

swinging like a pendulum beneath the trap, the fingers, now all blue and chilled looking, still rested where he had placed them as he left the cell.

Instantly upon arriving on the gallows, the rope was knotted about his neck. The murderer held his chin high in air to make room for the stiff new line, knotted in the peculiar fashion of the hang-man.

By an unusual privilege, the condemned was permitted to wear a low collar open front, and a white satin tie. His face was pale, but it was not the ashy paleness of terror. It was the face of a man, who, knowing that he solved to do it like a man.

The rope about his neck, and the hang-man turned to get the black cap, when the erect head turned and Durrant whispered a request to be allowed to speak. It was granted. Then with his foot on the trap, the cord about his throat tied fast to the cross-beam on the gallows, the holy water of his baptism in the Catholic church on his head, he said these final words:

"I desire to say that although I am an innocent man, innocent of every crime that has been charged against me, I bear no animosity toward those who have persecuted me, not even the press of San Francisco, which hounded me to the grave. If any man thinks I am going to spring a sensation,—I am not, except it is a sensation that I am an innocent man brought to the grave by my persecutors. But I forgive them all. They will get their justice from the great God who is Master of us all, and there I, also, expect to get justice, that is, the justice of an innocent man.

"Whether or no the perpetrators of the crime of which I am charged are discovered it will make no difference to me now, but I say this day will be a shame to the great state of California.

"I forgive everybody who has persecuted me, an innocent man, whose hands have never been stained with blood, and I go to meet my God with forgiveness for all men."

Durrant began to speak at 10:34 and ceased at 10:38. He delivered his few sentences at times poorly constructed, full of repetitions and protestations of his innocence in a low sing-song, growing slightly vehement tone he declared that he was not guilty of the crime for which he had been sent to the gallows.

His father, who stood with reddened eyes, though tearless, on the floor in front of his son, shoved back the nearest bystanders as though fearful that they should fall in respect to one so near his earthly end. But the crowd, though breathless and curious, was not exultant, was not a mob, and no sound of approval or the contrary disturbed the speaker nor disturbed the ghastly proceedings. Durrant finished calmly with a falling intonation.

Impatient for their task, the guards, for the suspense was harder on them than on the condemned, drew the sable cap over his head. As the descending cap covered his face, there was no change in the expression of the man, who almost in the same instant was dead. Hardly was the cap adjusted when the trap dropped with its loud rattle, the only sound in the intense silence. The body dropped, there was the sound of the tugging of the rope as it drew taut under the weight of the body and that was all. A vibration or two, and the body hung at the end of hemp quite motionless.

The elder Durrant gazed steadily at the proceedings until that moment, then his head fell forward upon the shoulders of young Smythe, Deuprey's clerk, and he buried his face and the expression of his grief from the sight of men.

The doctors gathered about the suspended body, listened for the respiration and watched the pulse. In just

eleven minutes and 28 seconds, all action had ceased and the Durrant case was ended. The physicians detected no respiration after the drop. During the first second afterward the pulse registered 67 to 60 during the seventh second, 36 to 60, and in the tenth second 30.

The body with the cap on was placed in a black pine box. Later the cap was removed and the corpse enclosed in a casket provided by the family. Mrs. Durrant did not witness the execution. She remained with Theodore until 10:15, fifteen minutes before the end. She watched Father Lagan baptize her son in the Catholic church and was then led, weeping, out of the prison by two guards. She remained in the grounds until all was over and then departed.

The coffin with the contents was taken immediately to San Francisco by an undertaker.

Washington, Jan. 7.—L. P. Boardman, attorney for Durrant, left the hotel at an early hour this morning to make the last desperate effort to secure a stay of proceedings for the condemned man.

Almost immediately after the members of the Supreme court took their seats Attorney Boardman sought to present a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. He had not been admitted to the bar, and to save time presented a personal petition. Boardman read the petition at length, consuming half an hour. The Justices asked many questions to get at the exact status of the case. The Justices then retired to the conference room to consider the case.

