

even thought it could counteract the effects of wine. It is emblematic of humility and sobriety. It was revered in the superstitions of ancient religions, and is equally revered at present in the Roman Catholic church, where it is set in the pastoral rings of bishops.

Many stones are supposed to have a more practical significance. Amber is alleged to be a sure cure for sore throats and all glandular swellings. The reason for this effect is ascribed to the poetical myth, treasured by singers that amber is the concretion of birds' tears.

"Around three shall glisten the loveliest amber
That ever the sorrowing sea-bird hath wept."

The birds that wept amber tears were, according to Pliny's Natural History, "the sisters of Meleager, who never ceased weeping for their brother's death."

The topaz prevents hemorrhages, gives strength, and is favorable to digestion. It is emblematic of fidelity.

The moonstone is supposed to be favorable to vegetation, causing the trees to be fruitful; it is also believed to cure epilepsy.

The sapphire causes somnambulism and prompts the wearer to benevolent works. Christians consider it an emblem of heavenly faith.

It is well known that opals are fatal as love tokens. If given as betrothal gifts ill luck is sure to follow. They are lucky only as October birth stones, and, aside from love affairs, are propitious emblems of good hope.

The garnet brings with it the twin gifts of health and happiness. Emblematic of constancy and truth, it was the carbuncle of the ancients, who said that it ever gave out light in the darkness. January is the garnet's month.

By the Cingalese the cat's-eye was held as a charm against witchcraft, and is also believed to be the abode of a genii.

Agates have the good property of quenching thirst, and, when held in the mouth, of allaying fever. They are emblematic of health and longevity.

Crystal is conducive to visions, brings good sleep and charming dreams.

Coral insures the wearer against witchcraft, thunder (the legends say nothing about its being a talisman against lightning) and all perils of flood and field. Worn about the person it wards off and cures indigestion.

Strange as it may seem, superstitions about precious stones have been all but merged into religious beliefs, particularly in the legends of the pagans. Whether it be fact or fancy, St. Francis de Sales, in "The Devout Life," says: "All kinds of precious stones dipped in honey become more brilliant thereby, each according to its color, and all persons become more acceptable when they join devotion to their graces. Household cares are sweetened thereby, love is more loving, and business becomes more pleasant."

DURRANT IS DEAD.

San Quentin Prison, Cal., Jan. 7.—At 10:35, trap sprang on Durrant. Durrant died brave, his last words being, "I am innocent."

Theodore Durrant was executed at 10:37 this morning in the state penitentiary. He ascended the scaffold calmly, following Father Lagan, who administered to his spiritual wants, he having been baptized into the Catholic faith earlier in the day. He made a brief speech in quiet tones, asserting his innocence and forgiving those who had persecuted him, mentioning especially the press of San Francisco. His last words were "I am innocent." His death appeared to be painless.

After the drop Durrant did not strug-

gle. In fifteen minutes he was cut down; the neck was broken by the fall.

When W. H. T. Durrant awoke at 6:20 o'clock this morning, he was apparently greatly refreshed by his night's sleep, which had been sound and peaceful throughout the night. His last night upon earth had been one of excitement, as he had been visited by his parents, a minister and newspaper men for some hours and did not retire until midnight, half an hour after his mother had left him.

Immediately after he awoke, he bade his guards good morning and without the slightest trace of nervousness proceeded to dress in the clothing provided for his last appearance. This consisted of a neat-fitting suit of black, but in order to avoid the necessity of removing them, Warden Hale had not supplied the prisoner with either collar or necktie. The omission of these articles was at once noted by Durrant, and at his request these articles were sent up to the condemned cell by Captain Edgar. It was characteristic of the prisoner, who had always been scrupulously neat and dapper in his attire, that he should object to the white socks provided by the jail authorities, and demand black ones, which were also given him.

During the act of dressing, Durrant was much less nervous than his guards, whom he surprised, when his breakfast was brought in, by eating heartily and with evident relish, steak, ham and eggs, toast and fruit. After discussing his last meal, Durrant read a chapter from his Bible, and then received a visit from Captain Edgar, to whom he expressed a desire to deliver a short address from the scaffold.

Shortly afterwards Mrs. Durrant called at the prison and was admitted to the death chamber for a last interview with her son. Their last meeting was affectionate, although both strove to maintain their composure.

