

hastened by the early completion of the building in which his institution is to be located.

We have received an invitation to the 29th anniversary of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, April 22, 1897. H. B. FRISSELL, A. M., Principal.

The Jacksonville, Fla. Advocates is relentless in its denunciation of Prof. W. C. O. JACOBS. In its issue of 3rd inst., it publishes a letter from the alleged wife of the Professor. She claims that she was married to him September 21, 1891 at San Antonio, Texas, by Rev. GIBBONS of the M. E. Church.

She is silent upon the question of divorce and according to Prof. JACOBS' statement concerning the same remains unquestioned.

The affair is unfortunate at the best and it is to be regretted that it ever reached public print. The allegation as to bigamy has not at this writing been sustained.

It will be remembered that REV. WILLIAM NELSON (colored) was convicted of complicity in the murder of THOMAS W. THOMPSON (white) and sentenced to be hanged at Charlottesville, Va.

He was subsequently granted a new trial. His alleged partner in the crime declared from the gallows that he (NELSON) was innocent.

The second trial has resulted in a verdict of murder in the second degree, which carries with it confinement in the Virginia penitentiary for eighteen years.

This is rather a peculiar verdict. NELSON should either have been acquitted or acquitted. There is hardly any middle ground. His counsel is commending the advisability of taking an appeal.

If there be good grounds, upon which to base such a course, it should be followed to its logical conclusion.

We have no sympathy with murderers, but we are much interested in seeing that innocent people are not made the victims of miscarriages of the law.

MR. COX'S DEFEAT

The Cincinnati Advocate has the following to say of Mr. GEORGE B. COX whose candidate was defeated recently in the municipal elections at Cincinnati, O.:

"The Negro, like the Germans, Irish, Hebrews or other classes of people are only human after all. There is no denying the fact that George B. Cox has been the best friend to the colored politicians that we ever had in this city. Every office in the courthouse has a representative colored clerk. There are several in the city hall. Had Mr. Cox's ticket been successful last Monday there would have been more clerks appointed. Mr. Cox has given the colored man fair consideration for services rendered.

Our only complaint against Mr. Cox is that he did not give our people as good places as he might have done. There is Wm. Copeland, for example, who has been true and faithful to his boss; there is Mr. Hill and others that we might name, men of ability and worth, men who have the respect of the community and who have a large colored following, now why could not Mr. Cox have appointed the colored man to some position of trust and responsibility, with a decent salary attached to it? It strikes us that Mr. Cox, like other white men, thinks that a position worth \$1,000 a year is enough for a colored man. Now if these are facts about Mr. Cox, what are we to expect from the citizens?"

We do not see that the complaint urged is any legitimate complaint at all. He could not appoint every colored man to office.

Be he Democrat or Republican, Populist or Prohibitionist, men of Mr. Cox stripe should be supported by Afro-American. We remember him as the staunch friend of the lamented Captain JOHN BROWN, who unfortunately has been laid away forever.

Far better d-feat with a man like Mr. Cox, than with victory in support of men who "knew not Joseph."

A GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Richmond, Va., TIMES in its issue of the 10th inst., under the caption of "Improved Public Sentiment" says:

"One of the most hopeful signs in the South is the growing sentiment against lawlessness. It is rarely now that a Southern Governor sends a message to the Legislature of his State, that he does not lay special emphasis on the necessity of observing the law, and in all such cases lynching is denounced as unworthy of a civilized community."

And again:

"The latest of these utterances is from Governor HLOAN of Florida. He expresses his profound regret that there have been lynchings in two counties of his State since his incumbency, and he expresses his conviction that the human life in punishment of crime, the difference between the savage and the civilized being that the latter resorts to courts of justice, so that when life is taken, it is an act of the law, and no individual is responsible therefor. But, he says, if we go back to the methods of the savage in taking human life, where is it to end? Where do we draw the line? The Governor then makes this telling point. Lynching in the South began with the taking of those who committed brutal assaults upon women, but now, he says, men are lynched for murder, and in some sections of the Union for minor offenses. If this is the case, he adds, it will spread to every county, the foundations of our social fabric will be undermined, and our law will be enthroned as governing power."

This has been our contention all along and it is a gratifying fact to us that the people of the South are awakening to the enormity of the crimes committed against civilization by those alleging to be its protectors and defenders.

Again it says:

"It is folly to argue that certain crimes deserve summary punishment, and that the brutes who commit those crimes are not to be punished as their deserts, when they are swung up to the first convenient limb. The first answer to this is found in the remark of Governor HLOAN of Florida, that if individuals is that which differentiates civilization from barbarity. Our constitution guarantees to every man accused of an offense, a fair and impartial trial before a jury of his peers, the opportunity to produce evidence in his defense, and to be represented by counsel. Under the constitution of a civilized nation, a man cannot commit any offense so grave as to deprive himself of this right. More than that, he must also be taken into consideration that the strongest sort of circumstantial evidence is sometimes misleading, and there is no doubt that innocent men who have been lynched by a hot-headed mob, who would have been able to

prove their innocence before the court of justice.

