

A DUEL BETWEEN NEGROES. How a Question of Social Standing was Settled—Muskets the Weapons.

[From the Philadelphia Times.] Negroes have been known to fight duels in the South. Only two months ago a couple of them, as black as Erebus, met on a dueling field, from which only one returned.

The most conspicuous affair between negroes that I now remember, however, took place in Savannah, or near Savannah, Ga., in 1872. The quarrel hinged on their respective positions in society.

The next night, at his (Eugene's) saloon, Brand declined to do so, using such haughtiness of manner that Eugene was constrained to suggest that perhaps (with emphasis on the phrase) Brand thought the saloon "was a kind of a low place."

Brand, moved by a spirit of truth, was obliged to confess that he did so view it. At this Eugene suggested to Brand that perhaps he considered himself somewhat above his (Eugene's) social scale.

The proposition being readily accepted by Brand, the next question was the method of settlement. It would not do for them to indulge in the old rough-and-tumble "African" fight—"the fight of their fathers!"

They determined to adopt the custom endorsed by the white folks. Eugene, therefore, challenged Brand to meet him in mortal combat. Brand accepted the verbal challenge, named muskets as the weapons, across the river as the place, and the next morning was made verbally. It was agreed that no one should accompany them but the hostess who was to pull them to the place of meeting.

The opposite side reached, the combatants saluted each other stiffly and plunged into the wood. The long bullets in their midst and until a result had been reached it had been determined whether Eugene or Brand stood highest in society.

One of the stipulations was that each man should put just as many bullets in his pistol as he wanted. Taking advantage of this allowance, Eugene poured a full handful of slugs into his musket, and announced himself ready. Brand took his position, and the word was given. It was a definite, well known which gave the word, or how it was managed.

Down in New York, where Col. Bob Ingersoll is on the rampage among sacred things, after his wont, they are singing a song like this: Oh Bob Ingersoll has come out of the West! In all the wide border his tongue is the best.

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