

(Moreton Bay Courier, 6 December 1886)

FLOGGING AT THE GAOL.

Louis August Leisner and Wah Yen, a Chinaman, each convicted of indecent assaults upon children, and sentenced by his Honour the Chief Justice to be flogged, received their punishment on Saturday morning shortly after 10, at which hour the sheriff, Mr. Halloran; Captain Jekyll, governor of the gaol; Dr. Hobbs, Government medical officer; Dr. Brown; Colonel Ross, visiting justice; and the representatives of the Press were assembled in the exercise yard, on the right of the main corridor, where under the shelter-shed in the centre the triangle had been rigged up.

Leisner was the first to receive his flogging. He had been convicted of indecent assault on a little girl of 7 years, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour and a flogging of thirty lashes. As he was brought into the yard from his cell he was very pale, and his legs seemed to totter under him through fear. Seeing his utter prostration, he was offered brandy before being tied up, but refused it with a look of the most helpless misery on his face. His shirt was taken off, and he was quickly and firmly triced up. There was no bravado in his case; he had been fretting over his punishment for days before in his cell, and had suffered the lash many times already in imagination. The principal turnkey gave the word "one," and the lash fell across his back, eliciting a loud howl of pain. Before the first stroke he appeared in a complete state of collapse, murmuring "Oh God!" and sobbing in a pitiful manner. He howled continually while the flogging was being administered, and his cries were heard by the few who were standing outside the gaol. The lash was but lightly administered, blue marks above the red not appearing till the tenth stroke, for the executioner seemed to take compassion on the prisoner, who was an elderly man and lean. Perhaps it was on account of his leanness that the marks were not so prominent. The executioner went on steadily with his task until the thirtieth lash, when Leisner, who had called out "Oh God! Oh my God!" at almost every stroke, was released in a completely exhausted state. He no longer refused brandy when it was offered him, but drank it with avidity, and was helped back to his cell by two warders.

The next to appear was Wah Yen, a sturdy young Chinaman, convicted of indecently assaulting a little girl, 3 years old, at Kelvin Grove. His sentence was the same as Leisner's—two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and a flogging of thirty lashes. He had evidently heard Leisner's shrieks and howls, for his face as he was brought to the triangle wore an expression of abject terror, and he commenced howling before the warders had finished securing him to the triangle. He looked round in a terrified manner at the executioner, who stood awaiting the word with the "cat" ready

extent than in the former case. As stroke succeeded stroke the prisoner's frantic convulsions were pitiful to witness, and he screamed till he almost choked himself. He exhibited no fortitude, and made not the slightest attempt to brace himself up to receive his punishment. At the twenty-fifth stroke Dr. Hobbs consulted the sheriff as to the expediency of giving him the full number of lashes, but it was decided to allow the flogging to proceed, and in a few seconds the thirtieth lash fell on the back of the shrieking Mongolian. He seemed to pick up wonderfully as he was being released, and when he found that he had received the last lash his moans soon died away, and he was helped back to his cell.

in his hand. The first blow had an almost electric effect on the Chinaman. He howled piteously, pouring out a torrent of ejaculations in Chinese, jerking his head wildly about and shaking his hands as they were tied over his head. The executioner, though evidently affected—for his knees were shaking—laid the lash on pretty smartly, and soon the blood spots began to appear. Wah Yen was muscular with a finely nourished body, but his skin was apparently tender, as the lash seemed to cut it to a greater