

HOPE FOR VINDICATION FRANK'S PRISON SOLACE

**"It Cannot Last for Always," He
Wrote in Letter to Attorney
Declaring Innocence.**

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 17.—L. Z. Rosser, who was leading counsel for Leo M. Frank, had no statement to make today in reference to the lynching of Frank, but said he wanted to give to the public the last letter he received from Frank and his own reply to that letter. The letters follow:

State Farm, Milledgeville, Ga., July 1, 1915.
Hon. L. Z. Rosser, Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Rosser: You will, I know, pardon my not having written to you sooner. Letters which I had written to others of counsel were meant for you to share.

At this writing my health is much better, my cold having nearly left me. I am sleeping fine, and my appetite is good.

The Warden and his staff are very kind and solicitous. Will you please send me J. M. Slaton's present mail address? I would like to write to him. I would also like to have the present address of Colonel M. J. Yeemans.

I have been given some "chores" in and about the prison building commensurate with my present physical condition. I go to bed at 8:30 P. M. and rise at about 4 A. M. My work consumes about five to seven hours a day. Of course, I must be ready to do any other work besides the routine work on call. Even at that, I have several hours a day for reading, writing or any reasonable form of exercise and diversion. The sunshine and atmosphere here are great. I have plenty of opportunity to view plant life, and my field observation in the crimino-psychological field is practically limitless.

Still, "stripes" and the environment of a penal institution, while interesting in their way, fall upon the vision of an innocent man. Physically, I am part of it; spiritually I am totally foreign. Yet, as the old saw has it, "ad astra per aspera," it cannot last for always, even though for the present I am designated as a "lifer."

I want to assure you how deep is my respect for you as a man and attorney. I am not in this predicament because of anything you did or did not do. My misfortune is the result of a "system," coupled with ignorance and chicanery.

Won't you kindly remember me to all inquiring friends, and with every good wish, I am,

Cordially yours,
LEO M. FRANK.

P. S.—My dear mother delivered your message to me. "Sapientia sat."

Mr. Rosser's Reply.

Atlanta, Ga., July 3, 1915.

Mr. Leo M. Frank, care State Farm, Milledgeville, Ga.

Dear Mr. Frank: I have received your letter of recent date. I have been intending to write you for quite a while, but the excitement here in Atlanta since your commutation has prevented me. Prior to your commutation I had meant often to visit you, but your situation so distressed me and so oppressed me with my lack of power to help you, that I could not summon the courage to visit you as often as I would have liked.

You know that I have given you the best work of my life; it did you no good, but I hardly think it was my fault. I do not believe that any one could have aided you. The merest tyro could have convicted you, and the ablest lawyer in the South could have done you no good. This, not because you are guilty, for I believe in your innocence as profoundly as I believe in anything. During the months passed you never lied to me once, and never uttered to me an unworthy sentiment.

I know that it is not needful for me to do so, but I urge upon you patience and resignation in your present situation. I profoundly believe that no external circumstances can make a man unhappy if he is clean within.

Clean within, as I believe you to be, there is no reason why you should not be happy even on the prison farm. Buoyed up by a sense of innocence, you can be happy anywhere, and no man or set of circumstances can make you unhappy as long as you know that you are innocent.

You do not need for me to urge upon you to enter upon your present life cheerfully, willingly and obediently. I know that you will abide by every rule of the institution, and that you will so conduct yourself that the officers and inmates of the institution will be your friends; and that you will be helpful to the inmates, who so much need help and sympathy.

The present animosity against you cannot last always. The people of this State are, for the most part, high-minded and generous people. They have been misled by the many false accusations made against you, and they now hate you because they do not know the truth. The truth will, in the end, be vindicated, and the people of this State will finally, in my profound conviction, come to see the true light, and their animosity and prejudice against you will disappear. For the coming of that day you must wait patiently, and with prudence and courage.

God grant that the brighter day herein predicted may come speedily, but if it lingers long your courage must never fail, and your gentleness and kindness must never wane.

Fate may be such that you may never be vindicated, but fate cannot destroy you unless you are willing to be destroyed.

Very sincerely yours,
L. Z. ROSSER.

It is understood that these letters were not meant for publication, and that they would not have been given out if Frank had not been lynched.

Dr. M. J. Clurman of 969 Simpson Street, the Bronx, who was a classmate of Leo M. Frank at Cornell University, and his intimate friend for years, last night gave THE TIMES the text of a letter he received from him, which is dated July 1, and was posted at the Milledgeville prison.

After acknowledging the receipt of Dr. Clurman's last letter, Frank wrote:

"The Warden and his staff here are very kind to me. I know I shall get along nicely with them. I am eating plenty of eggs and buttermilk, as we have a dairy here, and I believe I have already put on some weight. I have been assigned to some tasks in the prison building which won't impair my physical condition. I am sleeping well.

"Governor Slaton showed himself a man of courage and wisdom. The future will render this patent, and instead of mobs and hisses he will get at the hand of Georgians all the honor they can heap upon him.

"As you may well suppose, my mail here is particularly heavy, so I cannot write you a longer letter now. Best wishes to you and yours.

LEO M. FRANK."

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