

IN WEST VIRGINIA'S HILLS

The Colored American Scribe Reads a Timely Lesson to Nincompoops in Negro Professional Men—Social and Literary Flashes.

Clarksburg, W. Va., Special.—The congregation of the Water Street M. E. church held a grand rally on Sunday last and notwithstanding the inclement weather, the attendance was very large. Rev. Watson is making preparations to attend the conference to be held in Baltimore early in March.

The Equal Rights League held an interesting session on Monday evening last. President Neison is working hard to arouse the interest of our citizens in this excellent organization and hopes to secure the hearty co-operation of all in the good work it hopes to accomplish.

The Literary Department of the Epworth League held its monthly meeting on Thursday evening last, and drew a large audience. Miss Ruth Sehon read a carefully prepared paper in an interesting manner. The choir rendered several selections and Miss Mamie Brent contributed a pleasing solo.

On Monday evening, January 29th, a very lively debate on the present war in South Africa, entertained a large and appreciative audience at the weekly meeting of the lyceum, held in the A. M. E. church. The question: "Resolved, that England is waging a justifiable war upon the South African Republic," was debated in energetic style. Messrs. Guss and Robinson for the affirmative, made a very comprehensive argument and the judges Revs. Morris and Howard and Mr. Thomas Jones awarded them the decision. Messrs. Wellman and Henry argued in the negative. Miss Lizzie Robinson and Miss Florence Rittenhouse contributed respectively an instrumental solo and a recitation which were liberally applauded. On Monday evening last, Mr. W. Grayson read and discussed Prof. Booker T. Washington's latest speech. Messrs. Watt Colston and George Lewis sang, and were enthusiastically applauded. Both have magnificent voices and with proper training would undoubtedly achieve fame in the musical world as bary tones. The lyceum will soon devote an evening to the memory of Frederick Douglass.

Rev. W. H. Thomas, editor of the Signal of Cumberland, Md., visited the city Saturday, enroute West.

Mr. Grant Lipscomb, formerly of this city but now of Fairmont has been home for several weeks visiting his relatives.

It is reported that Dr. Alf. Jackson, the Fairmount dentist, has become hopelessly insane and is now confined in an asylum. Dr. Jackson has a host of friends here, and much genuine regret is expressed, because of the sad termination of a very promising career.

A painful accident befell Willis, the nine year old of Mr. William Wilkinson, on Monday afternoon. On his way home from school he slipped and fell, breaking his leg above the knee. Dr. Henderson set the broken limb and the little fellow bore the painful operation with remarkable fortitude.

Miss Harriett Page, who has been ill, is once more catering to a number of hungry customers in her well patronized restaurant.

Mr. William Mays of Fairmount, has been visiting the city.

Robert Beckwith fell on the ice

while skating and sustained a painful dislocation of the wrist.

Miss Susie Henderson is the latest victim of La grippe.

Mr. Richard West has resigned his position as head waiter of the Traders.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellman entertained a number of friends at a house warming on Tuesday night last, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by their guests.

Mrs. Lutie Tuck is in the city visiting her mother.

Mr. Samuel Lewis, who has been visiting his sister Mrs. Frank Smith, has returned his home in Uniontown, Pa.

It is much to be regretted that in this age of enlightenment and progress, so many of our colored residents cling to the old ante-bellum idea that a white professional man is superior to the Negro. Influenced by this fallacy, they insist upon the attendance of a white physician in preference to one of their own race, who is often better qualified to treat, skillfully and successfully, those in need of a physicians services than their more favored white brother. What these antiquated people need is an injection of common sense which will develop a little race pride and considerable backbone, to enable them to break away from these erroneous ideas, and patronize a skillful Negro physician, who is never incapacitated from responding to a call by reason of excessive alcoholic indulgences, and who lives an exemplary life.

Mr. Samuel Rittenhouse, the enterprising paper hanger, has contracted for work which will engage him from the present time until late summer. Good work always insures good returns.

