

MRS. MURRAY OUT IN STATEMENT REGARDING PART IN SNOWDEN CASE

Lady Who Has Been One Of Most Active In Effort Save Negro Admits Defeat And Gives Up Battle

Mrs. Ella Rump Murray, who has been most active and prominent in the effort to secure a commutation or reprieve of the sentence of John Snowden, today declared that she felt she had done her utmost and admitted defeat in the attainment of her object. Mrs. Murray still maintains her conviction of the innocence of the man who is to hang tomorrow but says the time is too short for her in which to secure such testimony in support of her views as she believes she could obtain.

Mrs. Murray has prepared the following statement and asks the Evening Capital to make publication of it:

"Sir: May I ask a little final space in your columns, in order that I may say a parting word to my fellow townpeople in regard to the Snowden case?

"I have worked upon the fresh evidence regarding the murder of Mrs. Brandon for nearly the past three weeks until late into each night. All that evidence, published in the Capital under date of February 25, last, is signed testimony, with one exception, the last paragraph. The court records have given me much valuable information. Lack of space forbids quotation therefrom. I will, however, say that my belief in John Snowden's innocence, aside from the newly discovered evidence is founded primarily upon most peculiar testimony by Valentine Brandon, as against Mrs. Ida Burch; see the Court Records, Volume 1, pages 36, 37, 49, 52 and 53.

"I also wish to say that the recent newspaper attack made upon Mrs. Humiston because of her visit to Mrs. Burch, is only one of many endeavors made by certain interests to discredit a woman who was appointed assistant to Attorney General Bonaparte by President Roosevelt and who held that position for three years, who has been district attorney in New York, and who is a member of the New York bar, with fifty years' practice. Before I sent for Mrs. Humiston I was told by Major Pullman, chief of the Washington police, and by Hon. Charles Bonaparte, that she was a woman of the highest ability. Her capacity for unearthing inconvenient facts is frequently the cause of her alleged unpopularity. In regard to her recent highly misrepresented interview with a certain state witness in this city, I will merely say that the same individual's very curious and contradictory statements to me were one of my first reasons for

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"I was forced into this terrible case by the action of the state's attorney. I tried to treat him squarely. I warned him that I would not be a favorable witness for the state, because the testimony I had heard the first day of the trial had convinced me that Snowden was innocent. I could have allowed the state's attorney to place me on the witness stand, and then have allowed the defense to break down my testimony, but that line of action does not appeal to me, and in return for what I tried to do for the state's attorney, he prevented me from testifying as my conscience dictated, for the defense by having me ruled out on the grounds that I was secondary evidence, although he had subpoenaed me as "one of his most important witnesses." He also told Judge Duncan that my only reason for not wishing to testify was because I wished to return to Annapolis on account of my child who was ill, and denied having been giving any other reason by me. (See Court Records, Vol. 3, page 77). This statement was expressly made by him while the jury was out of the court room.

"If the best element in Annapolis, which has so plainly evinced its disapproval of an execution on such circumstances, will only carry on the good work and see to it that such a terrible mistake is never made again, and if public sentiment is sufficiently aroused to abolish capital punishment upon such a time-limit as the possible committing of an elaborate, intricate and complicated crime made of only ten minutes time. (See Court Records, Vol. 3, page 197), then indeed we may feel that this poor negro shall not have died in vain."

ELLA RUTH MURRAY.

May 27, 1911.