The Concord Daily Tribune.

VOL XXII Price 60 Cents a Month. CONCORD, N. C., TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1912. Single Copy, 1 Cent.

State Library 59

C. V. T. RICHESON ELECTROCUTED TODAY

WENT TO HIS DEATH AT 12:17 THIS MORNING.

Confessed Poisoner of Avis Linnell Maintained His Composure to the End—Brother Wouldn't See Him—Poison Sent Him Yesterday.—Story of the Crime and Trial.

Boston, Mass., May 21.—Clarence V. T. Richeson went to his death in the electric chair for the murder of Avis Linnell with a fortitude that amazed his spiritual advisers, his counsel and the the State's witnesses. The current of 1900 volts was turned on at 12:10 this morning. Death was instantaneous. The voltage was twice lowered and he was shocked again. The current was on the last time fifteen seconds. He was officially pronounced dead at 12:17, after five minutes examination. He went to the death chair singing hymns. His last words were: "I am willing to die for Jesus' sake."

Richeson was dressed plainly in a black cheviot suit, a frock coat, white vest, white shirt, turned down collar and a black bow tie, with gold studs in his shirt front, and with low black shoes, brightly shined. His head was shaved down the middle.

Among many letters addressed to Richeson which were opened by Warden Bridges today was one which was found to contain cyanide of potassium. It was mailed from station N., New York city, on May 19, at 3 p. m. It contained no clue to the sender, the powder being enclosed in a small sub-envelope marked, 'headache powders.'' An analysis developed that it was poison of the same nature as that which killed Avis Linnell.

Attorney Morse said that he advised Warden Bridges to make public the fact of the receipt of this powder. Richeson was entirely innocent of any knowledge of it having been sent, the attorney declared. He added that he had every reason to believe the condemned man had no expectation of any such means of death.

Richeson reflected yesterday that he probably had less than 12 hours to live, and expressed a desire to see his brother, Douglas Richeson, of Chicago, who is in the city. The former clergyman told his spiritual adviser, the Rev. Dr. H. S. Johnson, that he could meet his brother without fear of collapsing. He had reconciled himself to his fate, he added, and felt that he was at peace with God and the world. Douglas Richeson decided that he would not go to his brother.

Richeson Did Not Die for Jesus' Sake, Says Dr. Peters.

New York, May 21.—"The solemnity and mock religious atmosphere that surrounded the electrocution of Clarence V. T. Richeson was maudlin and sacriligious, tending to disgust sensible people with the church and make them despise religion," today declared Rev. Madison C. Peters, pastor of Pilgrim Congressional church. "Richeson did not die for Jesus' sake. It is mockery. He did not even die for the sake of Avis Linnell. He died to satisfy justice. Such things only tend to glorify murder and attract sentiment to murderers. Of course I believe condemned men should have a chance of repentance."

Boston, May 21.—"And May God, in His infinite goodness, have mercy on your soul!"

Ringing in the ears of the tall, powerfully built, waxen faced man on whom the stern mandate of the law was carried out in the death house in Charlestown prison early today were those words, uttered four months and two weeks ago to him, as he clung to the railing in the crowded courtroom in Boston, by Judge Sanderson, as the latter imposed the only penalty possible for his admission of the most cruel murder in the history of the State. Rev. C. V. T. Richeson, Baptist minister, who first betrayed and then murdered confiding, trusting Avis Linnell, belle of the little village of Hyannis, down on Cape Cod, had hoped by his open confession to avoid the ignominious death in the cruel chair. His lawyers told him that he could probably earn a commutation of the death sentence by clearing up a murder mystery which, no matter how conclusive the evidence, would always have left suspicion in the minds of those opposed to circumstantial evidence in capital cases. And the man who had disgraced his holy calling, grasping at the straw, had pleaded guilty in the hope that after all he might save his life, even though doomed to spend the remainder of it in prison.

But the closing words of the black robed, stern faced judge brought the realization of how slender his hope was and Richeson had to be carried out of the courthouse to the prison van that returned him to the Charles street jail where most of the time since his sentence has been spent. Jail officials admitted today that he was greatly depressed from the moment he was brought back from [illegible] He ate [illegible] breakfast [illegible] of the

court, although a formula dating from past centuries, meant that his only hope was in the God whose calling he betrayed and ever since his waking and sleeping hours have been haunted by the spectre of the broad arm chair, with its bright metal base and cruel network of wires.

