

CLAIMS NOT GUILTY

Letter Said to Have Been Left
By Joshua Harrison

FACTS ABOUT THIS SAD AFFAIR

Letter Found in Coat Pocket of Joshua Harrison, Who Killed Himself at Norfolk Declaring in God's Name His Complete Guiltlessness of Kidnapping Young Beasley.

Norfolk, Va., Special. — Declaring he was innocent of the charge of kidnapping Kenneth Beasley and asking God to bless his family were the last words of Joshua Harrison who blew out his brains in the Gladstone Hotel, in this city, rather than serve a sentence of twenty years in the penitentiary. The following letter was found in the coat pocket of the dead man shortly after he breathed his last at St. Vincent's Hospital a few hours after he had fired the fatal shot into his brain.

Text of Letter.

"September 6th, '07. This day I have been notified of an unjust sentence of twenty years in the pen. I am an innocent man; God knows it, my family know it. I am about to end my life at my own hands. No one is in any way responsible save the cruel ones who imposed the awful sentence. May God bless my precious family. I believe the world will be charitable to them all. To the world I say, 'Good bye.' Whoever finds my body notify my daughter Mrs. G. A. Gallop, 192 Duke street, Norfolk, Joshua Harrison."

"On the back of the note was written: 'I have in my pocket 55 cents. I want my effects returned to Maggie Gallop, 192 Duke street.'

With his wife and daughter, Mrs. Maggie Gallop, of 192 Duke street, Norfolk, declaring the dead man was innocent of any crime and was unjustly accused and convicted, and Senator S. M. Beasley declaring he did not believe a word of the letter left by Harrison, the tragedy will go down as one of the most horrible and, perhaps, unique that Norfolk has ever had happen in its midst. "My husband was innocent. God knows he was," said Mrs. Harrison as she was helped aboard the train to Jarvisburg, N. C., to which place the body of Harrison was sent for burial. "My father was not guilty of the crime of kidnapping Kenneth Beasley," said Mrs. Gallop, who also accompanied the body of Harrison to Jarvisburg. "He was asleep at his home the night the boy disappeared."

"I don't believe it," said Senator Beasley. "I am convinced that he was guilty and ninety-nine out of every hundred persons in Currituck, where Harrison was known, are of the same opinion."

Carried Secret to Grave.

Senator Beasley, who is here on a visit to his wife, at No. 218 Brown avenue, was apparently very much affected by the death of Harrison; not that he regretted the end of the aged man's life, but because he believes he carried to the grave with him the secret of his little boy's whereabouts, if he is alive, or the manner of his death if he is dead. "The suicide has carried the secret to the grave with him," declared Mr. Beasley, as he turned away his head to wipe a tear drop from his eye. "He has been tried for murder before," continued Mr. Beasley, "and he should have been tried for murder in connection with the disappearance of my little son, for as true as I stand here I believe he murdered my boy. The character of the man and the threat he made against me leaves no room for doubt about this in my mind."

Two Corrections Made.

"There are two things I want to correct," he said. "It has been stated that I had Harrison arrested for the illicit sale of whiskey and that he and I were opposing candidates for the State Legislature. I never had Mr. Harrison arrested for anything before my little boy disappeared, and Harrison was never a candidate for the legislature. We were not of the same political party, as I am a Democrat and he was a Republican; and although he made threats against me I never had any feeling against him until I was convinced that he had kidnapped my boy."

When asked why Harrison should threaten him, Senator Beasley replied:

"A fight was on in Currituck county against the illicit sale of liquor, which Harrison was engaged in. Four days before the election in 1904 I met Harrison in the road. He stopped me and, raising his hand to heaven, he declared that if the sale of his wines was interfered with that somebody would be sorry for it and that he would have his revenge if it was the last act of his life. The church members of my county had petitioned

me to have a resolution passed by the Legislature that would put a stop to the illicit sale of liquor, and it was on this account that Harrison had the feeling against me. While I knew his business was contaminating the young men of Currituck county, Harrison lived more than five miles from me and he did no harm personally.

