

is necessary for the reader to go back a few years to the days when war was still shedding its baleful light over the whole Sonthern country-when every Virginian was a soldier, and the State was one great battle-field.

SEVEN YEARS AGO.

One spring day, in the year 1863, a weary Confederate soldier, travel-worn and foot sore, stopped at the door of a farm-house in the County of Essex. He was a young man, hardly of age, and the sal-low complexion of his beardless face, no less than his hollow cheeks and feeble step, betokened the presence of disease in his emaciated body. He dragged himself up the steps, and then almost exhausted-too weak even to knocksank upon a bench in the porch. But there was no need for knockan unfrequented one-a long dising; a lady to whom the dingyrebel gray was dear as the uniform worn by a dead and a living brother, discerned him long before he reached the gate, and now opened the door to give the soldier wel come. In kind words she bade him enter and receive the hospitality which she, her sister, and their aged mother were glad to extend. He did enter, and under nose was broken; there were fin- my poor, dear sister ?"

yon were frightened? Y. u told her 'No;' and asked if your voice trembled when you said, 'I will.' You said Em was more frightened did not return until after dinner. She was sitting with the landlady in the parlor, when a footstep was than you?" heard on the porch, and she ran out, exclaiming, "There's Jeter now." She was never seen rgain The prisouer again hung his

head in silence. Frank Pitts then asked, "Do at the boarding house, and the on-ly clue to her whereabouts was a

was

was that

TWELVE TIMES RESPITED.

PHILLIPS MUST DIE.

was named) was selected to inform

him of his fate, and went immedi-

you remember promising to pro-treet her, saying clearly you remark made a few moments bewould ?" fore, to the effect that her husband Receiving no reply, Miss Pitts asked if he knew that Dr. Baynwas going to take her to the country to see his relations, with whom ham, the minister who performed

the marriage ceremony, was with them. "I have heard so." Just eleven days after that Sunday, an old gentleman of Henrico

"Can you face him ?" County, walking through his wood-"Yes," "Can you face our mother ?"

ed property, found the dead body "Yes, I can." "Your mother ?" of a woman lying almost immediately in his path. The spot was

"Yes, I can face anybody," he

tance from the farm house, but not nswered, with a slight smile. Miss Pitts then remarked in a very far from a negro cabin. No attempt had been made to hide low tone, "I left at home a heartthe body. It was lying upon its broken mother and sister, who face, and the damp garments were nave not tasted food since Satur-decently smoothed out. One hand day. You have disgraced one was under the head, and the other | mother and broken another's heart. stretched out at full length, tightly clasped a tuft of grass. There were bruises about the eyes; the Can you deny that you murdered 1 refer you to m

bed and slept coundly until 5

o'clock this morning.

PREPARING FOR DEATH.

petitioner, and an appeal was ta-At 5 o'clock he awoke, rubbed ken to Chief Justice Chase, who is eyes and stared vacantly about also, only last spring, decided that Phillips was not entitled to dis-ments thereafter, stripped himself ments thereafter, stripped himself to the waist, washed himself and charge. While these matters were in progress, the Governor of course combed his hair. He took considhad to be appealed to, to stave off erable care in the arrangement of the day of execution, and Phillips his curls. After this he took his Bible, opened it, and read a chap-ter. He showed no sign of nervousness during this time, but read with great composure. At a few minutes before 1 o'clock the pris-When Cheif Justice Chase's de icsion became known a desperate. effort was made to obtain a commutation of the sentence to imprisoner was brought in the yard by

onment for life, and a petition to that end, signed by about five hundred persons, was presented to Govrenor Walker. The Goverby Drs. Jeter and Dickinson. His arms were pinioned in front of him. He were a linen coat and nor took a few weeks to consider the matter, but his final decision was announced on the 5th inst. It black pants and black slouch hat, He walked slowly and cautiously up the steps, his eyes all the while resting on the ground in front of The prisoner's spirtual adviser, him. He wore a sad look, but not Rev. Dr. Jeter. (after whom he

a muscle of the face moved. ON THE SCAFFOLD.

Mounting the scaffold, he took a ately from the Executive mansion seat in a chair immediately under to the county jail and obtained an Sheriff Sm om

LAUNCHED INTO ETERNITY. The body fell with a dull, heavy

thud, and for a moment there was no motion save the vibration caused by the fall; then followed a series of violent struggles and convulsions, which grew less fre-quent and more feeble during the succeeding few moments, at the end of which time no signs of life were visible.