Could logic be more convincing or argument stronger against the crowning infamy of the age—lynching? But the Times speaks truly when it says:

"On the other hand, as we have said, it is demoralizing to any community and injurious to the good name of any community for men to ride rough-shod over the law of the land, and to use on themselves the sacred functions of the courts. These two arguments against lynching are absolutely unanswerable.

Yes, so they are. This journal concludes:

"It is not many years since reputable newspapers did not hesitate to say that lynching was the proper method of dealing with the unparliamentary ingermine. But now there are few papers that hold such views. Nearly all now urge the people to uphold the law under all circumstances. Public sentiment has indeed improved and the press is entitled to its full share of credit for the improvement."

The realization of and practice of the great truths cited will prove to be a lasting benefit to the South from a moral and financial standpoint. Lynching-law must go!

A PEOPULAR CONDITION.

The Richmond, Va., TIMES, in its issue of the 11th inst., discusses "The Passing of the Old Time Negro." It says:

The old time "for de war" Negro is rapidly passing away, and it will not be long before the Negro will be extinct. It is not by any means to be confused with the modern product for he is a distinct genus. We have the highest regard for him, and see him passing away with profound sorrow. He is inseparably associated with the Southern society of ante-bellum days, and the history of the South is in many respects a history of the Negro and his characteristics, and especially his relationship with the family to which he belonged omitted.

And again:

These things are little understood by the people of the North, and not much better by the young folks of the South who hear the Negro called "mister," "uncle," "Tom," "Papa" and "Pop" Miller and others of the kind, and who, as they say, were raised with niggers, and who are used to the Negro dialect and many of his ways, but there is one phase of the subject that has not been committed to print. We refer to the religious teaching of the Negro by their ministers and the old daughters of the men who owned him.

It speaks of Rev. EDWARD L. PELL's efforts to secure data for a history of the South for the moral elevation of the Negro before the war, and says:

Not only did the churches of the South spend large sums of money in missionary work among the blacks, but it was not uncommon for those who owned a large body of slaves to have a preacher employed for their special ministry. Moreover, every white church had a "colored" member, who, as they say, were raised with niggers, and who were used to the Negro dialect and many of his ways, but there is one phase of the subject that has not been committed to print. We refer to the religious teaching of the Negro by their ministers and the old daughters of the men who owned him.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1897.

GERARD is as yet defying the Powers. Turkey is playing a shrewd game and may finally win.

LYNCHING is an abomination that all right thinking and justice-loving people abhor.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY is proceeding cautiously. The colored contingent is getting impatient.

COLORED men are progressing along the lines of industrial development and material progress.

The floods in the West have been disastrous. Thousands are homeless, and government aid has been given.

IT seems that Hon. C. H. J. TAYLOR, the present Recorder of Deeds knows when to keep his mouth shut—his drawing salary.

THE PLANKER is the organ of the people, and we shall do all in our power to make it voice the sentiment of the people it represents.

The outlook is not as bright, as we should like to see it, but we trust that times will improve with the lengthening of Republican rule.

The Cleveland GAZETTE do not refer in its denunciation of RALPH W. TYLER, Esq. It is determined to keep an eye on him in the future.

The Jacksonville, Fla. ADVOCATE is much disgusted over the fact that the divorced wife of Prof. W. C. O. JACOBS, has married again.

COL. W. A. FLEMMER of Georgia should receive substantial recognition. His place is in the United States and we trust that he will be given a position commensurate with his ability and standing in his party.

The train wreck near Harrisburg, N. C., Sunday morning April 11th was terrible, and the loss of life terrific. The serious, if not fatal injury to F. LUIS CHALMERS, a colored porter was a calamity and a heavy blow to our sympathy. He was a typical gentleman, liked by all who knew him.

The United States government has decided to recognize the claims of the Italian government for indemnity to the families of the Italians lynched at New Orleans.

This is as it should be, and the state of Louisiana should be made to reimburse the government and the city of New Orleans made to reimburse the state of Louisiana. This is the only way in which lynching can be stamped out. It must go!

There would-be lynchers of the colored man, WILLIAM CLEMENTS have been indicted by the grand jury of Campbell county, and the commonwealth's attorney declares his intention of prosecuting the parties concerned to the bitter end.

The only arrests made have been JOHN ROSSER (white) brother to the man whom CLEMENTS is alleged to have assaulted and BEN TERRELL (colored). Why the other persons composing the mob have not been arrested is as surprising as it is customary.

Whether the guilty ones are white or colored, we trust that they may be punished to the fullest extent of the law. Lynch-law must go!

The selection of Professor GEORGE BROS HOVEY of the faculty of the Richmond Theological Seminary as principal of Wayland Seminary at Washington will be gratifying news to his many friends here.

He is a young man, possessing rare qualities and signal abilities. He is entirely devoid of race prejudice, and his efforts along the line of the moral, intellectual and religious elevation of our people have been of the most positive kind.

We regret to lose him and indulge in the hope that his return to the city as the Virginia Union University may be

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