

Lloyds Weekly Newspaper, 26th June 1898

Scaffold Scene in Paris

Carrara, the mushroom-grower, who murdered the bank messenger Lamarre last February, was guillotined at day-break yesterday, in the Place de la Roquette. Carrara on Friday, after playing cards for several hours with his gaolers, expressed the opinion that his sentence would be commuted to transportation for life, and that his wife, and perhaps also his children, would ultimately join him in the penal settlement.

On being awakened at half-past three yesterday morning he took in the situation at a glance, and completely collapsed. Two stiff glasses of rum had to be forced down his throat before he was able to rise and dress himself, but he continued to moan piteously. He shrank from the touch of the barber's scissors and almost fell off the chair with fright. Two more glasses of rum were given him, and for the next 10 minutes he remained alone with his confessor, who gave him absolution.

The condemned man was carried rather than walked from the prison gateway to the place of execution. The rain, which had been pouring all night, had evidently deranged the catch of the guillotine, for a long pause ensued after the already almost lifeless man had been thrown into position before the large blade fell, and a murmur of horror burst from the lips of the spectators. Several press representatives showed signs of fainting, and one gentleman was seized with a hysterical fright. An enormous crowd witnessed the execution, women even clambering upon the neighbouring roofs. There were, however, no scenes of disorder.