Original Communications.

United States District Court. Western District of South Carolina-August Term. 1870-Hon. George S. Bryan District Judge, Presiding. The Court was opened on Mon-

Williams, (col.), Thos. Thompson,

Felix Dorman-idem, idem, idem ; sentenced to six months imprisonment, and fine of one thousand dollars. United States vs. Calvin Petit-idem, idem, idem; sentenced to two months imprisonment, and fine of eighty-eight dollars. United States vs. Jas. H. McKinney-idem, idem, idem; sentenced to three months imprisonment, and fine of twenty dollars. United States vs. Alberry Cashdistiller without paying tax. D. T. Corbin for United States, E. P. Jones for defendant. Jury No. 1, charged with this case, returned the following verdict: "Guilty;" J. C. Hicks, foreman. United States vs. Alberry Cash-distiller without paying tax; sentenced to six months imprisonment, and fine of one thousand dollars. On mo-The Court was opened on Mon-day 1st, at 11 o'clock. The Jurors were organized as follows t Grand Jury-J. H. Goodwin, Foreman; Benj. Donaldson, (col.), L. J. Jennings, Daniel Stone, G. W. Moore, T. L. Fowler, Wm. McKay, W. G. Gibson, J. S. Ash-more, Zion Turner, (col.), W. R. B. Farr, Henry Baldwin, J. C. Al-exander, L. H. Shumate, G. B. Dyer, Thos. Brier, (col.), Richard Williams, (col.), Thos. Thompson.

prisonment.

that humble roof, he lingered for months-for on the very night of his arrival, disease obtained the mastery of his body. He was

SICK ALMOST UNTO DEATH, and while the fever raged, he was blood and water. carefully and tenderly nursed by the same kind woman whose thin hand had clasped his as he crossed the threshold on that May evening. She was ever at his bedside administering the cooling potion and the soothing draught, bathing his burning forehead, excluding unknown, whereupon the body re-Phillip unknown, whereupon the body rethe too bright sunlight from the room, adjusting the wrappings about his form, and reading to him when he was convalescent and able to hear. These kind offices, under God, saved the life of Jas. Jeter Phillips. His preserver was Mary Emily Pitts.

A NATURAL RESULT.

She fell in love with her patient, and he, apparently, with his nurse. She was nearly ten years his senior, and there was but little trace of youthful beauty in her faceshe was passee. But then she was intelligent and well-read; she had a better mind and warmer heart than her patient; she was not homely, and she had been so kind to him during all those weeks of suffering just drawn to an end .--So thought Phillips, and he did what many other men would have done. Hardly was he strong enough to walk about, before the sick soldier fell npon his knees and swore he loved her beyond all else on earth. And she? She did what most women would have done under the same circumstances; the patient, blue-eved boy, had won her heart. She listened to his words of love, accepted his offer of matrimony. On the 13th of July, 1865, a minister was summoned, and James Jater Phillips and May Emily Pitts were, by the simple ceremony of the Baptist Church, made husband and wife.

AFTER MARRIAGE.

For a short time all went well; with the name " Mary Emily Philbut only two months after marbut only two months after mar-riage Phillips became restless, and lips" upon the fly leaves; and, to not agree upon a verdict. Anoth-er could not be found in the city talked of doing something for a riage was brought from Essex nor county, and a senire had to be living, and, in truth, he was now County, and with it came the broth- summoned from remote parts of well enough to work. His wife er of Mrs. Phillips, who had been the State. Then he was convicted

er marks about the throat and the arms; legs and abdomen seeman answer to that." ed to have been beaten with some heavy, blunt instrument; on the ground, just beneath the breast, know

AN INQUEST HELD.

she was unacquainted.

A DEAD WOMAN IN THE WOODS.

was a pool of what appeared to be What did my sister say ?"