Beginning in the little Cape Cod village of Hyannis, the love tragedy which culminated in the murder and today's execution was the world old triangle—two women and a man. Back in 1909, Richeson, graduated only a few months before from the Newton Theological Seminary, was called to the pastorate of the Hyannis Baptist church. Handsome, polished in manner, with a wonderful amount of personal magnetism, he was soon a social favorite. Young and old were attracted to him and the church congregation was doubled in the first few months of his incumbency. Little comment was occasioned by the fact that he was seen frequently in the company of seventeen-year-old Avis Linnell, the brightest of the local high school students. She had been baptized and received into the church by the young minister and the old gossips of the little village considered them naturally attracted to each other and looked for them to wed.

There was no formal announcement of the engagement. But Miss Linnell had given up most of her social diversions and was spending nearly all of her time in church work. She was the "right hand" of the pastor in most of the events and took his part in a dispute that arose from his methods of preaching. It was Richeson's boast that he always called "a spade a spade," and his forceful preaching, in which he assailed sin in every guise, soon split the congregation in factions. In April, 1910, Mr. Richeson resigned and stated that he had accepted a charge in Immanuel, Cambridge. He had planned to stay there only a short time and later to marry Miss Linnell, according to what their friends understood, and go to China as a missionary.

Then Avis Linnell, who had a splendid voice left the little country village and went to Boston. She stated that she was going there to study in the Conservatory of Music so that she might be better able to "aid her husband" in his church work. At that time she was wearing a handsome diamond ring, which it was understood by her people had been the gift of the minister.

Meanwhile Richeson had been installed in the fashionable Cambridge church. Here his work was crowned with success and he became a favorite with many members of the congregation who professed to be charmed with his plain talks from the pulpit. One night at a church reception the young pastor was introduced to Miss Viola Edmands. She was the daughter of Moses Grant Edmands, one of the wealthiest residents of Brookline, and reputed to be in possession in her own right of a half million dollars received from the estate of her grand father.

Miss Edmands was a different type from the little country village maid who had done so much for the preacher down on Cape Cod. Proud and imperious in manner she was attracted toward the young minister and soon he was paying devoted attention to her. In a short time he was her slave and soon she told her intimates that she and the minister were to wed soon.

Whether Avis Linnell knew of the other woman at this time is it not known. It is certain, however, that early in the summer she took the diamond ring from her finger and wore it no more. But there was no announcement to the home people that the engagement had been broken and there were only a few people who knew that another woman had come between the preacher and his little country sweetheart.

Miss Linnell went home in August and shortly afterward Richeson also came to Hyannis to spend his vacation. Prior to that the minister had been noticed dining in Boston restaurants with Miss Linnell and in Hyannis, and the old town the couple were much together and the rumor was soon afloat that they had patched up their differences and would eventually be married.

In September Richson returned to his pulpit and Miss Linnell went back to her music studies. At times, her friends say, she seemed much distraught and troubled. Finally on Saturday, October 14, the young music student told her girl friends at the Young Women's Christian Association, where she boarded, that she was going to take dinner with her "gentleman friend." Although she did not call Richeson by name she was understood to mean him by her friends.

No one saw the couple at their meal. The last time they are known to have been seen on the street together was the day before Miss Linnell's mother, who had been visiting in Boston, returned home. Her daughter accompanied her to the railway station and after her train left, according to the story of George Baker, of Hyannis, who was there, Richeson joined Miss Linnell. They left the depot together.

Following her visit to her "gentleman friend" for dinner Miss Linnell returned to the Y. W. C. A. in high spirits. She told her friends that she had been given some medicine and that she was sure now that her "headaches" would be cured.

That night young women occupying adjoining rooms heard groans in the bathroom adjoining Miss Linnell's bedroom. They broke down the door but the girl became unconscious and died before a physician arrived. For a short time it was believed that she had killed herself. It was suggested that Richeson had told her he was to wed the "other woman" and that this fact had caused her to end her life. An autopsy, however, revealed that she was about to become a mother and that cyanide of potassium had been the cause of her death.

