

A LEGAL PECULIARITY.

Lawyer Semple Claims Murderer Lambert
Should be Discharged on the Ground
That He Is Legally Dead.

TO BE ARGUED SATURDAY.

Attorney's Reasons For His Novel Plea—
Bland's Substitute For the Carlisle Cur-
rency Plan—Thinks it Will Solve the Fi-
nance Problem—A Vote on it Will be a
Fair Test of the Silver Question.

By Telegraph to THE PATRIOT.

CAMDEN, N. J., Dec. 19.—A peculiar legal move was made to-day by Lawyer John L. Semple before Judge Garrison in behalf of Theodore Lambert, who is under sentence to be hanged on January 3. Lambert was to have been hung for murder on December 4 last, but Lawyer Semple obtained a reprieve from the governor until January 3, pending an application to the board of pardons for a commutation of sentence. The board refused to interfere and to-day Mr. Semple went into court and asked for the discharge of his client from prison on the ground that he is legally dead.

Mr. Semple's contention was that under the constitution the governor had no right to reprieve Lambert and as he was not executed on the day fixed by law he cannot now be hanged legally and should be discharged as the law has no claim on him. Mr. Semple asked for a writ of habeas corpus to release his client and Judge Garrison set down next Saturday to hear the argument in the case.
