CHURCH BUTCHERIES.

The Evidence Against Durant is Entirely Circumstantial.

San FRANCISCO Cal., April 21 .- Theodore Durant was very cheerful this morning and greated every one with whom he came in contact with a smile and pleasant words. The probable change in conduct of the accused man is caused by the belief that the police have exhausted every source of information against him. The searching of the church is finished and no fur ther evidence has been brought to light. He rested well last night and ate a hearty breakfast this morning.

Police surgeon Somers visited Durant to study his actions in anticipation of a plea of insanity when the case is called. Sommers says Durant shows no signs of an unbalanced mind; in fact he spoke with intelligence on every subject that was brought up.

Another man has come forward who thinks he saw Durant and Miss Williams, or a couple very much resemb ling them, at 11.15 o'clock the night of her murder. As he passed them he heard her laugh and Durant was smiling. He did not observe their ac tions afterward, but says they were walking toward the church. The description tallies exactly with the dead girl and Durant, and if they were the persons his testimony will go to prove that the girl was not dead early in the evening, as has been supposed.

Chief Crowley is still hard at work trying to strengthen the evidence against Durant. He says his men have so far obtained no clew which would lead one to believe that the murderer had an accomplice. The chief had a conference with the detect lves and not one of them has found anything to prove that Durant is not the guilty man.

Durant's attorney called on him today and the two held conversation for some time. The attorney said his client was about to make a statement which was not to be made public at present, and requested the police to see that Durant was not distarbed. Durant worked the whole afternoon on the document, and denied himself to all newspaper men and his friends.

Little hope is expressed that any bloody clothing belonging to the mur-# derer will be discovered. This, the police say, is the only weak point against the prisoner.

A slight reaction in public opinion has set in in favor of Durant, brought about, no doubt, by the testimony of those who witnessed his cool actions after the discovery of the body. His comrades of the signal corps of the

during the operation, and the young medical student, in a frenay of fright, choked her, but choked too hard and killed her before he was aware. The condition of the girl's body

when first found indicated that she had been the victim of assault This was accepted as a fact, but the report of the physiciaus who made the autopsy carefully avoided this point. In the report made public there

was no mention of the evidences of assault. Now it is said that Planche Lamont was in trouble and the physicians found evidence of an operation.

These were the same marks that had led the finders of the body to believe that the girl had been assaulted before being killed.

A report was current today that four caus of kerosene oil had been found beneath the blood-stained church, indicating that the residents in that vicinity intend that the deseerated structure shall not stand.

Raleigh Council, No. 551, Royal Arcanum, meets this evening at the hall at 8 o'clock



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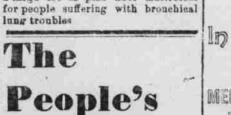
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