The fact that the girl was in a delicate condition aroused suspicion and the police began to shadow Richeson. It developed that, when the little country girl was found dying her nearest chum telephoned to Richeson who demanded to know whether she had said anything about him. When told that she had not, it is alleged that he demanded why he had been called and notified the girl to tell Miss Linnell's people and the police.

Richeson immediately deserted his lodging and went to the Brookline mansion of Moses Grant Edmands, where he stayed in strict seclusion. The next day he went down town and engaged an attorney to represent his interests.

On October 19, William Hahn, a druggist in Newton Centre, where Richeson attended theological school, told the police that he had sold Richeson cyanide of potassium.

"He told me that he had a pet dog that he wanted to kill," Hahn told the police, "and I told him that he ought to use ether. He said that he didn't like the odor and then I suggested cyanide. I gave him a package but he insisted on more. As he was leaving he cautioned me to say nothing about the matter."

On this evidence and the known acquaintance of the minister with Miss Linnell the arrest of Richeson was determined on. The police surrounded the mansion on the night of October 19, but admission was refused. Finally early next morning they were admitted and found the minister in bed. He was formally arrested on a murder charge and protested his innocence.

The theory of the police from the start was that the minister was responsible for the girl's condition and that he had promised to get her medicine which would effectually hide her shame from the world. Instead the latter admitted he gave her capsules filled with dry cyanide. The girl, believing implicity in the minister, partook of the deadly drug believing it was in reality medicine for the purpose intended.

After his arrest the members of the Edmands family stood by the minister. They proclaimed their belief in his innocence and it was announced that they would finance his defense. On Thanksgiving Day Miss Edmands sent flowers and dainties to the accused man in his cell and said she had implicit confidence that he would soon be free and they would be wed in the end.

On the night of December 20 Richeson was heard moaning and crying in his cell. Finally he asked a guard to send for a doctor. One was soon there and investigation revealed the fact that the minister, probably in a moment of mental aberration, had fearfully mutilated himself with a piece of tin he had secured and sharpened to a razor's edge on the floor of the cell. So serious were the wounds inflicted that the doctors who were hurriedly called were forced to complete the operation the man had begun and for a time he was in grave danger of dying from blood poisoning.

That Richeson had planned to have the operation he attempted figure in his defense was charged by the prosecutor and he was little surprised when, on January 6 last, he was furnished with a confession of guilt by Richeson's lawyers. When the confession was repeated in court on January 9, there was nothing for Judge Sanderson to do but impose the only penalty by law for first degree murder. Friends of Richeson started an agitation to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment, but the governor and his council refused to act. A petition claiming insanity was filed in the case but promptly overruled.

Confession Which Sent Rev. C. V. T. Richeson to the Death Chair.

"Gentlemen: Deeply penitent for my sin, and earnestly desiring, as far as in my power lies, to make atonement, I hereby confess that I am guilty of the offense of, which I stand indicted.

"I am moved to this course by no inducement of self benefit or leniency. Heinous as is my crime, God has not wholly abandoned me, and my conscience and manhood, however depraved and blighted, will not admit of my still wronging by a public trial, her, whose pure young life I have destroyed.

"Under the lashings of remorse I have suffered, and am suffering, the torture of the damned. In this I find a measure of comfort.

"In my mental anguish I recognize that there is still of the mercy of the Master some remnant of divine spark of goodness still lingering with me. I could wish to live only that some little good might come out of my life. I might in some way, perhaps, redeem my sinful past, help some other struggling soul, and at last find favor with my God.

(Signed)—

"CLARENCE V. T. RICHESON."

THE CONTEST IN DECLAMATION

SIX YOUNG MEN AT MT. PLEASANT CONTEST FOR HONORS.

Mr. F. L. Broad Wins the Medal, Though It Was Difficult Matter to Decide.—Mr. King Wins Gold Medal as Best Debater.—Other Commencement Notes.

