

THE STORY OF ELI ICE

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

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West Virginia for many years has had within the walls of the Penitentiary a man whose career has been of a remarkable character, and who is now dead. This reference is to the case of Eli Ice, about whom so much controversy has been going the rounds of the press, which waxed exceedingly hot within the past year. The members of the Grand Army of the Republic used their influence in his behalf to secure his pardon for a life sentence. At the breaking out of the rebellion he espoused the cause of the federals. While stationed on duty in Marion county, West Va., he shot and killed a citizen. The political creed of the civilian was contrary to that of the soldier, a Confederate element predominating in that locality. Ice was placed under arrest. The military, however, stepped in and took the case from the civil authorities, and a court martial resulted in Ice's acquittal. He was then restored to the ranks and served valiantly as a soldier until the expiration of the war. Upon the cessation of hostilities Ice returned to his home. Here again he was arrested by the civil authorities, tried for murder in the first degree, found guilty and sentenced to the Penitentiary for life. His conviction was due more to the result of the enmity of his neighbors. They opposed him bitterly politically. A number of years were spent by him in the Penitentiary, when recently, as already stated, the Grand Army of the Republic took the matter in hand in which move they were ably seconded by many of Ice's old enemies, the war animosity having died out. Ice's imprisonment caused the breaking up of his family, who were left without support, and are now scattered in different sections of the country. Another mournful act in this sad drama was the late assault upon his simple-minded daughter, who, being left without a protector, was left to shift for herself, and was thus ruined.