



GEORGE MANN.



GUSTAVE OHR.



JOHN HAMMET.

FATAL FRIDAY.

HOW THREE BOYS BRAVED THE HANG-MAN'S HALTER.

MANN, OHR AND SAMMET EXECUTED AT CANTON.

IMPRESSIVE, PRELIMINARY SCENES IN THE JAIL.

Special to the Cincinnati Commercial.

CANTON, O., June 25.—Tale writing at an early hour a crowd gathered around the jail, and gradually increased as strangers arrived in the city and the time of the execution approached. The doomed boys all arose early.

Mann's sleep lasted six hours, and after washing himself slept restlessly. He ate his breakfast with relish, and walked around the corridor in good spirits. Ohr slept about four hours, and was up a little after 4. He did not care for breakfast, and spent some time in conversing with his spiritual adviser. Mann was rather restless, but secured some sleep.

Miss Meyer, who has been so faithful and persistent in her efforts to obtain a commutation, a daughter of Judge Meyer, who tried and sentenced the prisoners, was with him until about 6, when she retired for a short rest. Mann did not eat any breakfast.

At 9 o'clock Sheriff Altkrouse called Gustave Ohr into his cell to read him his death warrant. Ohr did not understand what was coming at first, but soon discovered, and when the Sheriff told him he bravely replied, "That's all right, I know how what is coming." The Sheriff then read the document. Ohr listened calmly without a shudder or exclamation.

The Sheriff next called John Sammet for the same purpose. Sammet knew what was coming, and remarked, "I am ready for it, Henry." He never flinched during the reading, and at the end remarked, "Well, it's got to come, and there is no use whining about it; I am ready."

The Sheriff then called George Mann, who was somewhat surprised when he saw the document, and looked at it scornfully. When the words "To be hanged by the neck until dead" were reached, Mann shuddered and twitched nervously, and as the Sheriff finished, he burst into tears.

About 9:30 Miss Meyer returned to Mann's cell, and a heartrending scene ensued. Mann's grandmother, a white-haired old lady, of nervous temperament, broke down completely. Ohr was standing by, and he was impetuously to clear Mann's record regarding actual participation in the murder. Ohr said he had told the truth, and could say nothing more. At this Mann broke out sobbing and crying, "Oh God, Lord, I didn't do it." Oh! Lord, you knew I didn't do it." Ohr was pressed by Mann's aunt, Mrs. Simmons, to change his story, but he declined to do so, saying: "I can't tell a lie myself to exonerate anybody," and added as the means of Mann's voice came across the corridor, "I can die like a man; and I don't see why he can't."

At 10 o'clock Ohr wrote the following: "I wish to say to the public at the day of my trial, my outward appearance might have been cool and calm, but those skilled in reading faces might have seen more agony there than the pen or tongue can describe. I don't want nobody to think I am indifferent."

At 10:05 Miss Meyer and Mrs. Mann left George for the last time. The scene was a very sad one. Mrs. Mann was scarcely able to leave the prison, but she was torn away. Miss Meyer pitiously kissed the young man as she left.

Sheriff Altkrouse and the three boys had a consultation in the cell regarding the coming event. They all agreed that it was as well to do the thing up as soon after 11 o'clock as possible, Sammet remarking: "I know it's got to come, and I am willing it should come at any time."

At 10:15 it was announced that dinner would be served in Sammet's cell, the intention being that all three of the doomed should eat together. Ohr, however, who was offered at Mann's refusal to eat with him, and went into another cell. The bill of fare consisted of roast chicken, veal, fried oysters, ice cream, raspberries, peaches, oranges, bread, butter, pie, cake, coffee and cigars.

After dinner the boys washed their boots black and their toilet articles complete.

While dinner was in progress Sammet said to Mann: "Mann, what is the use of talking on; we ought to walk out there as if we were going to a wedding. Ain't you going to see Adam, and Eve, and the saints, and the martyrs and the prophets. Cheer up and be a man; but look here, Mann, either you or Ohr is telling a lie, and one of you will take the worse road, which is it?"