Mount Pleasant, N. C., May 20.—Well trained in the art of declamation, the six young men representing the preparatory department of the Collegiate Institute who joined in the contest this morning for the piece of gold, made for themselves a reputation for public speaking seldom attained by amateurs. It had been forecasted by those in touch with the work being put upon the declamations by the contestants, that the speaking would be close, very close, and this prediction was fulfilled to the last word. The committee of the decision had by far the more difficult part of the problem in trying to come to a conclusion as to whom should be given the medal. Having carefully considered the small points in each production, the committee gave the honor of winning the medal to Mr. F. L. Broad. It was a decision in which the smallest fraction of merit and the smallest infraction of declamatory rules won or lost. The programme follows:

"Old Mistis"—Frank J. Auten, Charlotte.

"His Last Song"—Fred L. Broad, Spencer.

Spartacus to the Gladiators"—Geo. F. Conrad, Lexington.

"The Crushed Flower"—Gilbert Hendrix, Concord.

"The Confederate Dead"—Fred R. Peck, Mt. Pleasant.

"My Mother, My Country, My God"—Clyde O. Ritchie, Concord.

The Debate.

Resolved, That the National Government should aid in the construction and maintenance of good roads.

Affirmative speakers: Jno. R. Cress, Mt. Pleasant; Chas. B. King, Charlotte; C. H. Ritchie, Concord. Negative: J. D. Thomas, Faith; Jas. G. Lyerly, Faith; G. F. Davis, Charlotte.

The query is one that appeals at once to the average man who makes use of roads. How these roads should be best constructed and maintained is engaging the minds of thoughful men throughout our country and that there is a diversity of opinion on the subject was clearly set forth in the discussion this afternoon. With all the power of logical argumentation the affirmative contended that our public highways should not be built and maintained at the expense of the National government. So forcibly did they succeed in driving home their contentions that the judges gave them the benefit of the doubt and the decision in their favor. This is not to be construed to mean, however, that the negative was not there with an abundance of proof and argument in protest against the government undertaking this work, and so logically and convincingly did they uphold their contentions that it was believed by numerous friends that they had triumphed in the contest. Space will not permit us to give even a brief outline of this fine battle of skill and brains for supremacy in debate. A gold medal was offered for the best address made by either of the debaters. This honor was awarded Mr. King.

Notes.

The weather man is with us unanimously—little dust, no mud.

The Kindley cotton mills, the Tuscarora cotton mills, the James knitting mills and the Mt. Pleasant Lumber Company shut down their plants that their operatives might have an opportunity to attend the closing exercises of the twin institutions.

The automobile census of Mt. Pleasant tonight is the largest in our history.

Lee, Jackson and the whole Confederate army are again on the march through the land of sunshine, king cotton, and pretty girls, but the journey they are now pursuing is a mission of peace, patriotism and oratory. We should erect a monument to their memory for the medals they win.

If Prof. McAllister expects to get men to serve in the capacity of judges for the different contests of the Institute, he will find the task much easier if it can be arranged in such fashion that the contestants will be farther removed from each other in point of ability. Not many men are willing to undertake a second task similar to that of passing sentence on the declaimers' contest this morning.

Mont Amoena Seminary lies in ashes—the old building does. Would you guess it? Do the large number of visitors in town suggest it? Does the character of the exercises indicate it? Is there a hint of it anywhere? The fact is mentioned occasionally, 'tis true, but no tears are falling, for we have our vision turned on the larger, the better, the grander, the new Mont Amoena—the Mont Amoena beautiful which is soon to rise from the ashes of November 30, 1911.

Many visitors are here tonight to attend the annual drama, "Merely Mary Ann." Among them we note Morrison H. Caldwell, Esq., and Mr. Jno. M. Oglesby, of Concord. Mr. Oglesby, city editor of the Tribune, kindly consented to relieve the Tribune correspondent here of the dramatic comment upon the play, allowing the correspondent's limited supply of adjectives to be reserved for future use, for which kindness he is duly appreciative.

"MERELY MARY ANN" LAST NIGHT.

A Superb Presentation by an Excellent Amateur Cast.—Play Will Be Presented Here Thursday Night.

"Merely Mary Ann" was rendered at Mount Pleasant last night under the auspices of the expression department of Mont Amoena Seminary. The play was directed by Miss J. Ethlyn Crabtree and the following is the cast of characters:

Launcelot, a composer — F. L. Broad.

Mr. Peter, in business — C. H. Crane.

Herr Brahnson, a music publisher—D. B. Welsh.

O'Gorman, a Sunday journalist—H. M. Faggart.

