

THE GUILLOTINE'S WORK

TERRIBLE SCENES ATTENDING THE EXECUTION OF PRANZINI.

PARIS, Aug. 31.—Pranzini, the murderer of Mme. Regnault, her maid, and her maid's child, who was guillotined at 5 o'clock this morning, made no confession. Vast crowds waited about the place of execution during the whole of the night and kept up a constant howling and yelling. The din was terrible. When the Chaplain arrived at 4:30 A. M. the mass of people was so great that he was almost prevented from reaching the gate of the prison. Pranzini was awakened out of a sound sleep at 4:45 o'clock by the jailers. Father Beauquesne, Chaplain of La Requette, entered the prisoner's cell and exhorted him to be courageous. Pranzini replied that he had no fear, but regretted that the only favor he had asked—that of permission to see his mother—had been refused. He reiterated his profession of innocence and refused to make confession to the priest, saying: "Father, you do your duty; I will do mine." While being dressed for the block Pranzini declared he was glad that his life was to be taken, as he preferred death to penal servitude for life. He reproached Chief of Police Taylor for having called, as Pranzini alleged, false witnesses against him during his trial.

When he had been conducted to the scaffold he appeared to be quite calm, and displayed considerable assurance. He kissed the crucifix presented to him by the priest, but refused to kiss the priest when the latter proffered the farewell embrace. When the executioners seized him the murderer resisted and fought desperately, demanding that they let him alone. The executioners overpowered him and threw him upon the machine, and in an instant had him securely bound. Immediately the terrible knife was started. It descended slowly at first, but then its movement quickened and the head of the murderer rolled into the basket. The head was at once placed in a wagon and carried at a gallop to the Ivry Cemetery, where it was buried after the regular funeral ceremony had been performed over it. The Faculty of Medicine claimed the body, and it was surrendered to them. The mob outside became very disorderly during the progress of the execution.