After his threat there is no room for doubt that he killed my son; and, though I have followed many clues and investigated them thoroughly, I have never felt that I would find the little fellow alive. As long as Harrison lived I hoped that some day I would hear what disposition had been made of him; but now that he has killed himself I feel that the secret is buried.

"I had offered to waive all prosecution against Harrison if he would produce my little boy or tell where he could be found alive; but he was not the kind of a man to take advantage of that opportunity and preferred to fight it out. The testimony was conclusive against him. The people of Currituck thought so at the time and their judgment is confirmed by the Supreme Court, which refused Harrison a new trial after going over the entire evidence."

Will-o'-the-Wisp Clews.

Continuing Mr. Beasley said that Harrison had ample opportunity to get possession of Kenneth. Referring to some of the clues that he had received as to the whereabouts of his son, Senator Beasley recalled a letter that had come to him in April, 1905.

"The writer told me if I would place \$500 under a trestle on the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, near Rocky Mount, N. C., at 5 o'clock on the evening of April 11th, my son would be returned to me at whatever place I desired him left, but that if I made any alarm his body would be sent to me in a keg of brine. When I received the letter I came to Norfolk.

Edgar White, of White Bros. on Commercial Place, went to the bank and drew \$500 for me. We went to the Gladstone Hotel that night and sat up there until morning, taking the numbers of the bills and the banks which issued them, hoping that we might in this way be able to trace them. Then we went to the place designated by the writer of the letter and there deposited the money. Two men from Norfolk lay in the bushes near the spot all night and as nobody came for the money they brought it back to Norfolk the next day. I have had several clues since that time and I have been as far west as Arkansas looking into one of them."

"Had I wanted Harrison to die, I could have accomplished this by expressing the desire to my fellow countrymen in Currituck. They would have lynched him without hesitation if I had simply said the word. I waited for the law to take its course."

Kept His Nerve All Right.

Joshua Harrison, Jarvisburg, N. C., registered at the Gladstone Hotel about 4:25 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. He walked up to the counter and asked W. C. McDowell, the day clerk, if he could get a room. Then the clerk asked him to register. Mr. Harrison said he did not know whether he could write or not, as he had left his eyeglasses somewhere. Mr. McDowell offered him, and Harrison wrote his name on the register in a plain even hand, with no indication of nervousness. He was assigned a room on the second floor and was shown to it by a bell boy. "I noticed nothing unusual in his manner," said Mr. McDowell, "but in about fifteen minutes after he had gone up to his room Detective Wright, of the Norfolk force, came in and asked me if Mr. Harrison was in. I told him yes he showed me a telegram that had been received from Williamston, N. C., in which the Norfolk police were asked to arrest Harrison, as the Supreme Court had confirmed the judgment of the lower court. The telegram asked the police to disarm Harrison, stating that he had threatened suicide. When the boy went up to Mr. Harrison's room and told him that somebody wanted to speak to him, he replied: 'I'm not coming out.' Before the boy could get in communication with the officer, a pistol shot rang out and when the door of Harrison's room was opened he was found lying on the bed with an ugly wound in the side of his head. Captain Ford, of the police department, ordered an ambulance and the man was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, after he had been attended by Dr. Schenck.

Harrison, it is said, had declared that he would kill himself before he would serve the sentence of the court, protesting that he was innocent of the crime. He had hoped that the Supreme Court to which he had appealed would act favorably. When the news came Monday morning that judgment of the lower court had been confirmed by the Supreme Court, he gave up in despair and determined to end his life.

Everyday goodness in living is the best commentary on the law and the Gospel.

