North Carolina
Iredell County

State
vs
Thomas Dula

This was an Indictment for Murder, tried at a Court of Oyer & Terminer for Iredell County, The Indictment charged the prisoner Thomas Dula as principal in the Murder of One Laura Foster of Wilkes County & Ann Melton as accessory before the fact, The State relied upon circumstantial ~~testimony~~ testimony to prove the homicide & upon the declarations ~~&~~ acts of Ann Melton in furtherance of an alledged agreement between the prisoner & the said Ann Melton, to commit the homicide In order to establish the agreement between the parties it was in evidence to the Court alone, that Laura Foster was at home, at her Father's house on Thursday night the 24th day of May 1866, that on Friday morning she was gone that a mare tied in the yard was likewise gone. She was seen early Friday morning riding the mare which belonged to her Father, about a mile from home going in the direction of the place known as the Bates place, She was seen by several persons that morning going in the same direction She was not seen by any witness after that time. A body was subsequently found near the Bates place, buried in a rude manner in a remote place in a thicket of Laurel. This body was identified by her Father & several other witness's who swore that they knew it from the cloths & from the teeth, and the hair The Physician who examined the body swore that there was a wound on the left side near the heart, piercing through the dress which was found upon her, & into the cavity of her body. It was in evidence by the Father of Laura Foster That the prisoner had visited her frequently before the alledged homicide that he had been seen in bed with her on one or two occasions