

THE CRIME OF LYNCHING.

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delivered that country from the Spanish yoke of oppression. Very recently the Russians tyrannized and slaughtered hundreds of Jews arousing American sympathy. There is room at home for the American people to begin this humane work; great questions are to be settled; evils to be corrected; wrongs to be righted, before they can clean out the back yards of other people.

The primary cause of this mob violence visited upon us is attributed to the implacable race hatred that has become intensified by the repetition of assaults by the lowest, meanest, and most degraded class of the colored people—only a degree removed from the brute. It is unjust that we must suffer and bow our heads in shame because of these devils in human shape.

I doubt very much if we are as well off politically to-day as we were twenty years or even ten years ago. Let us see briefly: Civil rights bill declared unconstitutional; disfranchisement in nearly every Southern State; not a single colored man in Congress to-day; public sentiment poisoned and inflated against us; wounded in the homes of our friends; slain in nearly every county; snubbed in every place, and despised by every race. We must wake up from our lethargic sleep; put away obsolete ideas; get living thoughts for the present; cut loose from hindrances and view our situation as it really is.

Where are the statesmen of to-day? We have lost such men as Sumner, Garrison, Phillips, Love, Joy, Douglass and others who dared to speak and contend for the right.

The citizens of all well-organized republican forms of government owe an allegiance and they in turn expect protection and must be protected in life, liberty, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness.

No nation is truly great that discriminates and oppresses one class of its citizens. "No chain is stronger than its weakest link."

Surely we are a part and parcel of the people of this great country and can rightfully demand that we be protected even as other citizens, and this guarantee should bring equal and impartial punishment to all offenders of the law.

There was a time when mob violence was practiced in the South, and was inflicted only upon the Negro for his crime against the sacredness of womanhood. But to-day it has spread in all directions until it has come to the cultured North where it is tolerated and even practiced

The progress and frequency of its crimes not limited to any race or sex fill us to-day with horror and alarm over our present condition. This great sin of mobbing men and women to death, not always for an assault on woman, but for other offences, has become a great national disgrace—a blot upon America's escutcheon—scorned and laughed at by the oriental nations of the world.

The exigency of the times and the great seriousness of the question before us require that we stop and deal with it as we find it telling the naked truth and unmistakable facts.

One peculiar feature of mob law is that it takes a thousand white men to kill one Negro, chasing him with bloodhounds over counties, through streams, over mountains, to take the life of one man and often the almost breathless victim begs for time to prove his innocence.

It is charged that we are the only people as a rule that assault womanhood. I ask you, is the charge true? From statistics and reports we certainly are in the lead. It is authoritatively stated: during the last twenty years there have been in round numbers 1,800 cases of lynchings in this country. Six hundred whites and 1,200 Negroes. Sixty per cent. of the Negroes were charged with crimes against womanhood, the other charges were murder, race hatred, impudence, etc. Sixty-six of these were women, 29 of them being white. Last year, in this country, 118 Negroes were lynched, 37 per cent. of whom were charged with crime against woman. Many of the others were perpetrated on slightest provocation—the real cause being race hatred. In the last twenty-five years 3,000 human beings have been put to death by lawless mobs.

Pause a moment and look the field over; I ask again, have you ever heard of the Jews, the Chinese or the wild Indian, or the Italian, if you please, assaulting their own women or women of any race? Such an array of facts is enough to bring the blush of shame to the face of every colored American citizen.

The crime of lynching is not only a crime against humanity; it also becomes a menace to our republic at its very foundations. I am free to admit that there occurs some times such heinous and dastardly crimes that they shock the whole moral sense of a community—so much so that lynching seems to be the proper punishment. A case in point: Those three colored men who assaulted Mrs. Biddle the other day. It seems that the community would have been justified in lynching those culprits, but the state

authorities upheld the majesty of the law and the criminals were imprisoned for 49 years each.

The Governor and officials are to be congratulated by all law-abiding people for upholding the law even if it did take an armed cavalry to carry out its demands.

I've a gleam of hope that lynch law has had its day in our South land. Governors and high officials are beginning to speak against it and act accordingly. The Negroes are beginning to leave the South in large numbers; mills and cotton fields are becoming depleted for lack of Negro labor, and they are going to towns and cities—coming North. The feeling of danger amid mob murders is spreading rapidly among them, many are selling out their homes at great sacrifices and going elsewhere.

The thinking people and those who have large interests there cannot let this continue much longer. They see this would mean industrial disaster to the South, and unless this condition of unrest and unsafety is stopped, a deplorable state of things is bound to follow. A Negro's life in some places, is not regarded any more than a dying mouse in the claws of a cat.

Nor can it be denied that the outrages in the past few months assumed a more horrible character and been occasioned by much less serious offenses than formerly. Let me cite you one or two instances:

A colored man not long ago, was accused of murder. He escaped and his wife fled with him into the dismal swamps of Louisiana. Both were subjected to savage treatment, maimed, killed and burned at the stake.

A still more striking evidence of the brutal spirit of lynching by whites: Two Negroes were lynched who had lynched two men of their own race. Surely this disregard of law can not long continue without serious consequences.

It is also charged that the colored people, in trying to protect the victim of mob violence are condoning the crime. We deny this flatly, but simply ask that the law be carried out and the ends of justice met; that the criminal be proved guilty of the offense and punished accordingly.

We do not desire to condone, palliate or protect any criminal, let his crime be what it may. We hold if it is right to lynch the colored man for assault on woman, for murder, arson, theft, burglary, impudence, or any crime whatsoever, it is also equally right to lynch the white man for the same offense.

We ask, was it right for the

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NEW OFFICERS ELECTED.

The Corporative Mercantile & Investment Company had its regular meeting Wednesday evening September 14th, and elected the following officers: President, Mr. Frank Gaines; Secretary, Mr. James B. Wright; Treasurer, Mr. J. F. Bowie; Mr. John F. Miller, member of the Board of Directors.