Mann protested his innocence again, but Sammet did not seem to believe him.

A little before 11 the three doomed boys were in their cells with their spiritual advisers. In one cell three or four priests were praying with Sammet, and in another, others were praying with Mann, who knelt before the crucifix and recited the prayers before death. With Ohr, who is a Protestant, Revs. Dal Kohns, Vorgels and Snow labored during his last awful moments.

This scene was an impressive one. In the cells three boys, all under twenty years of age, were preparing for death. In the corridor were a few spectators. All through the prison could be heard the prayers and exhortations of the ministers and priests in attendance.

At 11 o'clock the announcement was made that all persons except the penitentiary and ministers were to leave the prison. Then began the final preparations for the awful event. In the cell each of the doomed was surrounded by friends and advisers.

At 11:10 the scene was a sad one, speaking out. Not a cry or sob was heard.

At 11:25 the prisoners, having been manacled and partly bound, the procession moved up upon the scaffold in the corridor in the following order: Ohr, first, accompanied by Dr. Kuhn, Sammet, accompanied by Pastor Valenzen, and Mann, with John Spruher of Cleveland. They walked out with a steady step.

Sheriff Altkrouse then adjusted the bandages and manacled on their arms and legs. Ohr and Sammet looked upon the crowd, and recognizing friends called to them, saying: "Good bye!" Mann was conversing in a low tone to his spiritual attendant.

The Sheriff, assisted by Deputy Sheriff Cord, then proceeded to affix the rope upon their necks. Sammet complained that it was too tight, saying: "Houry, that is too tight; can't you make it looser?"

Mann said: "Into thy hands, Lord God, I commend my spirit."

When all had been adjusted the Sheriff asked the outposts if they had anything to say. The reply of each was "Nothing." The Sheriff asked the ministers if they had anything to say, and they all replied, "No, let it be over."

Then the assistants and ministers bade good-bye to the outposts, the latter kissing them and putting their arms around their necks. Then Sheriff Altkrouse kissed each of the boys and put the black cap upon them. All then stood back and Ohr cried, "Good bye, gentlemen, good bye all!" Sammet repeated this, and instantly added, "God bless poor grandmother." Mann's last words were the prayer which he had been constantly repeating.

At 11:43 Sheriff Altkrouse sprang the trap, and with a quick report the three boys dropped to death. Ohr moved the muscles of one leg and that was all. Sammet did not move a muscle. Mann continued to move his legs and draw up his shoulders for about five minutes. The doctors pronounced him dead in eight minutes. Ohr's doctor pronounced his heart beating stopped in thirteen and three-fourths minutes, and the physician of Sammet pronounced him dead in ten minutes.

Thirty-one minutes after the drop fell Ohr was one down; his neck was pronounced broken.

Sammet was cut down ten minutes later, and his neck was broken. Three minutes later Mann was one down, and his neck was also pronounced broken.

Thus the execution was a success actually and professionally.

At the time of the execution there was an immense crowd around the jail. There were at least 30,000 strangers in the city. Four companies of military were on guard. The people were very quiet, and no disturbance of the peace occurred. After the bodies were cut down they were placed in coffins, and the public permitted to view the remains, the crowd passing through the jail by thousands.

The crime for which Mann and Ohr died today was committed on the 27th of June, 1876. They in company with John Waltham, an old man, were tramping eastward, having fallen into each other's company near Fort Wayne, Ind., and made an arrangement to travel together. Waltham had a small sum of money and a silver watch, to obtain which the boys wandered and robbed him near Alliance, this county.

Sammet's crime was also the killing of Christopher Spruher at Maxwell on the night of the 20th of November, 1879, being the night before the day set for his (Sammet's) trial on the charge of burglary. In which Spruher was the principal witness for the prosecution. Sammet was tried and convicted of burglary, and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. At the January term of Court he was brought back from the penitentiary and indicted by the grand jury for murder, tried in February, and convicted of murder in the first degree, and on the 12th of March was sentenced by Judge Meyer to be hanged today.