

TITUS SINGS AND WHISTLES.

DELIGHTED AT THE RESULT OF HIS CONFESSION.

BELVIDERE, N. J., March 24.—Counselor J. G. Shipman to-day virtually admitted the correctness of the confession made by Janitor Titus as published in THE TIMES this morning. They have made desperate efforts to keep the statement from the public. The reasons for this are very plain. All through his trial Titus has had the hearty support of his family and friends. They believed him innocent of all guilt. His father-in-law, Ralph Titus, has rendered valuable financial and social aid to him on his professions of innocence. Now he stands before his wife as a faithless husband, and his mother as a perjured son. The family, while rejoicing at his escape from the gallows, keenly feel their humiliation at this last blow. Advices from their home state that they are overcome with grief and shame.

The confession covers many pages of manuscript. It was drawn by J. G. Shipman and submitted to Titus only after careful revision. It was made in the form of an affidavit, subscribed and sworn to by Titus before Joseph H. Wilson, a Master in Chancery. It was offered to the Board of Pardons on March 15, and is now in possession of Secretary of State Kelsey, and is filed as one of the secrets of the court. Surprise at the action of the board has given way to indignation. The petitions were signed by many who were led to believe by his counsel and friends that grave doubts existed of his guilt. These people now consider they were duped and heartily regret their action.

The people of Hackettstown, the home of Titus, are particularly outspoken at what they consider an outrage on justice. The statements contained in the confession are generally disbelieved. They conflict with the evidence as produced at the trial in a number of instances. What about the medical testimony? is one of the many questions asked. The secret methods of the court come in for a good share of public condemnation, and it is probable a petition will be forwarded asking the court to make public the reasons for its action.

A telephone message from Phillipsburg was received this afternoon stating that crowds of angry and excited laborers were congregated about the streets discussing the situation. The Sheriff asked if an extra posse should be summoned to guard the jail, but was answered that no trouble was feared. The defamation of the character of the murdered girl is very distasteful to the people who believe that Tillie Smith died defending her honor. Titus was to-day interviewed by a number of persons, but refused to speak of his case. He has admitted, however, that the story told by Mr. Drake about a third person being present at the time Titus confided his intentions toward Tillie Smith to Student Meade was a mistake, and that Meade was the only person present. This fully corroborates Meade, the main witness for the prosecution. To-day Titus has roamed the jail corridors, whistling and singing, and in various ways expressing his joy at his deliverance. He desires to be put at some light work when taken to Trenton, and says he shall adhere to all the rules of the prison. The Sheriff will remove him the first of the week.

TRENTON, N. J., March 24.—The officials here now admit that Janitor Titus, the slayer of Tillie Smith, at Hackettstown, made a confession of his crime and thus saved his life. THE TIMES's correspondent asked permission at the executive chamber to see the document, but the request was politely refused by the representatives of the Governor on the ground that the Court of Pardons has a rule forbidding the publication of matters upon which they base their decisions. There is no law requiring such privacy and none to prohibit the public from access to all papers and documents in the possession of the court, but, on the contrary, it is said the law expressly provides that they shall be open to inspection as matters of record in other courts. Nevertheless the court refuses to divulge its proceedings save in rare instances, when only the bare result of a meeting is made known.

A high State official who has read the confession says that it proves plainly that the murder was not premeditated. Therefore the Court of Pardons decided that the punishment should be imprisonment for life.