HARRISON A SUICIDE

Convicted Kidnapper Wouldn't Pay Penalty

BLEW OUT HIS OWN BRAINS

Preferred Death to a Sentence of Twenty Years in the North Carolina Penitentiary, Joshua Harrison, Who Was Convicted of the Kidnapping of Young Kenneth Beasley, Shoots Himself in Norfolk Hotel.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—Rather than serve 20 years in the penitentiary for kidnapping Kenneth Beasley, the 9-year-old son of State Senator S. M. Beasley, of Currituck county, N. C., Joshua Harrison placed a pistol to his temple and blew out his brains Wednesday afternoon in his room at the Gladstone Hotel, while officers were waiting in the lobby to arrest him for the North Carolina authorities, for being a fugitive from justice.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina denied Harrison a new trial. He was out on \$3,000 bail. The chief of police of Norfolk received a telegram from Solicitor Ward, of Elizabeth City, authorizing the arrest of Harrison as a fugitive from justice. Five minutes after the chief received the message he sent a detective to the Gladstone Hotel. The telegram stated that Harrison had threatened to kill himself and that the officers had best be careful and disarm him if possible. A bell boy was sent to Harrison's room to tell him that he was wanted at the telephone. He refused to come.

Before the bell boy reached the stairway to tell the officer, a pistol shot rang out. The officer and hotel employer rushed into the room where they found the man lying across the bed with a bullet wound in his head. His brains were oozing out on the bed clothing. A physician was called and the injured man rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital, where it was declared he could not survive.

When told of the shooting, a daughter of Harrison, Maggie Gallop, broke down and became almost hysterical. She declared that she had been expecting that something would happen. Harrison's wife was also in the city with her daughter, Mrs. Gallop. She said that her husband was innocent of the crime. "My husband was at home asleep the night Kenneth Beasley was kidnapped. He knew nothing about the crime," declared Mrs. Harrison. Harrison died from the self-inflicted wound at 2 o'clock Thursday morning.

Story of the Crime.

The crime for which Harrison was convicted was the kidnapping of the 9-year-old son of State Senator S. M. Beasley, of Poplar Branch, Currituck county. On the afternoon of March 13th, 1905, during recess of the school he was attending near his home, the boy mysteriously disappeared. The woods and swamps near by were searched systematically many weeks after the boy disappeared, but not the least trace of the boy was ever found. Skilled detectives were employed by Mr. Beasley, but they met with no more success than the faithful friends and neighbors of the Currituck Senator. Streams were even dragged with a hope of finding in them the body of the dead boy, but the efforts were fruitless. To this day not the least trace of Kenneth has been found. Mrs. Beasley was prostrated by the tragedy and has been in a critical state of health ever since.

Harrison Suspected.

Suspicion was at once centered on Joshua Harrison, he having been seen in a buggy that afternoon driving rapidly with a child covered up with blankets, which was recognized by its voice as the missing Kenneth. The mule and buggy were also recognized as Harrison's. The child was crying and Harrison was talking to him in a soothing manner. Harrison was seen in Norfolk at 2 o'clock the following Tuesday morning.

Harrison was arrested charged with the crime of kidnapping the Beasley boy. The case was called in Pasquotank Superior Court, Judge W. H. Allen presiding, March 14th, last, it being alleged that the defendant could not get a fair trial in Currituck county. The trial was attended by thousands of people of the two counties, Currituck and Pasquotank, the court room being packed each day during the trial. The defendant was represented by E. F. Aydtette and I. M. Meekins, of Elizabeth City; and ex-Governors T. J. Jarvis and Charles B. Aycock. The State was represented by Solicitor H. S. Ward, J. Heyward Sawyer, W. D. Pruden and W. L. Cohoon. The case was given to the jury, at noon Wednesday, March 20th, and at 10 o'clock that night the verdict of guilty was returned.

MUST HOLD ISLANDS

Admiral Dewey Speaks About Our Foreign Possessions

OUR DUTY TO THE INHABITANTS

Should the United States Give Them Up, He Says Japan Would Acquire Them to the Disadvantage of This Country

Washington, Special.—Admiral Dewey strongly resents the proposition that has been discussed in a more or less academic manner to surrender the Philippines, which of all men he was a leading factor in bringing under the American flag. In an interview the admiral set out clearly the reasons which impel him to insist upon the retention of the islands. Singularly enough, in view of the fact that the admiral is a man of war by trade, the strong point of his argument is not based upon the military or naval importance of the archipelago, but almost altogether upon the great value present and prospective of the Philippines to America in the extension of our trade with the Orient, which he regards as holding out the best promise of commercial expansion. The admiral says:

"Abandon the Philippines! I don't believe our country will ever do that. Certainly it should not because it has altogether too much at stake. It is only our control over the Philippines that makes it possible for us to insist upon the open door in the East, toward which our diplomacy has been directed for a number of years. We want our share of the enormous commerce of the East and we can not keep the door open for it, unless we hold the islands."

