

SNOWDEN WOULD TALK TO WOMEN ACCUSERS

Condemned Man Wants To Point Out Gallows They Erected For Him

WANTS A STATEMENT

I want to see Mary Perkins and my sister Ellen Credit; I want to point out to them the scaffold that they have built for the cause of having me hung upon on February 28, when I want to shake their hands and tell them I forgive their false oaths and advise them to be right with God so as to meet me in Heaven," dramatically declared John Snowden this morning.

It was only this morning that a written statement, written by Georgia Boston at the dictation of the colored man who is sentenced to hang February 28 for the murder of Mrs. Lottie Brandon, in August, 1917, was completed. The statement was in preparation yesterday but was not completed until this morning, and was not signed by Snowden until this morning, the same time being duly witnessed by Day Watchman Basil. In this statement Snowden reiterates his protestations of innocence, declares his hope of Heaven and asks forgiveness of those who have testified against him.

Snowden Remains Cheerful

Standing within the very shadow of the gallows, the condemned man, with less than two weeks of life before him, remains unshaken in his claims to be entirely innocent of the murder of which he is accused and for which he must die. He is bearing up exceedingly well, is cheerful and spends much of his time singing. He is visited frequently by his spiritual adviser, Rev. Holt, and welcomes the visits.

Georgia Boston, of Asbury colored church, who is a frequent visitor to jail and acts as spiritual adviser with the inmates, singing and praying with them when they wish, has been seen with Snowden of late. She prepared the statement which Snowden dictated and later signed. The statement was prepared in the presence of Day Watchman Basil, after completion was submitted to him for verification and was signed in his presence by Snowden.

Writing Showed Firmness

It characterizes betraying illiteracy

the Boston woman, and which was completed only this morning follows just as it is written at his dictation:

"On August 12, 1917, I was at work watering the horses at the fountain near the Market and four men came up and told me they wanted me to go to Mr. Green's office. I told them to wait until I carried the money I had to Mr. Parlett's office. So I carried the money there; and Mr. Parlett told me to hurry back. When I went to Mr. Green's office he began to ask me about the murder. I told him I did not know anything about it. It was a surprise to me when I was told I was accused of the crime, and God alone knows how I was treated. But my heart is clear of all hatred and malice against my enemies. I have nothing in my heart against any one on earth. I only ask God to forgive them so they can meet me in Heaven."

"I want to thank all of those who have taken such interest in me since I have been locked up in prison. As true as there is a God I am an innocent man. For one year and six months I have been a great sufferer, though I have told them, all, time and again, that I was innocent. They tried to make me tell a lie and say I did it. And I wouldn't take a false oath before God nor man, to say I did do something that I did not do. I have never been to the lady's house and I have never seen her in my life to know who the lady was, and I had never seen her husband until I saw him at Towson, on the stand, and if I have to die I will die telling the truth. Christ was put to death by his enemies, though He was proven to me innocent, but they cried, "crucify Him," and I am no greater than He, but in my weak way I will say as Stephen said when he was stoned to death, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"I also want to thank Rev. Briscoe, who was my first spiritual adviser, for visiting me and bringing me sweet words of cheer and telling me about the love of Jesus. And Rev. B. S. Holt, my present spiritual adviser, who is at my side each day and night, offering up prayers to God that I may grasp hold of faith and get in touch with God. And Mrs. Georgia Boston, Mrs. Armita, Dennis and others, whose songs and prayers helped to save my soul from hell.

"The Lord has redeemed me from all of my sins. There is nothing more that I can do for I have told the truth, and I shall go in the presence of God telling the truth for God loves the truth and not a lie, and I know for myself, that the Lord has redeemed my soul. I want to warn young men to shape their lives out different from the way I shaped mine, for when I was younger, my mother used to carry

with Snowden of late. She presented the statement which Snowden dictated and later signed. The statement was prepared in the presence of Watchman Basil, after completion it was submitted to him for verification, and was signed in his presence by Snowden.

Writing Showed Firmness

characters betraying illiteracy apparently indicating perfect physical control the name of John Snowden was affixed to the document, immediately after which Snowden arose, up his right hand and declared resolutely.

the presence of God every word is written here is true."

Snowden has expressed a wish to Governor Harrington but not, according to the Boston woman, because wishes to make any plea for clemency to him but rather talk over the in general with him, to thank for his interest. There is no exception that Governor Harrington comply with the request as it is here is nothing more to be done. Snowden's statement, preparation of which was begun on February 9 by

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*The Home-Like
Church*

**Mad. Avenue M. E.
Church**

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"I would like to see Mrs. Mary Perkins and sister. I want to show them the scaffold that they have been the cause of me being hung, on Friday, February 28. Then I want to shake their hands and tell them that I forgive them for the false oaths they taken against me and to get right with God, so as to meet me in Heaven for as true as the Lord is upon His throne, when the breath leaves this body of mine I will be safely in the arms of Jesus.

"JOHN SNOWDEN."

