Atlanta Constitution - February 9th, 1886.

ARMSTRONG VERDICT.

One of his judges speaks upon the subject.

Rev. Chas. H. Strong tells his reasons for reaching a verdict.- He thinks that evidence had been spirited away, but admits that the sentence is quite heavy.

Savannah, Ga., Feb. 8th-(Special). The Times publishes interview this afternoon with Rev. Chas. H. Strong in reference to the trial of Dr. Armstrong. The following extract shows his position:

"What, then, is your judgment regarding the whole matter?"

A. Well, as a simple matter of logical reasoning, if there was not more evidence than what was brought before us - and there was a suspicion that there was some that had not been brought out - I must say that, upon the evidence before the court, I could reach but one conclusion; that he had been guilty of very great imprudence and indiscretion, and deserved at least a admonition from the bishop in regard to his future conduct. Nay, I will go further. As the purity of the church is a treasure that cant be guarded too zealously, there was enough suspicion of evidence of having been spirited away, which did not put in an appearance when expected, as to have justified the court in suspending the doctor temporarily, until this fact could be more thoroughly investigated. But you are asking me about the evidence before the court. Upon that I could not have convicted him, or any other man. Probably the whole story will be published in book form, and I think the most reasoning men, on reacing it, will reach the same conclusion.

Q. Do you not think then that the sentence of the court was too harsh?

A. From my standpoint, of course I do, and I sincerely hope that the bishop, who has not the power to increase but has the power to diminish the sentence, will see best to reduce the term of the doctor's suspension. His own kindly feeling toward Dr. Armstrong, as evidenced throughout the proceedings, furnish some ground for this hope.
