

WOODWARD

HANGED TO-DAY

CAMDEN, N. J., Jan. 7.—Paul Woodward, the youthful murderer of the boys, John Coffin and W. Price Jennings, was hanged at 10:01 this morning.

Sheriff Christopher J. Mines conducted the execution, which was his first, with decency and dispatch.

The crime for which Paul Woodward forfeited his life was the murder of two boys, John H. Coffin, and W. Price Jennings, aged 11 and 14 years, respectively. The former was the son of Wm. Coffin, division freight agent of the Pennsylvania railroad company and the latter of Joseph Jenkins, the well known leader of the Third Regiment band, both of this city, on Wednesday morning, November 11 last. The boys left home ostensibly to visit the Trenton fair. As they did not return home that night the police were informed and a general alarm sent out. The following day the bodies were found near Haddon Heights. At once, the police set to work to apprehend the murderer. Woodward was indicted by the grand jury October 24 for poisoning with strychnine for the purpose of robbery. The trial lasted five days, the jury convicting him in the first degree November 17, only one ballot being taken. A reprieve was granted by Governor Murphy to carry the case before the board of pardons, but the latter refused to act in the case and the law took its course.

Woodward met his death bravely and without fear. For over an hour previous to his execution he sat in his cell playing on a harmonica, the Marseilles hymn and in the Good Old Summer Time as calmly as possible. He ate for breakfast ham and eggs. The Rev. John Warner called later and administered the last rites of the Episcopal Church. Woodward was busy smoking a cigarette during the march to the gallows, but it was taken from him before he reached the foot of the scaffold, where a guard wiped his face with a handkerchief. While standing on the trap he said to Sheriff Mines: "I would like to say something, please."

The sheriff quickly arranged the black cap, adjusted the noose and pulled the lever, swinging Woodward into eternity. His neck was dislocated and his heart ceased beating at 10:11. The body was cut down a few minutes later and removed to Philadelphia, where it was interred.