

# MARIA BARBELLA TO DIE

Sentenced to be Executed at Sing Sing  
in the Week of Aug. 19.

## FIRST WOMAN FOR ELECTRIC CHAIR

The Second Sentenced to Death in  
This State in 75 Years—Knives  
and a Stiletto Taken  
from Her Relatives.

Maria Barbella, generally spoken of as Maria Barberi, but whose right name, according to her mother, is Barbella, was sentenced to die by electricity by Recorder Goff in the Court of General Sessions, yesterday, for the murder of Domenico Cataldo. The execution is to take place in the week beginning Aug. 19.

Maria Barbella was convicted of murder in the first degree last Monday. If the sentence is carried out, and this is doubted by many, she will be the second woman to suffer the death penalty in this State within a period of seventy-five years, and the first woman to go to the electric chair.

The promised spectacle of a woman being sentenced to death attracted a crowd many times larger than the courtroom could accommodate. A number of women were among the spectators. The condemned woman's parents were in the courtroom.

When Maria Barbella's case was called, the prisoner entered the courtroom supported by Mrs. Foster, the Tombs Angel. Maria Barbella's appearance indicated plainly that physically she was very weak.

Upon a chair facing the Recorder the young woman was placed. Mrs. Foster sat beside her, with one arm about her neck, and a hand clasping one of the prisoner's for encouragement.

The Clerk asked Maria the usual questions as to her age, nativity, religion, and condition through an interpreter. Assistant District Attorney McIntyre then said:

"I rise in obedience to the command of the law to ask the Court to do now that which the mandates of the Legislature demand. The crime of which this defendant is convicted was the killing of Domenico Cataldo. The evidence established the crime as murder in the first degree.

"Your Honor knows that everything possible to be done in her behalf in her trial was done by her counsel. They tried to enlist sympathy, but from the character of the evidence there was nothing for the jury to do but to find a verdict of murder in the first degree. I know the defendant's counsel had engaged insanity experts to examine her. They reported that she was not insane at the time of the trial or at the time of the killing. She has had a fair and impartial trial. There remains but one more duty to perform, that is to ask the court to impose the sentence of death on the defendant.

The clerk asked the defendant if she had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced. This was interpreted to her.

Lawyer Evans, her counsel, moved for a new trial. He said the records would show many errors to warrant it.

"I have been unable to secure a copy of the record," he said, "so I ask you to postpone the imposition of sentence until the stenographer furnishes me with a complete manuscript."

Lawyer House, who had been retained by Countess di Brazzi, appealed to the Recorder to postpone sentence. The Recorder said it was not a matter of discretion with him. He was the minister of justice, and his duty was prescribed by law.

"The law provides that the girl shall have all the advantages that may accrue to a defendant," he said. "These advantages she has had, and still has. Her next resource is the Court of Appeals. If there has been any error that court will rectify it."

Mr. House made another appeal for an arrest of judgment, but his motion was denied.

Maria Barbella, who through this discussion, which lasted half an hour, had been sitting apparently oblivious to all around her, weeping at intervals, was called to the bar.

Mrs. Foster and a court attendant supported her as she stood at the railing. The girl seemed neither to hear nor understand anything that passed.

Then the Recorder began a lengthy speech to her, which was translated by the interpreter. The Recorder said:

"Maria Barberi, you were indicted and tried for the crime of murder in the first degree. A jury of more than average intelligence, after a most careful selection, was by your own choice put in the jury box. At your trial everything that could with reason and propriety be done by counsel for you was done. The evidence produced, mainly undisputed, was overwhelming in proof of your guilt.

"The jury manifestly showed not only the most kindly interest in your case and condition, but the most heartfelt sympathy," continued the Recorder. "The verdict was in accordance with the facts, and no other verdict could, in view of the evidence, have been considered. By that verdict law and justice have been vindicated, and beyond that nothing can be expected at the bar of justice.

"Nothing now remains but for me to pass sentence upon you. Maria Barberi, you have been found guilty of murder in the first degree in killing one Domenico Cataldo.

"It is ordered that within ten days from the present date the Sheriff of New-York or his agents transmit you into the custody of the Warden of the State prison at Sing Sing, and that from that time you be kept in solitary confinement, allowed to see no one but the keepers of the prison, your family, or a priest or minister of the Gospel, and your lawyers until the week beginning on Aug. 19, 1895, when the Warden of the State prison is commanded to inflict upon you the death penalty by electricity."

Then the girl was led away. As she reached the door her mother rushed out of the crowd toward her. Her brother and father followed. The deputies pushed them back, and the girl was led out of the room. Then her family were allowed to see her.

Maria Barbella was taken to Sing Sing yesterday afternoon in charge of Deputy Sheriff Snyder. She said farewell to the Tombs matron and the other women prisoners, and then the Deputy Sheriff took her to the visitors' waiting room. There were her parents, her sister, her aunt, the Countess di Brazzi, her secretary, and Warden Fallon. The Countess assured the girl that she would leave no stone unturned to save her from death.

A stiletto with a blade five inches long was taken from Maria's aunt before she was admitted to the room. From the sister two pocket knives were taken.

The sum of \$5, sent to The New-York Times for the Barbellas, was handed to Mrs. Barbella yesterday afternoon at her plainly furnished tenement, 163 Mott Street. A number of neighbors were trying to comfort Mrs. Barbella, who was on the verge of hysterics. She gratefully accepted the money, and signed the receipt for her husband, "Mike Barbella."

"Is not your name Barberi?" the reporter asked.

"No, Sir; it is Barbella," was the reply.