Jim Blyader, a medican student—F L. Harkey.

Rev. Samuel Smedge, a country vicar—G. F. Conrad.

Lord Valentine Foxwell, a Gilded Youth—C. B. King.

Mary Ann, Merely—J. Ethlyn Crabtree.

Mrs. Ledbetter, a lodging house keeper—Mary Yost.

Rosie, her daughter—Helen Misenheimer.

The Sisters Tripitt, music hall dancers—Mary and Laura Heilig.

Lady Chelmer, a poor peeress — Margaret McAllister.

Caroline, Countess of Foxwell, her friend—Mary Heilig.

Lady Gladys Foxwell, daughter of the Countess—Helen Misenheimer.

The Maid—Ethel Mae Cobb.

Dick—A Canary.

Bird-notes by W. C. Newell.

For several minutes before the curtain was raised every one of the 500 seats were taken and it was necessary for the ushers to provide chairs in the aisles for many. Before the curtain arose there was a still hush of expectancy on the spectators but no sooner had the performance begun than one was impressed with the fact that the play and the efforts of the players were worthy of such an audience. To give a detailed account of the story of "Merely Mary Ann" would hardly be fair to Miss Crabtree and her able assistants as it will be presented at the opera house here Thursday night and w hatever could be said here would be only feeble, compared with the presentation. It was a bright, dazzling comedy in four acts, every act sparkling with wit and humor and depicting scenes of interest and amusement. "Merely Mary Ann" is a poor, unknown, unloved boarding house maid in London. She came up through the knocks and hardships of the boarders and under the oppressive hand of an iron-hearted landlady. Launcelot, a young composer who boards there, treats Mary Ann kindly for the first time in her life. She imemdiately reciprocates his treatment by falling in love with him. Launcelot is wedded to his art but the publishers refuse his compositions on the ground that they are too classical and beseech him to use his recognized ability in writing music to catch the popular ear. He refused to prostitute his gifts for the sake of gold and finds a long due board bill staring him in the face. He grows blue and disconsolate. Mary Ann notices his demeanor and sympathizes with him. He then decides to leave and take Mary Ann with him. Suddenly by a dime novel turn of events Mary Ann becomes heiress to a vast fortune. Launcelot then refuses to marry her on account of her newly acquired riches. She pleads with him but all in vain. Finally they separate, Mary Ann going into the wealthy circles of London life and Launcelot becomes a famous composer. They have a final chapter greeting and all is Launcelot lovely.

All the young people deserve high praise for their excellent work, but special mention is due Mr. F. L. Broad as Launcelot, and Miss Mary Yost, as Mrs. Ledbetter, the boarding house keeper, both of whom showed to decided advantage behind the footlights. Miss Crabtree, as "Merely Mary Ann," was superb. She not only possesses high talent herself but possesses the art of bringing it forth from her assistants. She has consented to present the play at the opera house here Thursday night and if Concord people give it the support it deserves there will be a good house to witness it.

Heavy Voting in Ohio.

Columbus, Ohio, May 21.—Fair weather is reported in all sections for Ohio's first preference primary today. Forty-eight delegates will be selected. Taft, Roosevelt, La Follette, Harmon and Wilson supporters are encouraged by the fair, warm day. There was a heavy early vote.

Mrs. James Card and Master James Card, Jr., of Fort Worth, Texas; Mrs. D. R. Lackey, Mrs. Robert Wood and Miss Kathryn Wood and Mr. Victor Weiss, Miss Mattie Johnson and Mr. William Johnson, of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Thomas Johnson and two children of Greenville, are the guests of Mrs. R. M. Johnson.

MAY BE HOT TIME IN ROWAN.

Several Contests Probable in Democratic County Convention.

Salisbury, May 20. — Indications point to a warm time in the Democratic county convention next Saturday. There will be contests for the legislature, county commissioners and township tax collector for which positions no one seems to have been chosen by Saturday's primaries. There is a difference between the popular and the declared vote that may spell defeat for some who led in the vote Saturday. E. H. Miller, the present register of deeds beat his two opponents also. It is probable none prosecuting attorney beats his two opponesnts also. It is probable none of the present board of commissioners will be renominated. A heavy vote was polled, about 2,300, and at least one Salisbury ward voted many more than all parties voted at the last election. The counting of votes was not finished till after 1 o'clock Sunday morning.

