

execution, and that you be hanged by the neck till you be dead, and may God have mercy on your souls!"

No pen can write, no tongue can tell, the awful scene as these words were uttered. The Judge broke down, covered his face with his hands, and quivered with emotion; strong men wept, women shrieked. The vast multitude present were shaken as if by a tempest. The agony of the mother and relatives of the condemned was terrible. Mrs. Talbott clung to her boys as if she would not have them torn from her. Albert's calmness forsook him. His mother, his affianced, both must be bidden farewell, ah! it was terrible. He wept like an infant. Charles was moved, but possessed to a great extent his wonderful composure. His fortitude was wonderful. Nothing like it, in one so young, was ever before witnessed. At last way was made through the packed mass of humanity, and the prisoners conveyed to the jail, followed by hundreds of curious spectators.

There was a motion for a new trial, on a bill of exceptions, and the case went to the Supreme Court, where, on April 20, 1881, it was fully argued by W. W. Ramsay, for the state, and Thomas J. Johnston and Lafayette Dawson, for the defense. The decision of the lower court was affirmed, all the judges concurring.

The Talbott boys were in jail at Savannah when the decision of the Supreme Court was communicated to them, but they were soon removed to St. Joseph, and placed in the Buchanan County jail for safe keeping. They had been there only a few weeks when a scheme was discovered to liberate the boys, and they were removed to Savannah, where they remained until the middle of May, when they were taken to Maryville and placed under a strong guard both day and night. When they were removed to Maryville, sheriff Lincoln, of Andrew County, found two ingeniously made keys concealed in their cell. The keys were constructed of hard wood, and would readily open their cell doors.

During the whole time after the arrest, the boys showed remarkable coolness and fortitude, considering their youth, Albert being only twenty-two and Charles only seventeen years of age.

Great efforts were made to secure executive clemency, but the governor could only be induced to grant a respite of the sentence from the 24th day of June to the 22d day of July, 1881, when the Talbott boys suffered the extreme penalty of the law at Maryville, amidst a vast concourse of people.

As we review this trial which has created such a public interest, it may not be improper to note the distinctive features as they appeared in a historical light.

First. The prominence of the individual murdered. Dr. Talbott had been a resident of Nodaway County about thirty years. He had