

WILL HANG TODAY.

The Supreme Court and Governor Refuse to Inter- fere,

Mansker Writes a Letter Saying He Is Ready For Death.

He Says His Trial Was a Farce and That He Did Not Kill Mc- Nally.

Brady, Mansker and Wyrlok will today pay the penalty of their crime at Newport. The Governor, as well as the Supreme Court, refused to interfere.

Judge J. B. Woods, of Hot Springs, one of the attorneys for the condemned train robbers, appealed to Governor Flisback to grant a respite. The Governor refused, however, saying that he did not propose to bring the laws of Arkansas into contempt by interference in the cases.

The Supreme Court refused an appeal in the case of Tom Brady only Wednesday evening, the transcripts in the Mansker and Wyrlok cases not arriving till yesterday morning at 9 o'clock, when Chief Justice Bunn and Justice Battle each took one under consideration. They refused the appeals, however, at a late hour last evening.

The following letter was addressed to a local paper by Mansker, on Tuesday, while yet in the Penitentiary:

If you will kindly give me space in your valuable paper I will, in a brief and plain way, write a short article that may interest some of your many readers. There has been so much said and written in regard to the Olyphant train robbery and murder of Conductor McNally, that public sentiment as well as justice demands that a simple and truthful statement from one of the men condemned for said murder be made. Now, sir, in view of my pending fate on next Friday, and fully realizing that I am probably very near eternity and the great importance to say and write nothing but plain truth, I do not know who committed the crime for which I am condemned. I never saw Mr. McNally in my life and all that I know about it is what I have read and heard, but I do know that I did not commit that great crime, and I do know that I never willed it, and I do further know that there never has been a time in my life that I would have taken the life of any human being for money in any amount. I have never heard any man say who did do it. I was at what they called my trial and in that trial no one said who did the fearful deed. I was incarcerated in prison about the last of November, and was taken sick with pneumonia fever that kept me confined in the hospital twenty-five days. I was not in a condition to know what was being done outside, had I been permitted to know, but I was not. I was taken to Newport for trial just after recovering from the fever. The time that intervened between my incarceration in prison and my trial was as though I was asleep. At Newport I was a total stranger to every one, and without a dollar in money, with every prejudice raging at fever heat that could be created through newspapers or otherwise. I was not able to hire counsel, but finally two young at-

torneys volunteered their services. They tried to get a continuance, but were not allowed it. They tried to get a change of venue, but could not. One man said that he could safely make an affidavit that the minds of the people were so prejudiced against me that I could not get a fair and impartial trial, but he said that he was a citizen there and was afraid to do it, which was a much stronger proof of the excitement as well as the prejudice that he knew existed, inasmuch as to put him in fear to swear to what he knew was the truth.

These are exactly the surroundings when I was forced into what they called a trial for my life. The prosecution had had every opportunity and facility to be entirely ready, and was ably represented by two learned and experienced attorneys. I had not had any chance to be ready, but was totally unprepared, and two young, inexperienced men—almost boys—to defend me. I don't think that I have had the rights that any citizen should have for his life. It appears very forcibly that I have had next to no chance at all. I don't feel at all like the doors of justice had been open to me. It does seem to me that dear old Arkansas, that I have over loved so much, is going to take my life away from me, and that too so very unjustly. Arkansas has been my home a great part of the time for twenty years past.

I know that it is right and very necessary that where an actual offense has been committed that the transgressor should have the punishment of the law for the offense that he has committed. I know that this is essentially necessary for the protection of the people. If I have violated the laws of the fair State of Arkansas I am willing to suffer the penalty of the law for the offense, but I did not commit the crime for which I am condemned, nor don't know who did it; neither did any witness who testified in my trial know. If they did, they would not tell it. The verdict of the jury that tried my case was not warranted by the testimony. The testimony of Mr. Lamb was the testimony mostly relied upon by the prosecution in regard to the murder. He did not know who did it, but thought the shot that did it came from two men that stood out off of and away from the depot platform in the dark. He said he could not tell whether they were masked men or not, and that he did not know whether they were robbers or not. He said that he stood on the depot platform and shot five times. He said that McNally was standing on the rear steps of the baggage car leaning out with part of his body exposed, fired one shot and was killed. The baggage master testified that he was on the opposite side of the train from where Lamb was; that he (the baggage master) was on the ground and fired four shots at two men on that side of the train. The engineer and fireman testified that while at the express car door they heard some pistol shots down the train, but did not see anyone down there. It does seem to me that Mr. Lamb's testimony would be sufficient to convince a fair-minded man that the men that were working the train did not kill Mr. McNally. It is quite reasonable to me that if those men had gone there to rob the train and to kill anyone that might resist them, that they would surely have killed Lamb, who says that he stood on the platform and fired five times, or that they would have killed the baggage master that was, as Lamb, standing in open space and fired four times. This is about the testimony that was in evidence in my case in regard to the offense for which I have to lose my life. I was reliably informed this afternoon that it had become to be thought that Thomas Brady fired the shot that did the fatal deed, but I do wish to say and say it as if in sight of judgment that Mr. Brady did not do it. I do positively say that he did not do it. I would be willing to make it my last word that Brady did not do it, nor does he know who did, I will not say anything more in regard to that part of the very disagreeable subject.

Perhaps it would be of some interest to some of your sympathizing christian readers to know something about my hopes and fears after earthly power has inflicted the last and greatest punishment possible. I am quite happy to say that after a long, hard warfare with sin, with a stubborn, wicked heart to subdue, I have gained a great and glorious victory; I have prayed untiringly, fervently and with all the earnestness of my whole nature, ever since my incarceration in prison. I know that my burden of sin is gone; I know that I am prepared to meet my blessed Savior in judgment. I am continuing to pray and rejoice, and to pray for those who have misused and abused the power and authority that they had over me, and for those who have testified so wilfully false and damagingly false against me.

I have only one more enemy to conquer, that is the last enemy, death. I know that I am fully possessed of the means of warfare to conquer that enemy. After my life is taken from me I will have no other enemy to contend with, but will meet God and His Christ in Heaven. Blessed, glorious, happy thought. Hoping this will be of interest to some of your many readers, that your paper may prosper, I am humbly yours in prison,

ALFRED MANSKER.