and water had collected around my heart. For at least three months I had to sit propped up in bed to keep from smothering. I sent for the bottles of Dr. Miles' Heart Cure, and by the time I had taken them all I was entirely cured. I feel better than I have for twenty years, and I am able to do any kind of work on my farm. My attending physician told me that if it hadn't been for Dr. Miles' Heart Cure I would now be in my grave."
L. T. CURD, Wilmore, Ky.
Dr. Miles' Heart Cure is sold by your druggist, who will guarantee that the first bottle will benefit. If it fails he will refund your money.
Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

BIG NEW ROAD IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Line In Virginia Three Hundred Miles Long.

TO COST OVER \$15,000,000.

Great Coal Properties For Seaboard System—Wythe And Dickenson Counties To Be Opened Up And New Mining Fields Developed—Boom For The Southwest.

(Richmond, Va., News Leader.)
It has been reported for some time that persons representing the Ryan-Blair-Coolidge interests of the Seaboard Air Line system were busy buying or obtaining control of vast areas of coal lands, hither undeveloped, in the Crane's Neck field. It is understood that Messrs. Ritter and Ream and associates are directly interested and actively engaged in the enterprise.

These reports are confirmed and explained by the following in the New York Herald of yesterday:
Interests behind the Clinchfield corporation have decided on plans to build a 300 mile railroad to their extensive bituminous coal lands in Virginia, an enterprise which will involve an expenditure of from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. In this connection they have engaged the services of Alfred Walters, formerly president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Mr. Walters will be made president of a holding corporation which is to provide funds for the enterprise and he will later become head of the road. The building operations will be carried out under his directions.

The properties of the Clinchfield corporation embrace about 250,000 acres of coal land in Wythe and Dickenson counties and extending into a third county. The company at present owns a branch line, the South and Western Railroad, which will be the nucleus of the new road.

The South and Western road is about sixty-five miles in extent. Starting from Johnson City, Tenn., whence it now runs to Spruce Pine, N. C., it will be extended for nearly 285 miles to the Clinchfield coal properties. At Johnson City it connects with the Norfolk and Western road, and it will cross the Seaboard Air Line at Rutherfordton and the Southern Railway and the Atlantic Coast Line at Spartanburg.

Engineers are now at work engaged in surveys, selecting routes and making estimates of the cost. They expect to get a grade of about one-half of one per cent.
Details of the holding corporation are now being worked out. It is roughly estimated that it will be called upon to provide funds to the amount of \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

The new railroad will take coal out of the first large coal lands south of the Pocahontas fields. The bituminous product will be marketed in the South and Southwest and all the way to the Seaboard. The Clinchfield Corporation, which has a capitalization of \$2,300,000, is controlled by the Seaboard Air Line interests. It acquired, last January, control of the South and Western, and also the Crane's Nest Company, owning about 112,000 acres of coal lands.

S. & W. PUSHING WORK.

(Manufacturers' Record.)
Chief Engineer Kent of the South & Western Railway is reported as saying that men are at work at Spruce Pine, N. C., and other points beyond there for the eastern extension, and on the northern extension a force is employed at Dugannon, Scott county, Virginia, while work is being started at other points in the latter State. A report from New York says that Alfred Walters, formerly president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, has been engaged by the syndicate back of the South & Western Railway to manage the construction of a 300-mile railroad. Thomas F. Ryan, James A. Blair, of Blair & Co., and John B. Dennis, all of New York; T. Jefferson Coolidge, Jr., of Boston, and Norman B. Ream, of Chicago, own the Clinchfield Corporation property and controlling the South & Western. They are all directors in the Seaboard Air Line.

PERSONAL AND LOCAL.

Things The Sun Man Finds On His Raunds To Write About.

—Mr. L. H. Wells, of Bostic, was in town Monday.

—Mr. J. H. Brady, of Gilkey, was in town Monday.

—Mr. A. C. Higgins, of Bostic, was a caller Monday.

—Mr. B. D. Martin, of Duncan, came to town Monday.

—Mr. D. W. Cowin, of Cliffdale, was in the city Monday.

—Mr. W. P. Kistler, of Island Ford, was in town Monday.

—Mr. Will Brisco, of Big Island, was in the city Friday Monday.

—Mr. Hall Martin, of Bostic, was a visitor in town Monday.

—Mr. W. K. McDaniel, of Island Ford, was in town Monday.

—Mr. K. T. Davis, a good citizen of Henrietta, was in town Monday.

—Mr. A. H. McDaniel, a good citizen of Forest City, was here Monday.

—Mr. H. P. Hines, one of Gilkey's good citizens, was a caller Monday.

—Postmaster Davis, of Bostic, was in Rutherfordton on business Monday.