Why Did Spain Hold Them.

"Why did Spain for 200 years dominate the commerce of the Orient? Just because she had the bay, and harbor of Manila as a great commercial and naval base. That base can be just as useful to us commercially as it was to Spain. For the past 10 years every strong European nation has been trying to get a foothold for commercial and naval purposes in Eastern waters—Germany, England, France and Russia. Through the forces of war the United States obtained rightfully and without chicanery the best and most strategic position possible giving us superior naval and commercial advantages over the other nations. What sort of common sense would it be for us to give up such a position?"

"Suppose we should dispose of the Philippines and Japan should acquire them? See how the islands stretch along the coast. Here are the Japanese islands, here is Formosa which Japan owns, and then come the Philippines. If Japan had them, she would command every gateway to the Orient and the United States would be completely shut out."

"Every one concedes that the Orient is the future great field for the principal commercial nations of the world. We ought to be the leaders but we must at least have a share in the enterprise and in order to do so we must maintain the positions we have occupied through force of circumstances in that region."

Commercial Phase.

"I am talking now of the purely commercial phase of the question and I think it is plain that we must have a commercial base of operation such as Manila furnishes. And then in order to protect our commerce we must have a naval base, and at Subig bay, such a base is now being developed. Congress has recognized our needs in the Philippines and has appropriated liberally for fortifying the islands. Modern guns are being mounted on a large dry dock has been located in Subig bay, troops are stationed in the island of Luzon and in every way congress has shown its desire to protect the islands from foreign aggression and also to establish a base for possible military operations."

"It has been frequently said that the United States has assumed responsibilities in the Philippines which it can not pass over to other hands. I do not care to discuss this phase of the situation, except to say that I believe the American people will never shrink from such responsibilities as were assumed for them when the United States took over the Philippines."

"I want to emphasize my belief that the United States as a world power will always have commercial and diplomatic interests in the Far East and can not maintain itself properly without a base of operations. The United States can not withdraw from its present enterprise in the East but must go forward seeking its share of the advantages and sustaining its share of the responsibilities."

NORTH CAROLINA MINES

The State's Exhibit of Minerals at Jamestown Declared First-Class—A Few Specimens Mentioned.

Mr. William H. Stone, special correspondent of The Manufacturer's Record at the Jamestown Exposition, had the following to say of the North Carolina exhibit of minerals in last week's issue:

"The exhibit of Maryland's mineral deposits is confined to relief and wall maps showing the geological formations of the land in the various counties, with the different mineral deposits indicated on them. North Carolina has an exceptionally fine exhibit in the Mines and Metallurgy Building, and the collection and installation of these specimens was made under the direct supervision of Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, the State geologist, who has arranged and classified them in a particularly pleasing and effective manner. The exhibit is surrounded by a wall made of Mount Airy, Whitney and Balfour granites, with arches and columns of these and other grades of granites and marbles of the State, all of which gives a very clear idea as to the beauty and quantity of the North Carolina building stones. Another feature of this exhibit is the samples of talc shown, most of which is from Swain county and in addition to the crude talc shown, there are samples of products made from it, such as pensile powders, gas tips, acetylene burners and electric insulators. Mica is also well exploited, and one large specimen indicates the high quality of the deposit, which is the largest in the country and produces more than all other States combined. Here too, are shown specimens of monazite, principally used in the manufacture of Welsbach mantles, and this mineral is shown in the crude by-product and manufactured form. The kaolin exhibit is also a very interesting one, and includes, in addition to samples of several varieties or deposits, numerous pieces of high-grade chinaware made from them. There is arranged in this exhibit a magnificent and general display of the various gems and precious stones found in various parts of the State. The exhibit was made up jointly by Dr. Pratt, the State Museum and the American Gem & Pearl Co., and includes specimens of rhodochite, hiddenite, rubies, garnets, amethysts, emeralds, beryls including golden blue and apatamarine, corundum gems, rutiled, rose and opalescent quartz, carnelians, etc. Other minerals of importance found in the State, and which are on exhibit here, are copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, bauxite, tin, barytes, coal, iron ore, chromite, feldspar, standstone, etc. The various mineral and medicinal springs in the State are also represented here by bottled samples of their waters."

