

VANSTAVER PAYS DEATH PENALTY

Murmurs Name of Wife He Mur- dered as Noose Slips About His Neck

Samuel Vanstavern, who killed his wife Katherine, November 29 last, expiated his crime on the gallows in the Camden county jail yesterday morning. The wind whistled and shrieked while torrents of rain pattered against the window panes, but this rather pleased the doomed man, for he remarked: "I'm glad the sun isn't shining. I wanted it to rain to-day."

Early in the morning Rev. John R. Mason, Rev. D. B. Green, Vanstavern's spiritual advisers, visited him and gave him what consolation they could until the dread black cap was drawn over his head, shutting out forever the light of day.

A few minutes before 10 o'clock the march to the gallows began, Vanstavern singing in a firm voice: "I'll Go Every Step of the Way." One minute after ten the wretched man, who had spent many hours of anguish, walked into the execution room. He faltered, however, just for an instant, and then gathered himself together and proceeded. When in position for the noose to be placed about his neck he murmured:

"I'm coming, Katie."

Then when the rope had been adjusted and the sombre cap was about to be drawn over his face, he bade the Sheriff good-bye.

At 10.03 Sheriff Sell sprang the trap and let the doomed man through. At 10.15 the man was pronounced dead and was cut down at 10.33. The physicians present found Vanstavern's neck had been broken. The body was interred at noon at the old Camden Cemetery by Undertaker Jefferis.

Samuel Vanstavern was hanged for murdering his wife Katherine, whom he shot down in cold blood at Fourth and Chestnut streets, Friday night, November 29, 1901. They had not been living together for some years owing to Vanstavern's ill treatment. On the night of the crime the man had been drinking heavily. Without a moment's notice he opened fire and she died on the way to Cooper Hospital.

"I could not live without her," said Vanstavern coolly, directly after the crime.