

## A WOMAN HANGED.

**Description of the Execution of Susan Eberhart, the Accomplice of the Wife-Murderer, Enoch Spann, in Georgia.**

*Correspondence of the Louisville Courier-Journal.*

PRESTON, Webster County, Ga., May 2.—

To-day was the saddest ever witnessed in Georgia. Susan Eberhart, aged nineteen, was hanged. She was convicted on the 29th of May last as the accomplice of Enoch F. Spann in the murder of his wife on the 4th of May, 1872. At her request a statement of what she did in connection with the murder was written yesterday and will be published. In it she says she did nothing, except being present and handing Spann a handkerchief when he called for it to fill his wife's mouth. She states that she arose from a bed and accompanied him, being held by the hand, at his command and compulsion and through fear, and that she begged and entreated him not to kill his wife. He said he would if he were hanged five minutes after, and he forced her to do what she did. He also forced her to go off with him. She begged him with tears to leave her, but he said: "If you don't go I will pick you up and tote you off." And all the journey she begged him to let her go back home. She says she made no such confession as her captors swear to; and she believes that if only the actual truth had been given in the testimony, whatever might have been her punishment, she would not be hanged. But, considering her condition, she thought it was best for her to die now. She was perfectly willing; she did not fear death. She believed that she would be better off, and that it would be better for her kindred. When she was first brought to jail she determined to seek earnestly God's forgiveness and salvation. Some six months ago she found peace, and now regarded death as a deliverance to be desired rather than dreaded.

This morning the pastor of the Baptist church visited the jail, at 8 o'clock, and prayed with and conversed with her. He found her composed, cheerful, confident, and perfectly willing to die.

At 11 the guard met at the jail and formed a hollow square, inside which the sheriff and prisoner rode in a buggy. The ministers walked, and thus they marched to the gallows, located a quarter of a mile distant, in a grove of tall pines. She told the sheriff as she went that she was not the least shocked, and was no doubt less troubled than any other present. She had on a white, small-figured, cambric-finished dress, neatly arranged and trimmed at the expense of the sheriff. Her hair was plainly combed in two long braids, one on each side, the ends tied together at the back. She wore a calico sun bonnet.

At the gallows the sheriff assisted her to alight, and she took a seat on the steps. The minister read the 88th and 130 psalms, and spoke a few words of encouragement. He said he had great confidence in the genuineness of her professions of conversion and faith. Then followed an earnest prayer, after which she took leave of her friends. She spoke composedly, and said, in a firm voice that she had freely forgiven all and loved them, and was ready to die. Then the sheriff said "Susan, are you ready?" She said "Yes, I'm ready," and walked deliberately up the steps, taking a stand on the platform. The sheriff placed the black cap on her head and adjusted the rope. She said, "Mr. Mathews, that's too tight, I don't want to be choked to death." The sheriff slackened the rope a little and asked "is that about right?" She said "Yes." The sheriff said "Susan, place your hands behind you." She did so, and he tied them. Then he said again, "Are you ready?" She replied, "Yes—ready—willing." Then the platform dropped at precisely 11½ o'clock. She fell five feet and struggled but slightly.

She was pronounced dead in eleven minutes, cut down in nineteen minutes, placed in a coffin, and carried for the night to her father's house to be buried from the church at Preston to-morrow. She was hanged on the same gallows, and with the same rope that Spann was three weeks ago. About 700 persons were present, half negroes. There were a dozen white women. Her neck was not broken. The doctors with an electric battery tried to resuscitate her, but failed to produce a single symptom of life. None of her kindred were present. She was the second woman ever hanged in Georgia.