Rev. Edwards Davis, who had publicly announced his intention to accompany Durrant upon the scaffold, was not admitted to the prison this morning by Warden Hale, and as the prisoner refused to see either Chaplain Drahts or Rev. William Raeder, the Protestant clergymen who visited him recently, it was decided both by the prisoner and his mother that Rev. Father Lagan should be sent for. This was done, and the priest at once responded and made the necessary arrangements for the reception of Durrant into the Catholic faith.

At 9:30 o'clock Warden Hale visited the death chamber for the purpose of reading the death warrant to the condemned man, who listened to the well-known contents of that with attention, but with no outward sign of fear.

When it was finally decided that Durrant would accept the Catholic faith, his parents met Father Lagan in the warden's office and accompanied him to the death chamber, where the prisoner was given extreme unction and the Catholic service was performed. Durrant evinced the most lively interest in the service. He then conversed with his parents for a few minutes, and shortly after 10 o'clock bade them farewell for the last time, and prepared for his march to the scaffold.

On the arrival of the first train from San Francisco, the open space in front of the prison gate rapidly filled with people, including many of those who held invitations to the execution, as well as others attracted by curiosity. Among the throng were many physicians and several officials of various counties. Dr. W. M. Lawler, prison surgeon, selected the following physicians to assist him at the scaffold: Dr. J. T. Jones, San Rafael; Dr. G. Wickham, San Rafael; Dr. J. F.

Morse, San Francisco, and Dr. R. H. Williams, San Francisco.

Among the first arrivals was Rev. William Raeder. He stated that he would not see Durrant if Rev. Edward Davis was to be present, and he was informed that that gentleman had decided not to attend. Soon afterward the Rev. Father Lagan drove up from San Rafael in his own buggy, mud-bespattered and unassuming. He was met by Warden Hale, and was at once admitted within the gates. Then the supposition that Durrant was about to change his faith became a certainty. He professed the Catholic religion and will die within that church. So many persons pressed for admission that the warden found it necessary to publicly announce that under no circumstances would anyone without a proper card be admitted.

At 10:25 the gates of the prison had closed on the last man who would witness the hanging. The crowd had gathered in the cold bare room adjoining the place of execution but not until nearly 10:30 sharp, did the iron doors that separate the scaffold from the larger apartment swing to admit the visitors.

The ceremony was very simple. The audience had no sooner entered the room than silence fell upon the gathering. The door of the condemned cell clanked and in a fraction of a minute thereafter Warden Hale entered followed by Father Lagan and the prisoner led between two guards. The priests stepped aside and Durrant in a voice, emotionless and apparently unaffected, made a short speech. There was no sincerity in the man's words. They were cold and passionless.

There was no scene at the gallows. Mrs. Durrant did not witness the execution. She remained in a room in the lower part of the prison and showed unmistakable signs of grief tempered with a dogged desire to create the impression that she was too proud to weep.

Durrant died protesting to the last his innocence of the murder of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams. He maintained to the very end the same marvelous coolness and nerve which characterized him throughout his long imprisonment and many trials and demonstrated that he was indeed the criminal of the century. His farewell words were spoken in a voice subdued, yet clear, which, by its calmness and freedom of passion or emotion caused many heads to turn away and many eyes to fill with tears. He forgave his enemies with no trace of concealed resentment and proclaimed his innocence with the calmness of one asserting an indubitable truth. He was the least affected of any of the many people who witnessed the death scene and even after the fatal drop he quivered not nor gave other evidence of having suffered pain.

At 10:34 o'clock the frail door that guards the threshold of the gallows room swung open and the little party conducted Theodore Durrant to the gallows. Father Lagan led, draped in cassock and suplice and chanting the prayers for the dying. Durrant, his father, a friend, Warden Hale and the guards followed.

The father and his friend left the party, and walked around the gallows to the front, while the condemned man and his escort climbed the thirteen steps that led to the platform and the waiting trap.

At last Theodore Durrant stood upon the gallows. He gave no sign of weakening. His slight figure was as erect as though it had been his marriage morning. The broad leather strap that bound his arms to his sides allowed his wrists some play and his fingers rested lightly on the strap. Five minutes later, when his body was