Daily Alta California, Volume 5, Number 326, 25 November 1854 — Execution of Ulunroe for Public Confession. [ARTICLE]

Execution of Munroe for Murder—Public Confession.

Office Adams & Co.'s Express,\n
Martinez, Nov. 24, 1854.\n
At an early hour this morning the streets of this quiet little village was thronged with people from various parts of the county, gathered to witness the execution of the extreme penalty of the law, on the person of Henry H. Munroe (so called) who had been condemned to be hung this day, for the murder of James M. Gordon. During the imprisonment of Munroe he has manifested entire indifference to his fate, occupying his time in singing, playing with bones and composing obscene songs. When the hour arrived for his execution, he walked with a firm step to the scaffold, and on his arrival addressed the crowd at considerable length, stating among other things that he alone was guilty of the murder. There are two others awaiting trial for participation in the same crime. Munroe said that Gordon was the only white man he had ever killed, although he had shot Spaniards and Indians merely to see them jump and die. His death was accompanied with but a brief struggle. The crowd was orderly in the extreme. Among the persons present we noticed some fifty females, thirty of whom were Americans. Munroe had said while in prison that Munroe was not his real name; that he was from Rutland county, Vermont, where he had relatives. Much credit is due the Sheriff of the County, J. F. S. Smith, for the efficient manner in which the execution was conducted.

Mayhem.—Yesterday evening, between the hours of 5 and 6 o'clock, a disgraceful fight took place on Pacific wharf between two men named Wm. Desmore and G. Lambert. During the struggle Desmore bit off the nose of Lambert. He has been arrested and locked up in the Station House, and will undergo an examination before the Recorder to-day.