EXECUTION OF HE YWIRZ

How the Condemned Met His Death.

Review of His Life and Character.

SINGULAR STATEMENT.

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Gratitude of Wirz—His Last Letter.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune

WASHINGTON, Friday, Nov. 10, 1865.

Henry Wirz was hung this morning, and thus closes the last act of a solemn, eventful story. The peculiar interest attached to the execution is found in the popular belief that he is somehow the representative not of the direct cruelties practised upon our prisoners of war at the South, as chief officer at Andersonville, where hecatombs of our brave soldiers found interment, but of the general cruelty, as regards the Rebellion, and the sort of mercy and murder and treason, and this death will death low, be hailed as a martyrdom vindication of his cause and people. The session of the capital, the length and breadth of the land, from which, as every fresh chief of malice and murder was developed, a still reflecting and sympathetic sense of every soldier heart in the South bids to ten man and his disciple by name and telegraphed to the world. Who before the sentence was read to him, a few days since, stood most of the time in reading, and seemed unmoved to the finger and nerve, all hearing the sentence, to what the sentence would be. He became much more curious of when he first was sentenced, and since then has read much better than formerly. He had been allowed to walk in the yard, but he chose rather the cell, and was constantly under surveillance. Yesterday, when he saw the scaffold, he remarked, with the utmost composure, "Well, you need not worry me with the scaffold." Immediately after his sentence was read to him, he was proposed to place two or three in his room to help to make his time pass pleasantly, and to see that he did not commit suicide. He remarked, "I am not going to commit suicide; I am not afraid to die, and will not give the Government the expense of hanging me." After the sentence was read to him, "I am—I'm—I'm—I'm—the Yankee eagle has not turned out to be what I expected—a dead turkey buzzard." He conversed with Rev. Father Boyle he sent for, and also Mr. Schade, his counsel, and "we think they must have conversed on their interest, at least, confidence on him. Beside these sure facts have called, and of them paying her last visit to him yesterday, and she brought him some delicacies, and he was evidently much moved, and he expressed his gratitude to her, and remarked to Mr. Schade, who, was present, that that was the last time he would see her in life.

Wirz's wonderfully had bitterly become very painful, remaining at dinner or tea to use it at writing, but during the last few days he has been frequently at his desk, and spoke to his wife for Mr. S. made a short statement of his life, giving all to one point mentioned.

On Friday he received a letter from Mrs. Abel Corbin, in which he said, "the most affectionate and sympathetic letter I have ever read. Lucy is here, and other dear friends. She urges him to cheer up and be pure in the world, but is satisfied that if the sentence is carried out, he will be good and pure, and he will not be condemned to death. She also states that she intends was her children to go to his people in Europe.

Friday night he wished to be hospital and had his arm dressed, and spent most of the day with Father Boyle, his spiritual adviser, to whom he gave assurance of hope, and he has peace with God, and hung ready for death.

Mr. Schade called and spent some time with him, and when he left Wirz requested him to call to see him this morning, when he would give him some letters and papers. He is family papers.

Some 300 spectators, principally the faithful prowess of the public, the reporters, artists, and photographers, were assembled into the court yard of the Old Capitol prison before its closing, and the adjacent buildings, fields and trees were black with people anxious to get a glimpse of the scene. The jail was bracket, and the statue of liberty on the dome of the capitol, looked down upon the scene with what appearance, one of it had been the offspring of a bold Republican.

About 900 men belonging to the 14th and 19th Pennsylvania and a few of the 1st Regulars kept guard within the yard.

The scaffold, which was composed of rough posts and boards, was about eleven feet high, with a raised platform for the prisoner.

At a few minutes past 10 Wirz was conducted from his cell between Fathers Boyle and Wright. He appeared to be quite well and cheerful, and was seated on a stool in the center of the platform, the rope encircling his neck. He was dressed in a black cambric gown, with a cowl at the shoulders.

Wirz is a man of medium height, with a full, of gradually long hair, full beard, and long, narrow forehead. He has a very pleasant face, from his appearance. I from his high cheek bones, which, he is a roundly-described, is evidently a man of great force, which there is a gentleness and pathos in his face from his eyes at times, which with the falling upper eyelid, adds to the impression of his intelligence. Slight of figure, quick and thin, he is evidently a sufferer from chronic disease. He is not a wild beast, nor a monster in human form.

Stripped of all the importance of that fact he would not have impressed anybody as a remarkable person. His character is full of contradictions. Nor is it strange to suppose that it was the Rebellion that made Wirz born in Switzerland, where the very name of liberty is reverenced as sacred, he, nevertheless, in two short years, become a hard slave-driver, and enlisted to establish slavery. Brought up in a family of high rank in the work of murder, he has unmanned a more brave prisoners than any other man made known to him. Reared a Protestant, he falls easily into the Catholic faith. Super-sensitive, he is now understood to be skeptical in his belief touching a future state. For the last few days he has affected almost a natural in women about his situation, looking forward to his fate with the clearest mind. He was not a man of transcendent intelligence, yet all his letters and even his leaving tastes reveal a good education. There seems to have been a great want of purpose and moral conviction in his World life. His vices and virtues were alike of the negative order. Of strong passions and unremovable prejudices, he was not the man who have had an eye upon his responsibility as a soldier and an officer. At least, he was not the man under the trying ordeal on the scaffold to have himself walk and conversed with the composure and manner of one about to be a martyr in a moment death.

Father Boyle, who spent the last 24 with him, and all manifested in humble last sentiment, and he passed a very comfortable night, and firmly and confidently protested his innocence of the charge of cruelty, and his holy relation.

Father Boyle said that he commenced to read the following specifications and charges, with the various and material orders of the Government, as follows:

CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 9, 1865.

GENERAL COURT MARTIAL ORDERS No. 356.—First Lieutenant Henry Wirz, Company A, 1st Battalion Louisiana Tigers, C. S. A., is hereby arraigned on the following charges and specifications, preferred by Brevet Major General Lew Wallace, U. S. Volunteers, President of the Military Commission, convened by Special Orders No. 94, dated October 2, 1865, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C., Brevet Major General Lew Wallace, U. S. Volunteers, President, was ordered and tried by the Commission.

HENRY WIRZ,

CHARGE I. Murder, in violation of the laws and customs of war.

Pleaded to which charge and their specifications the accused Henry Wirz pleaded "not guilty."

The Commission, having duly considered the evidence and argument, find the accused Henry Wirz guilty of:

"In the premises, in violation of the laws and customs of the law and usages, form to rule as follows:

"In the case of Wirz, Henry Wirz did on June, conspiracy and combination with Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, James A. Seddon, Howell Cobb, John H. Winder, Joseph Wheeler, Joseph H. White, W. S. Winder, W. Sandy Smith, R. Jones, Richard Ewell, Lee, Lee, Lee