Thomas D. Dix, who was injured falling beneath a car at the Potomac yards having his right leg mangled died at the Alexandria Hospital the result of his injuries. He was 60 years old and had resided in Alexandria all his life.

A coal mine on Paint creek near Charlestown, W. Va., has been burnt for 45 years.

The Loop and Lookout Railroad was incorporated with \$100,000 capital stock.

Calvin Barties was found dead and unconscious in his buggy several hours after having received a month's salary.

A colored woman died after being overcome by gas and remaining unconscious 180 hours.

Separate movements have been launched to purchase and preserve the "Jeff" Davis and Lee homes.

Twenty-four lives were lost in wreck on the Boston and Maine near Cannan, N. H., due to a mistake by a train dispatcher's office.

The Chicago Tribune's New England straw ballot among Republicans shows Taft and Hughes overwhelming in the lead.

Dr. Harry Friedenwald at a meeting of Zionists secured a man supposed to be Jacob H. Schiff for his antagonistic attitude toward Zionists.

Ex-President Cleveland is reported to be taking daily drives accompanied by a nurse whenever the weather permits.

Furman J. Stout who rose from brakeman to general manager of the Lake Shore Electric road in Toledo is dead.

The National Association of Manufacturers has given out a statement denying that its \$50,000 fund is intended to crush labor unions.

Local option is to be the chief issue in the Delaware election.

A movement is on foot in North Carolina to overthrow the Democratic party.

Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick the woman who obtained a million or more by fraud and is serving a term in prison became blind during a nervous attack.

Mrs. Mary M. Flagler widow of Gen. D. W. Flagler is dead.

The home of the Philadelphia Eagles was destroyed by fire.

Serious difficulties are splitting the Inland Waterways Commission.

According to a decision in the Boston Supreme Court, H. H. Rogers of the Standard Oil Company is too ill to appear in the \$50,000,000 suit brought against him.

On her next westward trip the Lusitania is likely to be pitted against the French liner La Provence.

Philadelphia Baptists have raised more than \$100,000 for church extension and missionary work.

Italians fatally wounded a mine boss and his sister in an attack inspired by a grudge and two of the assailants were shot dead by the dying man.

Encouraging reports of the growth of Odd Fellowship are made by the Grand Sire and Grand Secretary.

The Odessa outrages have been recalled two Jews being killed and many wounded.

Late News In Brief

MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

COMMUNICATED

Joshua Harrison, who was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for kidnapping little Kenneth Beasley, and killed himself in a hotel at Norfolk, Va., on learning that the North Carolina Supreme Court had refused to grant a new trial in his case.

Commutation of the sentence of Paris murderer from death to imprisonment gave rise to large street demonstrations.

A plea for guarding milk at source was made by Dr. Henry L. O. Newark at the milk congress.

Four fresh cases of cholera occurred in St. Petersburg three proved fatal.

The Social Democratic Congress opened at Essen, Germany.

A new telephone line of 60 instruments will soon be in operation in northern Neck and will extend from Oak Grove and Colonial Beach, Fredericksburg, Va. The new service will include points on both the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers.

The tomato crop in the section surrounding Fredericksburg, Va., is the largest and best for many years. T. Caning factory of Robert Bros., Baltimore located here is being worked to its full capacity.

Capt. Henry Fitzhugh a conductor of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad will move to Fredericksburg, Va.

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