

sound-minded as Mr. DORSEY are convinced, in the very shadow of the gallows, he justifies the suspicion that he feels a personal interest in the case, that he would consider a commutation of the sentence damaging to his reputation. Underlying the Frank case, indeed, there seems to be a widespread belief in Georgia that the honor of the State is at stake; that FRANK must die for that reason. But how could the honor of a great community be damaged by sparing the life of a man believed to be innocent of any crime, not only by all who have ever known him but by thousands of wholly unprejudiced strangers?

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#### THE SPECTACLE IN ATLANTA.

Such a spectacle as that provided by some thousands of supposedly upright and generally law-abiding citizens in Atlanta last Saturday is fairly startling. The object of the mass meeting held in sight of the prison in which LEO M. FRANK is awaiting his fate was to influence the mind of Governor SLATON, who must decide within a few days whether FRANK shall be hanged or imprisoned for the remainder of his life. The people who met to listen to speakers who demanded the execution of FRANK and to cheer them doubtless believe he is guilty of the murder of MARY PHAGAN. But they have no clearer knowledge of the case than the many thousands who believe him innocent. Their proceedings indicate the extent to which the passions of so many of the Georgia people have been aroused. Their protest against the possible commutation of his sentence is unreasoning and, in the form it has taken, almost unprecedented. So are the pleas of delegates from various parts of the State for the hanging of FRANK. It is gratifying to reflect that such cruel public demonstrations are uncommon.

That so many of the Georgia people should persist in their belief in FRANK'S guilt is not amazing and cannot be called discreditable. That they should resent the attempts of so many influential persons from other States to save his life is understandable. But those attempts were made in the clear conviction that he was denied a fair trial and that the evidence against him is utterly unconvincing. Many persons with sound reasoning powers have carefully studied the case and are convinced that FRANK is innocent. Many more, in Georgia and elsewhere, contend that his trial was unfair. Every legal process has been exercised to save him, to secure for him a fair trial, if not exoneration and freedom, without success. The fate of FRANK now rests on the decision of one man, Governor SLATON, and it seems that it would be common decency and humanity not to interfere violently with his grave deliberations.

The long address of ex-Governor BROWN to Governor SLATON, in strong protest against commutation of the sentence, bore no relation whatever to the only matters germane to the case at its present stage, the character of the evidence on which FRANK was convicted and the circumstances of the trial. It seems that the attitude of Solicitor DORSEY, also, is susceptible to criticism. Firmly convinced, as he has always seemed to be, of FRANK'S guilt, he performed his duty as prosecutor in a masterly way. He has done all that he could reasonably be expected to do in the service of the State. When he pursues his victim, of whose absolute innocence many are able to judge, as clear-visioned and