

THE PRISONER'S CONFESSION.

The trial over, the verdict found, and the sentence pronounced, the execution of the law only remained. All who were interested in the matter were satisfied of the guilt of the prisoner. But there was much speculation as to whether he would confess previous to his death. If he had gone to the scaffold stoutly maintaining his innocence there would not have been wanting large numbers who would have had strong doubts of his guilt. A confession of guilt would be satisfactory to everybody. Penitence is unattainable apart from acknowledgment of wrong, and repentance usually follows close upon confession. The clergymen in and about Lunenburg who had become deeply interested in his case, and solicitous for his spiritual awakening and true repentance, approached him frequently on the subject; but without success till the first of December when he sent for Rev. Mr. Owen, Episcopal Rector, and on different occasions, and in presence of different persons made the three following statements; which are about *verbatim*. In reading, it will be understood whenever a question is put to the Prisoner, it is by Mr. Owen.

LUNENBURG JAIL, WEDNESDAY,

December 3, 1873, 9 p.m.

I, Peter Mailman, aged 47 years, now in confinement in this goal, do freely, and of my own accord, without constraint either by fear or favor, confess in the presence of the subscribers hereunto, that I am guilty of the crime laid to my charge, and for which I am at present under confinement in this jail.

Peter

As witness my X mark.

Mailman.

(Signed)

H. L. OWEN, Rector of St. John's Church,

(Signed)

W. J. DAUPHINEE, J. P.

(Signed)

JAMES BURKE, Jailer.

THE JAIL, LUNENBURG,

FRIDAY, Dec. 5th, 1873, 3 p.m.

On coming this afternoon unto Peter Mailman's room in this jail, I commenced speaking to him on the matter of his late wife's boots. He said to me: "Mr. Owen, on my bed last night I gave the thought that it was no use to make confession any longer; but that I would be responsible for the whole murder, the boots and everything else, and that when Mr. Owen came next time to see me, I would put the whole sin off my hands by telling him all, so that after that he could use prayers and tell me about my soul, instead of losing more time in talking about matters, about which we have already talked so often."

Mailman says:—On the day of the murder, about 1 o'clock, my