

75. Because this defendant, as he contends, did not have a fair and impartial jury trial, guaranteed to him under the laws of this State, for the following reasons, to-wit:

Public sentiment seemed to the Court to be greatly against him. The court room was a small room, and during the argument of the case so far as the Court could see about every seat in the court room was taken, in and without the bar, and the aisles at each-end of the court room were packed with spectators. The jury, in going from the jury seats to the jury room, during the session of the court, and in going to and from the court room morning, evening and noon, were dependent upon passage-ways made for them by the officers of court. The bar of the court room itself was crowded, leaving only a small space to be occupied by counsel in their argument to the jury. The jury-box, when occupied by the jury, was inclosed by the crowd sitting and standing in such close proximity thereto that the whispers of the crowd could be heard during a part of the trial. When the Court's attention was called to this he ordered the sheriff to move the crowd back, and this was done.

During the argument of the solicitor, Mr. Arnold of counsel for the defense, made an objection to the argument of the solicitor, and the crowd laughed at him, and Mr. Arnold appealed to the Court.

On Saturday, prior to the rendition of the verdict on Monday, the Court was considering whether or not he should go on with the trial during Saturday evening, or to what hour he should extend it in the evening, the excitement in and without the court room was so apparent as to cause apprehension in the mind of the Court as to whether he could safely continue the trial during Saturday afternoon; and, in making up his mind about the wisdom of thus continuing the trial, his Honor conferred with, while on the stand, and in the presence of the jury, the chief of police of Atlanta and the colonel of the Fifth Georgia regiment stationed in Atlanta conferred with his Honor. Not only so, but the public press, apprehending trouble if the case continued on Saturday, united in a request to the Court that he not continue the Court on Saturday evening. The Court, being thus advised, felt it unwise to extend the case on Saturday evening, and continued it until Monday morning. It was evident on Monday morning that the public excitement had not subsided, and that it was as intense as it was on Saturday previous. The same excited crowds were present, and the court house was in the same crowded condition. When the solicitor entered the court room he was met with applause by the large crowd—ladies and gentlemen present by stamping their feet and clapping their hands, while the jury was in their room about twenty feet away.

While Mr. Arnold, of the defense, was making a motion for a mistrial, and while taking testimony to support it before the Court, the crowd applauded when the witness testified that he did not think the jury heard the applause of the crowd on Friday of the trial. The jury was not in the court room, but were in the jury room about 20 feet away.