

GOVERNOR STANDS FIRM

**Crowd of 400 Coldly Silent
At His Refusal to Re-
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Crowd of 400 Coldly Silent At His Refusal to Re- prieve John Snowden, Last Monday. Harrington Nervous and Exhausted by Efforts to Change Opinion.

"If the Governor fails to commute the sentence of John Snowden, the condemned man will be hanged against the expressed will of the white people of the state as well as the colored people."

This was the consensus of opinion of the hugh gathering of people, who crowded the private offices of Governor Harrington in the State House at Annapolis last Monday morning.

Some estimates go as high as five hundred, but there was no doubt that at least four hundred people, mostly white, thronged the office. They were persons from all walks of life, from the highest to the lowest. There were the wealthy like Mrs. Spencer Morgan, elegantly gowned, midshipmen, cadets, soldiers and sailors. The business men of Annapolis led by Mr. James Monroe, owner of large real estate holdings, and president of the local Trust Company were there, and then finally the townspeople and farmers, both men and women. All of these were white.

Sprinkled among them was a minority of fifty colored folks. These too, came from all walks of life, but not a one of them had a word to say. It seemed as if they had turned their cause over to the other race, and were standing back to see how well their friends would lambast the Governor.

Lambast him they did. First of all R. Lee Bosley, one of the jurors that sat at Towson and convicted Snowden, presented a petition signed by ten other jurors including the foreman as follows:

"The undersigned, members of the jury that tried John Snowden for the murder of Mrs. Brandon at Annapolis, realizing the possibility of mistake in human affairs, and after further considering the matter, feel that justice would be done, if the sentence in Snowden's case was commuted to life imprisonment, and we hereby petition the Governor to commute his sentence to life imprisonment.

Granville Simpson, Foreman; Wm. E. Kloche, John C. Schmidt, John Emge, Andrew H. Huebler, Wm. H. Timanus, George O. Ritter, John B. Koerner, Edmund A. Burk, Nathaniel H. Bortner, R. E. Lee Boseley."

Then came Mr. James Monroe who presented a petition signed by nearly sixty of the leading white business men of Annapolis. He said that not a single colored person had signed the petition, and that it was his desire to show that the best white people of the Annapolis wanted first of all a commutation of the sentence, and if the Governor could not see his way clear to grant this, then he asked for a reprieve of ninety days, so that he could have a chance to secure new evidence.

In reply to the Governor's invitation for any others to take the floor, Professor H. L. Rice, a teacher at the Naval Academy read his petition. Professor Rice is a Methodist, and remarked that

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In reply to the Governor's invitation for any others to take the floor, Professor H. L. Rice, a teacher at the Naval Academy read his petition. Professor Rice is a spiritualist, and remarked that the spirit told him that Snowden did not commit the crime. He said that if Snowden had wrestled and fought with the dead woman

Continued on Page 2

ored people to be there. But they were there, altho not a one opened his mouth. A diminutive blind man, who journeyed all the way from Baltimore attempted to, but he was speedily hushed up.

The big roomful of people listened patiently to the state's chief executive. One or two nettled him at times by asking questions, but for the most part they were silent, listening without demonstration or applause. When he said he intended to go on with the execution, not a sound was heard. The disapproval of his audience was evident, and not lost on Governor Harrington, who concluded his address amid a murmur of questions, and was escorted by friends back into his private room.

No governor of the state ever witnessed such a demonstration of white people in behalf of a colored man convicted of murder. No governor of the state ever received such a deluge of silent disapprobation when he refused to grant their petitions.

As the Governor was led, rather than escorted back into his office, exhausted after his efforts, one of his friends remarked, "if I were Governor, I would not have gone thru this for ten thousand dollars.

The petition read by Mr. Monroe in part follows:—

Second, eleven of the jurors who tried and convicted John Snowden do now present to your Excellency a petition asking a commutation of sentence from sentence to death to imprisonment for life, and this we respectfully submit to your Excellency is equivalent to their having found a verdict in the first instance, as provided by statute, of guilty of murder in the first degree without capital punishment.

Third, such a petition from the jurors who tried and convicted John Snowden shows at least that there must be in their minds serious doubt as to the correctness of their verdict, and it is respectfully submitted that the governor must give attention to such a recommendation from such a source.

Fourth, there could not exist such a widespread doubt of the guilt of the accused as exists in this case, and such an interest in his fate as has been manifested by people not only in the city of Annapolis and Anne Arundel county, but in various parts of the state of Maryland, in the District of Columbia and especially in Baltimore city, unless there was an honest belief in the minds of these people who have no interest whatever in Snowden, and to whom Snowden is personally unknown, that there was room for doubt of his guilt.

The conflicting theories which were advanced as to the perpetrator of such a horrible murder of Mrs. Brandon, have not by any means been reconciled by the verdict of the jury, and the very least that could be granted under the circumstances of the case, is a reprieve of ninety (90) days of time to enable the collection and presentation to your excellency in proper form of new evidence which it is confidently expected can be procured to satisfy your excellency of the justice of the petition for the commutation of Snowden's sentence, if indeed a new trial may not be obtained for him.

Fifth, a statement of certain new evidence which has never been presented to any court will be presented in the form of affidavits subscribed by the persons who are prepared to furnish the same.