The finding of the body having been reported to the nearest mag istrate, an inquest was held, and the jury found that deceased came

hand that clasped my sister's Phillips turned away with tears ceived a pauper's burial. But the in his eyes, and the party then left

TRIAL AND CONVICTION. n the presence of an immense aned, and every effort was made to dience, the more and more convictdiscover the perpetrator of a mur- ing testimony was adduced. It der committed under such myste- was proven that Jeter Phillips had rious circumstances, and upon a married Mary Emily Pitts; that young and apparently respectable they came to Richmond on the woman. But all efforts seemed 17th of February, 1867; that they unavailing, and when after two were at the boarding house and on

not been identified, new sensations day; that eleven days after she took the place of this, and the was found murdered in Drink-'Drinker's Farm Murder" seem- | er's Wood; that ber husband had ed forgotten by the world.

ARREST OF PHILLIPS.

Meanwhile a zealons magistrate and an expert detective were at work, and four months after the finding of the body the community was startled by the announcement that a young man hitherto of unblemished reputation, and the son of an ex-sheriff, had been arrested as the perpetrator of the Drinker's Farm Murder, and committed to jail. The accused was Jeter Phillips. The murdered woman was said to have been his wife. The news was the more startling, because Phillips was supposed to be a single man, and at the time of his arrest was actually engaged to be married to the daughter of a well-known citizen of Henrico County. But in his trunk were found articles of woman's apparel, several woman's trinkets, and books

" I left at home," continued Miss Pitts, "a mother who wants to

HER DAUGHTER'S DYING WORDS.

The prisoner was still ellent, and the visitors rose. Miss Pitts exclaiming, as she looked once more npon the prisoner, "My God! My God! Could he offer me the

the cell.

Soon after came the trial, when,

months the murdered woman had the street together on the next with his God.

made no inquiries for her; and that during these eleven days he had plunged into a round of gaye-ty little befitting the circumstances. Letters were also produced written by him to his wife's family, weeks after her dead body was found, in which he represented, first, that she was with him and well, then she was sick, and finally, she had the lock-jaw, and her life was despaired of by physicians .--It was established that he had always deported himself as an un-married man; that he had been paying attentions looking toward marriage with a young lady of Henrico County; that his family were kept in ignorance of his mar-

riage, and that he was in the house to which the body of his murdered wife was brought by the coroner, and would not go to see it. Yet the evidence was purely circum-stantial, and the first jury could

nterview with the doomed man.-On entering the cell Phillips rose from the scafford, and with great and stepped forward, and extend-ing his hand to the doctor. After called upon to perform a solemn interchanging a few commonplace duty-one which was the most remarks, and after a breif but painful he had ever had to per solemn and suggestive silence, the form, and turning to the prisoner, reverend doctor gently as possible said: "If you have anything to broke the news, and with tearful say ample time will be given yon." eyes told Phillips that the end of The Rev. Mr. Dickinson then step-

his days was fast approaching. ped forward and read the prison-Phillips received the information er's DYING CONFESSION.

stoically-yea almost indifferently merely remarking: "Well, "I acknowledge that I am guilthought that's the way it would be," He evineed neither proti ty of the crime for which I am He evinced neither emotion condemned, and deserve the punnor surprise. The stolid deishment which the law prononnces meanor and unconcerned manner against me. Circumstances of my which he has all along maintained, crime are mainly as they were prewas in no wise altered. He star-ed fate in the face, and made no sign of fear nor show of remorse. The doctor remained with him sented in the testimony on my tri al. I lived unhappily with my wife. I scarcely know when I formed the purpose of getting rid of her. While on my last visit to her mother, I revolved the subject about half an hour, advising him to look away from the things of this earth, to cease to hope for huin my mind. After I brought her man interposition, settle his worldto Richmond, my purpose was set-tled. I borrowed a pistol, and on ly affairs, and to make his peace Sunday evening took her from the boarding house, and we walked to the place where her body was

HIS DEPORMENT IN PRISON.

