

SAVED FROM HANGING

A Stay Granted in the Case of Theodore Lambert,

WAS DRESSED READY FOR DEATH

The Casket to Contain His Body Had Arrived at the Prison, While the Hearse Remained Waiting to Bear It to the Cemetery—A Remarkable Case.

CAMDEN, N. J., Jan. 4.—The sensational murder case in which Theodore Lambert, the Camden negro, has so long figured as the principal actor, furnished still another sensation yesterday. Yesterday it was expected he would be hanged; but, after he had said farewell to all his friends and relatives, and had eaten what he thought was his last meal, and had written several letters, to be opened after his death, his counsel, John L. Semple, served upon Sheriff Barrett a stay of execution, which had been granted by Associate Justice Shlens, of the United States supreme court.

To say this caused a surprise is to put it mildly. The case has taken many queer turns. Lawyer Semple has made so many efforts to save his client's life that his persistency, instead of being encouraged, had come to be regarded as misdirected zeal, for scarcely any one believed that Lambert's life could be saved or that any further delay could be obtained.

Lambert would have been hanged at 9 30. He had spent what he supposed was his last night mainly in prayer, remaining awake until 1 o'clock in the morning. By 6 o'clock he was up and dressed in the black suit furnished by Sheriff Barrett for the execution. At 7.30 Undertaker Blake's wagon drew up in front of the jail, and the undertaker and his assistant carried the casket into the office, while the hearse remained in waiting. A plate on the lid of the casket bore the inscription: "Nicholas T Lambert, died Jan. 3, 1896, aged 23 years and 3 days."

At 9 o'clock, while Lambert was engaged with his spiritual adviser, to whom he repeatedly declared his innocence of the murder, Sheriff Barrett and Lawyer Semple visited Lambert in his cell, and the former told him of the lease of life he had obtained. For a moment Lambert swayed in his cell, and then he fell against the wall and wept like a child. Finally he turned to his lawyer, and, grasping his hand, sobbingly said, "Thank God. You have saved me. I owe my life to you." Then, falling on his knees, Lambert prayed fervently, and thanked God his life was extended. He had prepared himself for the ordeal of hanging, and had not expected the stay.