

# OFFERS NEW EVIDENCE OF SNOWDEN INNOCENCE

**Famous New York Woman lawyer Presents Claim Of New Evidence To Save Snowden From Hangman.**

Declaring that she has uncovered new evidence which justifies a ninety day reprieve for John Snowden, sentenced to hang next Friday for the murder of Mrs. Brandon, Mrs. Grace Humiston, famous New York woman attorney, is bending every energy toward getting Governor Harrington to grant the reprieve.

Mrs. Humiston has prepared a summary of this evidence, together with a petition to the governor. These, she states, she intended having presented to Governor Harrington at the public meeting yesterday but was frustrated in the attempt.

The petition and the summary of what she presents as new evidence are here presented.

To His Excellency,

Emerson C. Harrington,  
Governor of Maryland.

Sir:

In support of the annexed petition for a reprieve submitted on behalf of John Snowden who is condemned to die by hanging on February 28th, 1919, Anne Arundel county, Maryland, I have the honor to submit the following condensed statement of evidence newly discovered, and of evidence which may have been known and which, we believe, was providently omitted to be placed upon the record at the time of the condemned man's trial.

Within the next few days this evidence can be submitted in affidavit form to Your Excellency, or under oath by word of mouth of the various witnesses whose names herein are stated.

We believe this evidence to be of such character that it cannot be justly disregarded; that in fairness and mercy to the condemned man who is sentenced to die within the next few days, that it deserves most careful consideration; that ample time should be given for its thorough investigation and corroboration; and that clemency for a period of at least ninety days should be extended to the prisoner in order that he may have full opportunity to legally establish this evi-

dence as proof of his repeated contention from the very moment of his arrest that he is absolutely innocent of the crime for which he is condemned to die, if such, in truth be the fact.

We believe this evidence to be of paramount importance in that it raises a very serious doubt of Snowden's guilt but that it clearly points to the fact that a person or persons other than John Snowden perpetrated the crime of murder upon Lottie Brandon.

## Points To Another's Guilt

We maintain that had this evidence been submitted to the jury at the time of Snowden's trial, there would have been raised in the minds of the jurors a reasonable doubt of Snowden's guilt and that therefore he could not have been convicted of murder in the first degree, nor have been sentenced to capital punishment.

We believe that the people of the state of Maryland will be adequately protected, and that the ends of justice will be served if, upon the grounds stated, the reprieve asked for is granted.

Respectively submitted,

MRS. GRACE HUMISTON,

Attorney at Law, and acting for the petitioners.

## The New Evidence

1. New evidence concerning the murdered women:

Prior to the murder she had told her nurse who had been engaged to attend her in confinement, of the repeated attentions of a man who was not her husband. She had said, "If my husband knew about . . . he would kill me," or words to that effect.

She made a similar remark to a real estate man to whom she had gone for the purpose of renting another apartment.

The murder was apparently discovered by the husband upon the 8th of August, 1917. About a quarter past five upon the 7th, she was seen to come out upon her front porch by the neighbor next door, who was sitting in the hammock facing the Brandon porch. Her countenance wore a distressed and worried look, and seeing the neighbor she hurriedly took a chair and turned its back upon her. Shortly afterward she spoke to her husband who ignored, and did not as-

(Continued On Page Three).

## THE SNOWDEN CASE

However commendable and well meaning may have been the efforts of those who appeared before the governor at the State House yesterday for the purpose of influencing the executive to grant clemency, or a reprieve, to John Snowden, the fact remains that certainly no good purpose was served and that in all probability only ill resulted.

It is a wonderful spirit of brotherhood which leads men and women to give of their time, means and energy to a cause without hope of compensation other than that which comes of the consciousness of having performed what they regard as their duty to the best of their ability. No one can question the honesty of the motives of most of those who are taking a prominent part in the effort to save John Snowden from the gallows next Friday: It could hardly seem possible that they could be actuated by any ulterior motive for there seems absolutely nothing of personal gain to them even should they succeed in their efforts.

But the meeting of yesterday was undoubtedly fruitful of no good and its wisdom is to be questioned. There was a display of feeling where cool judgment should have prevailed. Governor Harrington sensed a spirit of antagonism in the meeting, whether rightly or wrongly, and naturally, felt hostility toward a movement or people seemingly intent upon a demonstration having for an object the presentation of pressure to induce a change of opinion. In short, Governor Harrington undoubtedly felt that he was to be unduged; feeling so, it was but natural.

Of course, there was no intent to present a hostile air on the part of those most directly interested in the case; the leaders relied upon a presentation of facts to obtain a hearing of their views and unquestionably had no intent to stage a demonstration. Yet the air was charged with feeling, and, under such circumstances, it was impossible that dispassionate judgment could prevail.

In the Evening Capital today is printed a resume of the evidence in the Snowden case, prepared for the press by Governor Harrington. In conclusion Governor Harrington states with finality that he will not interfere in the case. There also appears in this evening's issue a statement by Mrs. Grace Hemiston, the New York lawyer interested in this case, in which she presents what she alleges to be new evidence, of importance. Both of these statements are printed by the Evening Capital in a desire to be fair to both sides in the controversy and both statements should have the most careful and unbiased reading of every one who cares in the least about the justice of the case. Unfortunately, it is too true, as Governor Harrington stated yesterday, that people make up their minds about this or that case and sit in judgment on it without having heard or read the testimony or having given consideration to the evidence. We are too much moved by impulse, we jump at a conclusion, we condemn or commend by reason of our sympathies or our passions; these are our first convictions and we dislike to change them, so we refuse to be tolerant of the views of others or the presentation of any testimony which does not accord with our predetermined views.

no revealing creation of a great deal of unnecessary ill feeling.

Governor Harrington has said rightly when he declared that if John Snowden is guilty of the crime of which he is accused hanging is too good for him. It is not a case to demand clemency. The governor believes the man is guilty as charged—no one can doubt the sincerity of his convictions—therefore he is determined that he will grant no clemency. In this view the people must respect him. It must not be a pleasant feeling to possess the power of life and death over even the humblest of God's creatures and feel that your duty and conscience dictates that you shall decree death. It is unthinkable that Governor Harrington, or any other responsible official, would lightly speak the words which should deprive a man of his God-given life—the one thing which can not be replaced by human agency.

The Evening Capital is printing a great deal more of the Snowden case in this evening's issue than seems justifiable when the limitations of this newspaper are considered. This is done however in a spirit of absolute fairness, and with the true newspaper purpose of presenting that which is news impartially.