The United States Supreme court at three minutes past one o'clock today, rendered its final decision in the case of Theodore Durrant, refusing to interfere. The matter was before the court on an application made by Attorney L. P. Boardman, for leave to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in Durrant's behalf. This application was only made by Mr. Boardman as he had exhausted all other resources in the shape of individual members of the court. After seeing Justices Brewer and Harlan last night, he called upon Justice Shiras before the convening of court, but met with the same denial which he had received at the hands of the other Justices. He saw Mr. Shiras at his residence, and to him presented his application for an appeal from the decisions of the California courts in a brief form.

In announcing the decision of the court the Chief Justice said:

"In the matter of application for a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Theodore Durrant, the petition to file an application for a writ is denied upon the unanimous opinion of the court."

San Francisco, Jan. 7.—An extraordinary amount of interest in Durrant's execution was manifested all over the state. In this city crowds of people assembled about the newspaper offices where bulletins were displayed. Extra editions of the papers were issued and they were eagerly purchased by the crowds on the streets.

Nor was the interest confined to California alone. So widespread was the demand for news of the execution, that bulletins were sent to all parts of the United States.

The prevailing sentiment in San Francisco is that Durrant deserved his fate, but there are many people who still believe him innocent.

William Henry Theodore Durrant, who was hanged at the state prison at San Quentin today, gave his life in change for the lives of two young women who were members of the church to which he belonged. While Durrant was convicted of but one murder under the law, he was held responsible by public opinion for the murder of both Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams,

and it is felt that his death expiates one crime as much as the other.

Durrant's crimes were peculiar in their atrocity, from any point of view. He was reared in a Christian home, and until the time of his arrest was regarded as a model young man of industrious habits, who was trying to work his way through a medical college. He had been a prominent member of the Emanuel Baptist church for several years and for a year previous to his arrest had been assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. In this capacity he made the acquaintance of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams.

Blanche Lamont disappeared on April 3, 1895, and was never seen alive afterwards. She left the home of her aunt, Mrs. C. G. Noble, on that day to go to school, and for ten days no trace of her could be found. Many members of Emanuel church assisted in the search for the missing girl, and among others Theodore Durrant, who had often acted as Miss Lamont's escort. He seemed greatly distressed on account of Miss Lamont's disappearance, and at length expressed the belief that she had joined the ranks of fallen women.

Ten days passed since Miss Lamont disappeared, and her friends had almost given up hope of ever knowing her fate, when a discovery was made which led to the finding of Miss Lamont's body.

The ladies of Emanuel church were engaged in decorating the edifice preparatory to the celebration of the Easter Sunday services, when the mangled body of Minnie Williams was found almost naked in the library. A number of ugly knife wounds and some rags that had been forced down the young woman's throat told of the unequal struggle she had made to protect her honor.

Miss Williams's body was discovered in the afternoon and late the same night the first clue to the murderer was obtained. From some of the young woman's friends it was learned that she had been seen the evening before with Durrant. The police decided to arrest him. Durrant's parents said that he had left at midnight with the signal corps of the National Guard, to which he belonged, to make some heliographing experiments on Mount Diablo. The next train carried two detectives toward the mountain, where Durrant was found late in the afternoon and arrested.

While these events were taking place on Mt. Diablo, sixty miles away, a discovery had been made in this city which filled the streets with men and women crying for revenge. From the first the police associated the finding of Miss Williams's body with the disappearance of Miss Lamont, and a search was at once begun in the church for her body. Men worked all night tearing off floors and breaking down partitions, and at 10 o'clock Sunday morning the body of Miss Lamont was found. A broken door knob and a turned bolt excited the suspicion of the searchers and the door leading to the belfry of the church was broken down. At the third landing, lying in the corner of the darkened belfry, the naked body of the murdered girl was found. No knife had been used to commit this crime, as was the case in the murder of Miss Williams, but the imprint of five fingers buried in her throat revealed the manner in which the young woman met her death.

The post mortem examination showed that murder was not the only crime that had been committed. The news of the discovery of the second body in the church had spread with incredible rapidity, and at 6 o'clock, when Durrant, in custody of the officers, alighted from a ferry boat at the foot of Market street, in this city,