

THE TALBOTT BOYS

They Will Hang To-morrow Unless
Granted a Respite.

How They Talk and Act—Public Sentiment Divided—Excitement at
Maryville.

Special Telegram to The Evening Star:

Maryville, Mo., June 21—There is the most intense excitement here over the approaching execution of the Talbott boys for the murder of their father. The

LAST HOUR IS NIT FOR TO-MORROW.
Every effort has been made to secure a commutation of sentence from hanging to imprisonment for life, but Gov. Crittenden has declined to interfere. Mrs. Belle Talbott, mother of the boys, who was widowed by their crime, has just returned from Jackson City, where she went to plead for their lives. She was accompanied by Hon. A. P. Mouchmore, representative of Nolaway county, and ex-congressman David Ely. Gov. Crittenden said to them that he had taken the trouble to look into the case carefully and inform himself with regard to every incident connected with it of which he could learn anything. He had read and looked over the petitions signed by thousands of good citizens, but he had found nothing that went to show that the boys were innocent of the crime of killing their father, Dr. Talbott. There was no denial of their guilt even now, but matters were urged upon him to induce him to interfere in their behalf, which he could not allow to have any influence with him. If these boys had a father who was right and tyrannical in ruling his home, and because he was so they took his life, he could not stand between them and the punishment of the law they had provoked. There was not the least doubt in his mind that Dr. Talbott was killed by one of his own home. He

PUNISHED THE SONS DID IT.

was also believed they were instigated to commit the crime by some one whose connection with it was destined to become known sooner or later. In conclusion he urged the friends of the condemned men, when they returned home, to try and induce them, before they went down to their graves, to make a full confession of the whole matter, and by so doing clear their own consciences and remove from the living what may be unjust suspicion now resting upon them.

Upon their return Mrs. Talbott, Mrs. Mouchmore and Ely, and Mr. Lafayette Leggett, attorney for the boys, who has labored night and day in their behalf, nothing daunted by their ill-success, began circulating a petition for a reprieve, to enable the condemned men to

MAKE THEIR PEACE WITH GOD.

It has been numerously signed by citizens and others, but it is not believed it will avail anything.

The town is crowded to-day, and the execution is the sole topic of conversation. Public sentiment is greatly divided, but I think the preponderance is largely in favor of the boys. In conversation with your reporter Mr. Mouchmore said that among the greater portion of respectable and influential citizens of Maryville and vicinity there exists a feeling favorable to the boys, and that the petition laid before the governor, bears the signatures of nearly four-fifths of the business men in Maryville. "He says also that he was instrumental, with a few others, in putting the departmental work in the case, but is fully satisfied from a thorough knowledge and understanding of the case, that the boys ought not to hang.

He was intimate with Dr. Talbott, and was called to his bedside after he was shot and drew up his will. He feels positive that

THE DOCTORS SAW NOTHING OF HIM, and that if the act was committed by his sons he den, red to shield them, for in his will he left his property to his wife, and after her death, in case the children outlived her, to them, to be equally divided between them.

This morning I visited the condemned men in their cells. Work on the scaffold has already begun, and they say they have given up all hope. They were legal spirits, and talked freely. Rumors are that they have a full confession, but the boys told me that they have nothing to confess and that they are

DETERMINED TO DIE CALM.

They are calm and well-poised and exhibit no signs of trepidation or fear.

Money is being lavishly used in their behalf, but one of their staunchest friends has just admitted to me that he thought nothing could save them, and that they would surely hang to-morrow.