NOV. 29, 1925

The News and Ob

4. X RALEIGH, N. C., SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 29. 1925.

Does Death Come On As a Peaceful Dream? Carolina Prodigy Is Remarkable Witness

This Is the Story of Millie-Christine of Columbus County

By MINNIE McIVER BROWN.

On July 11th, 1851 in Welch's Creek township, Columbus County, N. .C, six miles from Whiteville, the county seat, a birth occurred which distressed a practical master and disturbed the calm of a somnolent Carolina plantation of the early fifties. This infant was the prodigy, Millie-Christine, physically and anatomically one of the most remarkable beings of the nineteenth century, in fact of any century since the fabulous age of satyrs, centaurs and fauns.

Her parents, Jacob and Monemia, were slaves of pure African descent belonging to Mr. Jabez McCoy. At the time of their birth the mother was thirty-two years old, physically well formed and in perfect health. Prior t this time she had borne seven children, and subsequent to this birth other seven came, all normal. The father was slender and sinewy, and claimed Moorish descent.

Weighed Seventeen Pounds.

The wonder babe weighed seventeen pounds at birth, and while labor was long and hard, and though the mother was attended only by a colored Mammy, no serious consequences attended or followed the birth. The twins learned to walk at 12 months and to talk at fifteen.

Very careful anatomical examination made during the life of Millie-Christine by professors at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and at the University of New York City, and confirmed by prominent scientific and medical experts of this country, England, France, Germany, Scotland and Italy led to the discovery that Millie-Christine was united at the lateral posterior portion of the pelvis, the sacrum and coccyx joined, the lower part of the spinal cord united, having two bladders but one sexually, with one uterus and one rectum. Above this union grew two perfectly developed busts, each with two pairs of fine arms and terminating in two interesting heads whose faces were lighted with intelligence and amiability. The lungs, heart and functions of digestion were those of two persons, perfect and healthy. The body terminated in four legs. She, or they, could walk on just two of these but preferred to walk on all four. Above the body union the sense of feeling was separate and distinct; below this union it was in common. If you touched the hand of one the other did not feel it; if you touched the foot of either the other knew it. Mentally they were two separate individuals, with intellectual faculties entirely distinct, with wills independent but fortunately much in harmony. They could talk to each other, carry on two different conversations on two different subjects with two different persons and even in two different languages for she spoke several languages acquired during her travels in various countries. Beginning these travels when quite young and being very intelligent, the acquisition of

Millie-Christine and the house in which they died.

hibited in every country except Asia, Africa and Australia. They received 25 per cent of the net proceeds for their part. They appeared four times before the royal family of England, including Queen Victoria who presented them with handsome brooches; three times before the Prince and Princess of Wales, later King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, and before all the crowned heads of Europe by royal command.

Were Good Singers.

Like most of their race, they were musical, possessing rich, sweet voices. Christine sang soprano and Millie alto, and their rendition of such old time Southern songs and plantation melodies as "Old Black Joe," "The Whip-poor-will's Song," "Listen to the Mocking Bird" and the like was a feature of their entertainment.

For several years prior to their death they did not go out on the road, only occasionally exhibiting at fairs. They owned a farm, part of the plantation on which they were born, and on which they had built a comfortable ten-room house. Here they rested when not on the road, and here they later retired, cared for by a sister and her husband. Unfortunately this house was destroyed by fire three years before their death, and with it went their furniture, the precious brooches from the queen, and a curious chair made of cow horns, said to have cost them $500. The building was replaced by a six-room cottage in which they died.

The twins made good money but gave it away generously, and at their death were worth but little. Millie had been a sufferer from consumption the last two years of her life, and they had spent several months in a tuberculosis sanitarium in the North, which drew heavily

ernoon, and Christine announced her death even before Dr. W. H. Crowell, the physician in charge, had detected the fact, though he was watching closely. As previously stated, the minds of these two heads were intimately connected, and so the phenomenal fact that one of these two bodies survived the other by several hours and was well and rational, and furthermore was educated and intelligent, and able to express the feelings and thoughts of her other self through death, makes this the only incident on record of which it might be said that Death, the tyrant, sat for his portrait.

Christine's description of Millie's death was, "She passed away as in a dream, a peaceful dream." So the bard of Avon was a seer as well as poet when he wrote, "But in that sleep of death what dreams may come?" This is probably the most accurate knowledge of death ever given or known, and to those who dread the agony of death comes this assurance, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Christine survived Millie by seventeen hours. The sisters had always prayed that they might pass away at the same time. She bore up bravely, praying only that death might come quickly. There was great nervousness, for which the doctor gave simple opiates until death came to her relief.

Millie-Christine was buried in a colored cemetery hard by their humble home. The headstone is unique. There are twin stones, on the first of which is this inscription: "Millie-Christine, born July 11th, 1851, Columbus County, N. C. Child or children of Jacob and Monemia McCoy. She lived a life of much comfort owing to her love of God and joy in following His commands. A real friend to the needy of both races and loved by all who knew her." On the second stone is this