

THE EXECUTION.

Yesterday morning Henry Benjamin Haynes suffered the extreme penalty of the law within the precincts of the Perth Gaol. The previous history of this man was somewhat peculiar. Some years ago he was tried in England for the murder of his sweetheart, whose head he had cut off at Aldershot, when he was found guilty and sentenced to death. However, he was afterwards respited on the ground of insanity, and some declare that the reprieve arrived only just in time to save him, as the condemned man was actually being pinioned when it reached the prison. Haynes was then sent out to this Colony, and with the exception of having once tried to commit suicide and one act of larceny he seems to have led an honest quiet life. The poor woman who was the last victim of her husband's violence was cook at Government House before her marriage, in Governor Hampton's time, and it is stated that His Excellency warned her not to marry Haynes, even going so far as to prophecy that if she did she would certainly be his next victim—a vaticination which has proved to be only too true, as he beat out her brains with a hammer only a few weeks ago. For this terrible crime Haynes was sentenced to death at the last Criminal Sessions, and the sentence having been confirmed last week by the Executive Council, it was decided that the execution should take place on the following Wednesday (yesterday). For the first few days after his conviction Haynes preserved a most sullen and indifferent demeanour, despite the exhortations of several clergymen who visited him occasionally, in addition to the more regular and constant ministrations of the Very Rev. Dean Gegg. At last, however, the wretched man appeared to fully realise the awful nature of his situation and the magnitude of the crime he had committed; he listened with the deepest attention to the advice given him by the Dean, and spent nearly the whole of his time in religious exercises. On Tuesday last his children had their last interview with their father, when he told them he would rather prefer to be hung than to live, as in the latter case he would be shut up for life, and be only a source of trouble to all around him, adding that he would like to be buried beside his wife. After the interview was over the condemned man spent the time in reading and prayer until ten o'clock, at which hour he retired to bed, having previously asked to be called at half-past four the next morning. He slept very soundly until two o'clock, at which time he woke up and walked up and down

time he woke up and walked up and down the cell for half-an-hour, after which he laid down again and slept until he was called, at half-past four, as he had requested. As soon as he got up he asked that his own clothes should be laid out, as he wished to die in them, and then spent his time in prayer until seven o'clock, when he ate a moderate breakfast with a fair appetite. Half-an-hour after that the blacksmith knocked off his irons, during which operation Haynes did not speak a single word: and as soon as that was done he proceeded to dress himself in the same garments he had worn during his trial. At a quarter to eight the Sheriff arrived with the Colonial Surgeon, and just then the Dean went into the cell to have his last interview with the penitent culprit. Meanwhile the death-knell was tolled at intervals until a few minutes to eight, when an ominous-looking figure was to be seen in the corridor. It was the hangman, carrying in his hand the rope with which to tie the doomed man's arms. The executioner entered the cell and quickly pinioned the prisoner in the usual way, amid profound silence. Then it was without any delay that he was brought into the corridor, and the procession was formed for the march to the scaffold. Haynes was then dressed in a black frock-coat, black waist-coat, and grey trowsers; of course he was bare-headed, but upon his face could closely be seen the shadow of a great and terrible dismay—the shadow of a violent and shameful death. The wretched man walked very firmly to the scaffold, and looked at everyone firmly in the face, as if to say good-bye to each one; but when he was placed on the drop, and had the cap pulled over his face, and the noose adjusted around his neck, he trembled very violently. The Dean having read the usual prayers shook the condemned man by the hand, and expressed a hope that God would have mercy upon him; to which remark Haynes replied in a voice trembling with emotion, "I hope so, Sir!" These were the last words he uttered, as just then the hangman pulled the fatal lever, and

With never a quiver, without even a groan,
He died the death of a dog.

Death must have been quite instantaneous, as the knot had been so skilfully adjusted that the spinal column was dislocated, and indeed not even a quiver was to be seen in any of the limbs after the drop had fallen. When the body had hanged for about twenty minutes it was cut down and laid in a coffin which had been provided by Haynes's children, and the cap was pulled off the head, when it was seen that the face was not discolored at all and that the features were not disturbed, but that the countenance had the appearance of rest

countenance had the appearance of rest and repose. Owing to Dean Gegg's kindness the criminal's last wish was complied with, and his body was laid to rest in the Cemetery beside that of the wife he had so brutally murdered. The coffin was conveyed to the grave in the ordinary way in the hearse, the children following it as mourners, and the funeral appeared to attract no small amount of public attention. In refutation of some slanderous reports which were lately freely circulated about Haynes's conduct, we can only say that for the few days immediately before his execution he behaved like a penitent man, and that so far as can be judged he died heartily repenting him for the heinous crime he had committed; a crime, by the way, the reason of which he said he could never explain. It is to be hoped that the Fair City of Perth will never again be polluted by the commission of another outrage similar to that which Haynes expiated on the scaffold.