—Mr. H. S. Harrill, one of Ellenboro's good citizens, was a caller Monday.

—Mr. B. P. Koon, of Cuba, was among the callers at The Sun office Monday.

—Mr. P. B. Hall, of Spartanburg, was among the many visitors here first Monday.

—Mr. C. D. Davis, of Poor's Ford, was in town Monday and gave The Sun a call.

—Messrs. Posy Flack and Dave Bridges, of Forest City, were visitors in town Monday.

—Mr. J. L. D. Green, who lives on Rutherfordton, R. F. D. No. 1, was here Monday.

—Mr. C. C. Lovelace, of Green Hill, was a pleasant caller at The Sun office Monday.

—Mr. B. C. Francis, of Henrietta, gave The Sun a pleasant call Monday and left his subscription.

—Mr. W. K. McDowell, of Island Ford, was on the streets Monday shaking hands with friends.

—Col. Bill Hora, merchant, postmaster, and an all-round good fellow, of Cuba, was in town Monday.

—Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Lynch, of Ayr, were in town last week, stopping with Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brittain.

—Messrs. M. L. Gross, Joe Long, G. W. Long and Mack Freeman, of Logan's Store, were in town Monday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hood and child, of Baltimore, are at the Iso-Thermal Hotel, to remain some weeks.

—Mr. A. C. Miller, a good citizen of Forest City, R. F. D. No. 1, was in town Monday and gave The Sun a call.

—Mrs. James Carpenter, of Marion, came down Saturday and will spend several days here visiting relatives.

—Messrs. Grover King and Linsey Hunter, two of Forest City's prominent young citizens, were in town Monday.

—Rev. S. A. Bridges, of Myrtle, was in town Monday and says he is going to Paocet in a few days to visit his daughter.

—Mr. G. F. Green and family went to Gastonia Thursday last to visit his father-in-law and will be gone several days.

—Mr. M. K. Whitaker, of Henrietta, an old friend of The Sun's, called and renewed his allegiance to The Sun's supporters Monday.

—Mrs. E. B. Johnson and children, of Norfolk, arrived here Friday and will spend some time visiting relatives in the town and county.

—Among the Forest City citizens visiting town Monday we noticed Messrs. J. O. Harrill, G. W. Trout, J. T. Carver and W. M. Young.

—The ice cream supper for the benefit of the band on the graded school lawn was well attended last Friday night. The proceeds amounting to something over twelve dollars.

—Mr. T. A. Dorsey, of McKinney, Texas, is here on a visit to his brother, Mr. J. W. Dorsey. Mr. Dorsey is accompanied by his daughter. The Sun wishes them a pleasant time while here.

—Mr. J. W. Hines and son, Tom, of Rocky Mount, came up Saturday to spend a few days with Mrs. Hines and other children who are spending the summer here. All are stopping at Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Carpenter's.

—Messrs. Jas. P. and F. A. Mitchell, two old Rutherford county boys, were here on a visit this week from Inman, S. C., where they went to live thirty-one years ago. The Sun was glad to have a call from them Monday.

—Prof. Horace Flack came home from Washington, D. C., last Saturday, where he has been in college for some months. He returns to John Hopkins in September. His many friends in all parts of the county are glad to see him in our midst.

—Rev. Clarence Davis and his brother, Mr. Herman Davis, formerly of Forest City, now of Elizaville, Tenn., were in Rutherford county this week visiting friends and relatives. They were in Rutherfordton Monday shaking hands with many.

THE "BIG HUMP."

New Subscriptions And Renewals Continue To Come In.

The following persons have paid for The Sun and renewed their subscription since the last issue. The amount appearing opposite the names is the amount received at the office.

If you have subscribed, renewed or paid back dues on your subscription and your name does not appear in the "hump" it has not been received at this office and we respectfully ask you to report same at once to the office, giving amount paid and to whom.