The deportment of Phillips in found, and murdered her. I conprison is worthy of notice. Durfess the greatness of my guilt, and I do not understand how I should ing the whole of his long imprisonment he never but once seemed have been led to commit such a affected by the prospect of death. Not that he showed absolute indreadful deed. I have confessed it with sorrow before God, and difference, but he was a man of hope that he has forgiven me strong will and had schooled himself to taking things coolly. He never showed surprise, he seemed emotionless. Not hing ever wrenched a tear from his eye. through the merits of Jesus Christ. Acknowledging my sin before the world, I hope that all will forgive me now. I die in peace with all men, but with a deep sense of my To the last he was in excellent guilt and unworthiness. I wish to health, and his handsome personal say distinctly, before God and all appearance was altered but little by persons present, that I am alone in confinement. His appette was always excellent, and he always my guilt. Not one suggested my crime to me, knew my purpose slept well. He read his Bible and or gave me the slightest countehymn book regularly, but never seemed to care particularly for the nance in my deed, either before or after the act. All the rumors that company of clergymen, though he always received them politely .--I was engaged to be married or was in love are entirely false. I He was an enigma to all with had no motive for the commission whom he came in contact. of my crime, but to escape from a

THE LAST NIGHT ON EARTH.

connection which seemed to de-At an early hour yesterday stroy my prospects for happiness morning the father of the doomed in life. I bid you all farewell, hopman proceeded to the Executive ing we may meet again where sin mansion and made a fervent apand sorrow are unknown. Let oth peal to the Governor for a com-mutation of the sentence of the court, stating that the disastrous fate. And now I yield my body ants plead guilty. and the members of her family present at the wedding, and who of murder in the first degree, and consequence that had already be. to the dust, in hope of a joyful

Petit and Pleas Jurors-Jury No. 1-J. C. Hicks, Foreman; D. D. Moore, Robt. S. Bramblett, Wilson Cook, (col.), Gaston Terry, T. J. Chapman, T. H. Cole, John A. Smith, B. M. Hamby, Charles Alexander, (col.), John Thompson, Wm. Moore.

Jury No. 2-Wm. Cleveland, Hyde, Adolphus Long, John Howell, Wm. Vaughn.

Supernumeraries-Adam Alexander, (col.), Elias Alexander, Wm. Lewis, (col.), Albert Williams, (col) TUESDAY, 2d August.

The Court was opened at 11 o'clock, A. M.; Hon. G. S. Bryan presiding.

The jurors answered to their names as on yesterday. Oriminal Docket.—The follow

cases were disposed of : United States vs. James Rich-

Bench warrant to answer ordered. United States vs. Thos. Holtzclaw -struck off the Docket; defendant dead. The Grand Jury returned into

Bills :" "

United States vs. Alfred Bumpus-Distilling without paying tax. United States vs. Jas. Cantrell, Sr.-same as preceding. United States vs. Alberry Cash same.

United States vs. Newton Thoms-same.

United States vs. Newton Thom--same ; Section 23, Act 1866. United States vs. Zera Thomas

-same. The Court then adjourned until dream correctly. to morrow at 10 o'clock, a. m.

WEDNESDAY, 3d August. clock, a. m., as on yesterday.

Criminal Docket.-The United States vs. Zera Thomas and New-The Grand Jury returned into

THE FUTURE OF DULL BOYS .--- Parents should never despair because their children give little promise of eminence in early life. Donglas Jerrold, was considered a dull boy; at zine years old he could scarcely read. Goldsmith was a very unpromising boy. Dryden, Swift and Gibbon, in their earliest Foreman; J. C. Turner, Aaron Johnston, (col.), Riley Smith, J. W. Austin, John McBeth, J. B. Smith, Josiah Chandler, James row is said to have exclaimed: "If it pleases God to take away any of my children, I hope it will be Isaac." The injudicions parent regarded the lad as a miracle of stupidity, but he afterwards pro-

ved the glory of his family.

A BODY of Egyptian troops recently disembarked at the shore of the Bay of Ushab, which is recog-nized as Italian territory, attacked the settlement, and after a short fight took possession and tore down the Italian flag.

THE Rochester (N. Y.) Express, Radical, comes out fairly in favor of sending Fred Donglass to suc-ceed Judge Davis in Congress. It says Mr. Douglass is the ablest and most widely known public Court with the following "True man in his Congressional district.

> "One bumper at parting," as the drunkard said when he ran against the post.

STRONG minded women don't eat eggs. They can't bare the yolk, you know.

In breaking open safes, buglars use crowbars so as to make sure of their pries.

A LADY in Syracuse is said to rest her head on a grammar while sleeping, in order that she may

The first name of the Chinesa giant at the Museum is Chang .---The Court was opened at 11 His full name is probably Change High.

> THERE is a man down east, rather a facetions fellow, whose name is New. He named his first child Something, as it was something new. His next child was called Nothing, it being nothing new.