In the summing up of the total vote cast in the Democratic primaries in Rowan Saturday it transpires that the candidates receiving the highest vote were, McKenzie for sheriff 1,981, Kluttz for county judge 2,110, Kesler for treasurer 1,945.

Another Club Chartered.

Charter has been filed at the clerk's office for the Farmers' Club and Restaurant Company. The new club will have quarters in the Correll building on West Depot street. W. A. Joyner and J. S. Draughan are the managers. The objects of the club, as set forth in the charter, are to "conduct a social club for the use, comfort and benefit of the members; to engage in athletic sports and pastimes; to conduct an eating house and do such other things as may be desirable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the organization."

The capital stock is authorized at $5,000 with $250 paid in. The following are the stockholders: A Howitz, W. A. Joyner, J. S. Draughan, W. M. Smith and J. W. Stowe.

Cobb Not Reinstated.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 21.—The American League magnates are scheduled to meet here today to fix the punishment of the Detroit strikers, who are in Washington prepared to play this afternoon's game. Ty Cobb has not been reinstated and it is not know when he will be. President Navin, of the Detroit club, said he would pay any fines including Cobb's. The magnates are considering this proposition which violates regulations.

Use the Penny Column—it pays.

PATRIOTIC ORDER OF SONS OF AMERICA.

State Meeting Now in Session Here.—Public Meeting at Court House.

The town is filled with delegates to the meeting of the State Camp P. O. S. of A. The first session was held this morning at the Pythian building. The meeting was presided over by Mr. T. D. Brown, of Salisbury, president of the State camp. Reports of the officers were read and showed a membership of more than 1300. This is the first year of the order in this State, the camp having been organized at Lexington last year. Officers for the ensuing year were nominated this morning and the election will be held at the afternoon session.

There will be a public meeting at the court house tonight at 8 o'clock. Mayor C. B. Wagoner will make the address of welcome on behalf of the city and Mr. J. M. Burrage on behalf of the local lodge. The response will be made by one of the leaders of the order. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Has-Beens And Cincos Thursday.

The "Has-Beens" and Cincos will meet Thursday afternoon. This muchly discussed ball game between the stars or near-stars of former days and the hustling Cincos will be pulled off Thursday afternoon at the new baseball park. The proceeds will be given to the public library. The game will abound in fun and with every ticket sold will be a guarantee that you get your money's worth. The Cincos say they are going to win, the "Has-Beens" say differently. You will have lots of fun if you go out and see who is telling the truth. The following is the line up the "Has-Beens" will send upon the new diamond:

Boger, c; Cline, p; Weddington, 1; Oglesby, 2; Morrison, ss; Davis, 3; Braswell, lf; Means, c; Bingham, rf. The Cinco line-up will be published tomorrow.

Another Aviator Killed.

Dayton, Ohio, May 21.—After having forced the lock on Wright brothers' hanger and against the advice of the mechanician, attempting his first flight unaided, Fred K. Southard, aged 24, a student aviator of Minneapolis, was instantly killed this morning in the Wright aviation field, near here. The machine turned turtle 100 feet in the air.

Mrs. Linnell Thinks Richeson Was Insane.

Hyannis, Mass., May 21.—"I forgive Richeson. I am firmly convinced that he went to the chair an insane man," was the statement made today by Mrs. Edgar Linnell, mother of Avis.

Waists, Dresses and Coat Suit Clearance All This Week.

A big line of Summer Waists worth up to $1.50, twelve different styles, well made of beautiful quality of Linen Finished Batiste—as long as they last 98c

CLEAN UP OF DRESSES.

$3.00 House Dresses $1.98

$1.50 House Dresses 98c

Sample Line of White Dresses—Special, $2.98, $3.48 TO $4.95

SPRING COAT SUITS IN CREAM, SERGE AND ALSO IN STRIPES—

$15.00 Suits $9.95

$18.00 Suits $11.98

$22.50 Suits $14.95

SPECIAL PRICES will continue all this week in Ladies', Misses, and Children's READY-TO WEAR HATS.

LET US SHOW YOU.

H. L. Parks & Co.