Mr. William Frazier has opened a new pool and club room and is doing a land office business.

Mr. Dale Dean is the new Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Pythias lodge here, and is probably the youngest Chancellor Commander in the order.

The many friends of Mr. Guss Green, who has been seriously ill, hope to see him out again soon.

Miss Anna Polndexter, the talented young elocutionist, who has been ill, has recovered.

Mr. Frank Smith is conducting an agency for the Marietta, Ohio, steam laundry and is securing a large patronage. So much for being a hustler.

At Gotham's Capital.

The colored republican contingent at the state capital at Albany is ably represented in both branches of the legislature this year. Major Poole and Perry Baker of New York City are in the Senate. W. H. Mosely of Saratoga, is in the office of the clerk of the Senate. All of them are rendering intelligent and efficient service and deserving of the high praise bestowed on them by their superiors in office. Abe Taylor, of Monroe county, appears to be a fixture, and his broad and ample smile is as conspicuous as his red carnation. W. H. Butler, of New York City, is janitor in the Assembly this year. His assistant, a very intelligent, modest and unassuming gentleman named Johnson Nail, from Brooklyn. Both gentlemen receive \$5.00 per diem and rather enjoy the pleasure it gives them to sign the pay roll and pocket the long green. One of the most capable men employed in the legislature is Mr. Henry A. Spencer of Rochester confidential messenger to Speaker Nixon. Mr. Spencer is a product of the Rochester High School and is a most polished, sensible and courteous gentleman. The messenger to clerk of the assembly is a Mr. Thompson of Elmira who is politically a very smooth article and a fine fellow,

LYNCHING A

FEDERAL CRIME.

State Laws Powerless to Eradicate the Mania for Blood that is Disgracing Our Fair Land—Mr. White's Bill Indorsed.

BY BISHOP ABRAHAM GRANT.

The question of lynching has long been before the American people. It has lost novelty but not force, and the prolonged agitation has at last begun to bear fruit in a condemnatory public opinion that will ere long crystalize into both state and national law. Some years ago, Governor James S. Hogg of Texas, spoke out manfully against lynching, as he does on all questions, and proposed a law for his state the county in which a lynching takes place, for damages. I see that Governor Longino of Mississippi makes a similar recommendation, adding, however, to the effectiveness of the proposition, by providing that nothing but proof that the lynching took place in the county shall be required to secure damages. Those who know how difficult it is to secure identification of the lynchers will see the value of Governor Longino's suggestion.

But public opinion and moral standards vary so much in the different states that we cannot expect general relief from this class of lawlessness by any state statute. The wide spread of mob violence and the disorganizing, disrupting and anarchical effect it has upon society, give it both a nation scope and importance which can only be met by a national enactment such as Congressman George H. White, of North Carolina, has just introduced in the House of Representatives. While I have not read the text of his bill, I am sufficiently acquainted with its general provisions to indorse it. It makes lynching treason to the United States, and places jurisdiction, in consequence, in the United States.

Lynching is a mania as truly as was the old witchcraft evils of our early history, and each case is a manifestation of local fury which unfits the community in which it occurs to try the perpetrators: to say nothing of the sympathy that the judge, elected by the men who have done the lynching, is likely to have for persons indicted for the offence when brought before him. National jurisdiction largely cures all this.

Americans will not much longer indorse the edium of such barbarous practices; especially when in England and in her colonies, such as Sierra Leone, Barbadoes, Bermuda, and India, where there is a large mixed population, both lynchings and the crimes most frequently leading to them are rarely known. There the majesty of the law is upheld, and this respect for orderly procedure, in the punishment of crime is what makes Great Britain the best ruler of alien and opposite peoples in the world. So it should be with us, and it is more imperative in this era of expansion than ever before. In the Eastern, Northern and Western sections of our own country mob violence in punishment of crime is rare. No state ought to feel that its reserved or expressed rights will be trampled upon by a national law which compels a respect for law and order which the states themselves are powerless to bring about, especially when it involves the national question of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for the national citizen.

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