- Weldon Walker, Ellenboro..... 25
- H. S. Harrill, Ellenboro..... 1 00
- D. W. Cowin, Cliffdale..... 1 50
- M. K. Whitaker, Henrietta..... 1 25
- D. C. Francis, Henrietta..... 25
- L. S. Nash, Rutherfordton..... 25
- James L. Morgan, Marion..... 50
- J. T. Carver, Forest City..... 25
- Lee Andrew Bryant, Rutherford..... 25
- C. J. Jackson, Nanney..... 25
- Millard Hufstetler, Lattimore..... 25
- Mrs. E. J. Kucker, Green Hill..... 25
- S. C. Biggerstaff, Seneca, S. C..... 50
- A. W. Pannell, Ellenboro..... 50
- C. O. Painter, Cherokee, S. C..... 50
- C. C. Bridges, Lattimore..... 25
- J. J. Lancaster, Rutherfordton..... 25
- C. M. Lewis, Green Hill..... 25
- Col. Bill Stowe, Mt. Holly..... 25
- A. C. Miller, Forest City..... 25
- Jas. P. Metcalf, Inman, S. C..... 10
- L. H. Wells, Bostic..... 10
- A. C. Higgins, Bostic..... 25
- A. C. McGinnis, Green Hill..... 25
- I. S. Williams, Green Hill..... 50
- N. W. Morrow, Rutherfordton..... 25
- S. S. Womack, Rutherfordton..... 25
- P. W. Morgan, Itom..... 25
- P. D. Carpenter, Forest City..... 25
- T. L. Cote, Forest City..... 50
- C. Sane, Twitty..... 25
- F. I. Nanney, Union Mills..... 25
- W. W. Crawley, Union Mills..... 50
- J. D. Fincannon, Gilkey..... 25
- J. R. Geer, Gilkey..... 25
- H. R. Haynes, Nanito..... 25
- R. R. Webb, Bostic..... 25
- J. E. Miller, Poor's Ford..... 25

Ice Cream Supper Friday Night.

An enjoyable occasion was the ice cream supper on the lawn in front of the graded school building Friday night, for the benefit of the Rutherfordton cornet band. Seats and tables were erected in the beautiful grove, and while the band played some excellent airs the large crowd feasted on the ice cream and enjoyed the delightful music made by this new organization for the first time in public. The band has made rapid progress since its beginning and promises to be one of the best in this part of the State.

Hollis High School.

The Sun learns with pleasure that the Hollis High School is meeting with great success. The school opened with seventy-five pupils the first day. Since it is learned that one hundred are now enrolled. This speaks well for the able principal, Prof. D. M. Stallings, and his "co-worker" Mr. J. P. D. Withrow, who always takes hold of anything determined to make a success of it.

Prof. Carlisle Delivers Address.

Prof. J. B. Carlisle, of Wake Forest College, was here Saturday and delivered an excellent educational address to the teachers and a number of Rutherford county citizens. Those who heard it pronounced it a great effort and one that will do much for the cause of education in this county.

Every man owes it to himself and his family to master a trade or profession. Read the display advertisement of the six Morse Schools of Telegraphy, in this issue and learn how easily a young man or lady may learn telegraphy and be assured a position.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HENRIETTA AND CAROLEEN, N. C.

Forest City And In All Parts Of Rutherford County.

We have the Clothing, the Shoes and Gents' Furnishing Goods—the best—the newest and latest styles at prices not marked up to three times its value or worth. Our goods are not old rotten material which has been on the shelves for 5 or 10 years, marked and remarked and retagged, but are standard goods from the biggest and best houses in the country brought to Rutherfordton within the last 12 months. Other goods are coming in daily. When you want to be treated right and given a real bargain in good material, come to our store; we guarantee our goods. Remember we are going to give away a \$400.00 Stieff Piano. SIMMONS-ANDERSON CO., Rutherfordton, N. C.

GIVE IT ELBOW ROOM. Don't Be Afraid Of Using Sufficient Space For An Ad.

(Memphis Commercial Appeal.)
Suppose that two clothiers—merchants of about equal standing—should divide equally between themselves a very large purchase of goods, thus being able to offer to the public stock of approximately even value.
Suppose that the advertisements of the two merchants were practically alike in text—prices and descriptions of goods actually duplicated.
But suppose that one merchant confined his advertisements to one column of space in this newspaper and that the other used a whole page, is there any doubt at all about what the result would be. Would any one imagine for a moment that the merchant who used a column of space would do as much business as the one who used a page, even though everything else were equal.

Most experienced advertisers will agree that in this kind of a case the results would be very nearly in direct proportion to the space used.
Size is still so much a factor in the world—it decides so many things in business as well as in statecraft—that the advertiser who gives too little consideration to it handicaps himself in the race.
In many an instance the mere doubling of the space occupied by a store advertisement in this newspaper would double the store sales resulting from it. An advertisement will not "stand out" in an eye catching way if it is crowded for space, if lacks "elbow room."
The advertiser who has "learned things" about publicity is as careful to provide space in which his advertisement may "come out and be separate" as he is to make his text matter dignified and convincing.

CANCER HOSPITAL
We want every man and woman in the United States to know what we are doing. We are curing Cancers, Tumors and Chronic Sores without the use of the knife, and are endorsed by the Senate and Legislature of Virginia. If you are seeking a cure, come here and you will get it. We guarantee our cures.
The Kellam Cancer Hospital, RICHMOND, VA.

Delicious Candies!
Lowney's Chocolate Bon-Bons
Crowell & Wilkie, Forest City.