

FRANK ON HIS OWN CASE.

A Remarkable Letter from a Man Under Sentence of Death.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

I have read with deep interest and appreciation the editorials bearing on my case appearing in your issues of THE TIMES Nov. 15 and 17. I feel that your editorials, with rare insight, have accurately diagnosed the issues of the proposition, and have accentuated the crux of the situation.

Far and away more important than the shell of legal intricacies and technicalities is the reality beneath the shell—the question of human right and justice. The question to be decided is whether or not an unruly mob, operating in an atmosphere of smoldering violence and prejudice, may, with impunity and the apparent seal of judicial approval, invade our courts and compel verdicts. Are the safeguards thrown about defendants, which have been developed and insisted upon during the many years past as fundamental at common law, to be cast ruthlessly aside, just because a howling, violent mob threatens?

Our motion "to set aside" becomes not the invoking of a technicality, which may be lightly sidetracked because procedure is, or is not, thus and so; but it invokes a basic human right, a right grounded in the fibre of Anglo-Saxon intelligence and civilization. Orderly trial by a jury is one thing, the rank disorder, of a lynch-crazy mob is another. They are diametrically opposed; one cannot be justified or substituted for the other. One is right, the other dastardly.

It surely cannot obtain that truth and innocence be forever throttled. It never, surely, is too late to do right and to hear the truth. This outrageous charge against me was hastily conceived in error, and brought forth in prejudicial hate. I cannot believe that, in this day, with still time to right the wrong, a judicial murder will be perpetrated. They may take human life and attempt to annihilate human honor, but I am confident that the truth cannot be strangled to death.

I am grateful that you have seen the truth in this horrible affair. That you have seen fit to air the facts in THE TIMES bespeaks your courage.

LEO M. FRANK.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 20, 1914.

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