

Dr. Pritchard.

front of the bench; and he turned round and spoke to the governor as if doubtful what he should do. The governor told him to stand at the table, when Bailie Brown then asked the prisoner, in an almost inaudible tone, if he had anything to say. The convict then bowed to the magistrates and said in a low tone, "I acknowledge the justice of the sentence." He again bowed to the bench, and a short conversation took place as to the proper way to the scaffold.

The procession was then re-formed, the town officers going first, and Pritchard following, with Calcraft immediately behind. The prisoner, before leaving the Court, looked around him, and then, with his face upwards and muttering a prayer, he passed through the lobby into the principal entrance and thence to the scaffold.

As soon as he left the table in the Court there was a general rush to the door on the part of the spectators, when the captain of the police called out that the order of the procession was that the magistrates should come first, the reporters next, and the others in Court afterwards. However, after the prisoner had got beyond the door of the Court the crowd pushed forward, and the passages were blocked up.

Before the last person who left the Court could reach the front of the Jail Dr. Pritchard was standing on the scaffold with the white cap on his head, and Calcraft adjusting the rope round his neck. He walked firmly up the steps to the scaffold, and stood quite erect while he was being handled by the executioner.

He slightly stumbled on coming to the drop, which he struck against with his foot unwittingly, but he promptly recovered himself, and stood firm, without moving a muscle. When he appeared on the scaffold great commotion prevailed amongst the crowd. Exclamations were heard to proceed from every quarter, among which were such expressions as "How well he looks!" "He's very pale!" "That's him!" and "Hats off!" &c. Mr. Oldham read a short written prayer, while Calcraft adjusted the cap, put aside the long hair and beard to allow the rope to be rightly placed, and tied the legs. Calcraft, after putting the rope round the prisoner's neck, and drawing the cap over his face, steadied the wretched man by placing his hands on his back and breast. On a signal being given by the culprit, the bolt was drawn, and at ten minutes past eight o'clock he was launched into eternity.

As soon as he was seen dangling from the rope a loud shriek arose from the crowd, and many turned their heads away from the horrid spectacle. The clergymen accompanied Pritchard to the scaffold, but retired afterwards, and no person was with him when he was hanged by Calcraft. Shortly after the drop had fallen, a large number of spectators quitted the vicinity of the scaffold, many of them being observed to shed tears.

There was no screen put round the scaffold, as at some recent executions, but the body was exposed fully to public view. The convict appeared to suffer a good deal, as he shrugged his shoulders more than half a dozen times, his head shook, the whole body trembled and swung round and round; and it was only after Calcraft went below and pulled the legs that it was brought to stillness. The hands were extended as far as they could reach for the pinioning; and the fingers of the right hand pressed off the glove, which fell to the floor. After the lapse of two or three minutes all was quiet, and justice was avenged.

It may be mentioned that before the procession left the condemned cell, an officer ran hastily downstairs with two letters, which were said to be for the prisoner.