

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

Lifting
Lift, Too!

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, MARCH 2, 1918

Vol. III. No. 32 (Whole No. 137)

Prominent Tennesseans Protest Recent Horror

Press and Pulpit Are at Last Awakened to the Necessity of
Creating Sentiment That Will Result in Suppression
of Southern Savagery.

CONCERNING LYNCHINGS

THIS practice of burning Negro criminals at the stake and subjecting them to torture is rank savagery. It is of no avail to try to excuse or modify it, or call it by any milder name. No really civilized people ever indulged a practice of that kind. The Banner is willing to admit the surprising fact that such outbreaks occurred in communities where refined and cultivated people live, and where all the outward exhibitions of a Christian civilization are found, but such acts in themselves are unmixing savagery and mark a most painful reversion to primitive conditions to the wild men who knew no law, in whom human instincts had not developed and who, lacking the power to administer justice, resorted to merciless cruelty in dealing with those who gave offense.

The Banner hopes to see Tennessee grow beyond the possibility of such revolting deeds, and has long hoped for it, but it is a painful and discouraging fact that they grow more frequent, more violent and are characterized by more sickening exhibitions of barbarity.

The lynching began with hanging Negroes for rape. It was extended to hanging them for all manner of crimes. Then Negroes were burned for rape and now they are burned and tortured for other offenses. Lynchings are placing the South in the ranks of the backward, half-civilized people of the earth, and they must be suppressed.

It doesn't put any better phase on such evil happenings to argue that they have occurred elsewhere. They are wholly evil and without excuse in any place as much as in another, and our own faults need correcting for our own sake, no matter what those of other people in other regions may need. And it is undeniably true that they occur in about the ratio of ten to one in the South.

It avails nothing to rave at the critics of the outside world who condemn us when we have given ample cause for all they say. To torture and burn to death a criminal is not civilization, it is not Christian, and there is no defense for such practice.

There is a large and enlightened element of Tennessee citizenship to whom the sinister aspect of such happenings is wholly apparent, and whose minds are not befogged and whose morals are not blunted by the manner of excuse made in their behalf. This element should vigorously assert itself to oppose such practices, and endeavor to awaken the civil authorities to the duty of preventing them. They should try to create a better, higher and more enlightened public sentiment that will not tolerate or give countenance to anything so utterly intolerable.

The news of these constantly recurring lynchings go abroad, and they make on people of other lands the same manner of impression concerning Southerners that accounts of the massacres of Armenians by Kurds makes on Americans. When the story of such happenings get to other lands the sympathy is all with the victims and the race that suffers. The Southern whites are charged with revolting brutality because of this lynching, and the trouble is that one such deed in a remote locality will be charged to the whole South, and years will not eradicate the reproach it puts upon us.

Mob violence is no proper way to enforce white supremacy. It degrades the white man and argues his inability to keep order or to properly enforce the laws that he has himself created. He can best rule by absolute justice and by commanding universal obedience to law.

And it is the duty of the white men, the ruling class, to the Negroes, whose submission to the law they require, to insure the blacks the full protection of the law and absolute justice in its application to them and their affairs. Nothing less is worthy of a race that asserts its superiority.

It is not the Negro's fault that he is here. He is not an intruder. He

is a native to this soil as much as the whites. He is a human being and he is entitled to full recognition of his living rights and his humanity. He is in many ways exceedingly useful. The South needs his labor and prefers it to any other. There is serious objection to his emigration, and, without any regard to his social and political status, he is entitled to humane treatment and the full protection of the law. Anything else reflects on the white people and works to their detriment more than it does to that of the Negro.

It is an unquestioned fact that no other people in the position of the Negroes would be so tractable and submissive to the dominance of a superior race.

But without regard to this fact it is for the reputation of the whites, for the good of the community in general, for its material prosperity and moral advancement that lynchings should cease, and these horrible exhibitions of mob madness that resort to barbarous cruelty be forever made impossible.—The Nashville Banner, Feb. 14, 1918.

THE LYNCHING ATROCITIES

By the Rt. Rev. Thos. F. Gailor, Bishop of Tennessee, in the Nashville Banner, February 15, 1918.

I AM sure that I express the opinion of thousands of the citizens of Tennessee when I hereby record my solemn protest against the horrible lynching of a Negro man which took place at Estill Springs day before yesterday.

I realize that it is futile to attempt by any written word to stem the tide of what seems to be the popular will; but a man can at least declare his abhorrence of such atrocities.

This kind of lynching seems to be becoming epidemic in our state. About two years ago a Negro from Fayette county was lynched most barbarously near Memphis, and parts of his body according to the newspapers, carried away as souvenirs. Many citizens of Memphis protested, but they were ignored. Last winter a Negro man near Memphis was burned at the stake, gasoline was poured over his body, and his head was cut off and taken through the city streets as a trophy. Last fall a Negro was burned to death in Dyersburg and thousands of white men in charge first tortured the miserable creature with a red-hot iron, "to break his will," while the victim, already shot nearly to death, with one eye hanging out, screamed for mercy, and a thousand white men, with hundreds of women and children, looked on and were not ashamed.

The cruelties practiced in the first instance were designed, it was said, to prevent further crimes; but they have sadly failed of their purpose. And then, in nearly every instance, the officers of the law, having taken a solemn oath to enforce the law, seem to have tamely acquiesced in the law's violation.

It is noteworthy that in only one of these four cases was the Negro charged with assaulting a white woman.

We therefore protest against these lynchings, first, because they are a plain violation of the constitution of the United States and make a mockery of our boasted freedom. Whether we like it or not, the Negro is an American citizen and has a right to a trial before he is punished for a crime. Indeed, the constitution does not limit this right to "citizens," but declares that any "person" accused of a capital crime shall have this right. This is one of the fundamental principles of government and of civilized society, for which our fathers fought and died; and for us to go to war with Germany in defense of liberty and then calmly permit such violations of the common rights of humanity is a monstrous inconsistency. And, secondly, we protest against these enormities of brutality because they are barbarous, indecent and degrading. A Christian woman said to me yesterday: "Please do not mention that lynching at Estill Springs before my little boy. It would

damage his soul even to hear about it." And just think of a human being, a man made in God's image, with his eye shot out and his blood spurting from his wounds, writhing under the tortures of a red-hot iron, and boys and girls looking on and rejoicing in it!

There is an old French proverb, noblesse oblige, and it means that superiority of station involves obligation. The noble man is gracious to his inferiors. The "superior" race proves its superiority by its refinement of feeling and by its courage to be merciful. Noblesse oblige—the superior race damns itself when it adopts the manners and shows the passions of the savage.

So we make our protest, and appeal to the men and women of Tennessee who profess to be Christians and believe the Bible. "Cursed be their wrath, for it was cruel," and "He that is cruel troubleth his own flesh;" and Christ says, "He is kind to the unthankful and to the evil; be therefore merciful."

CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE

By G. C. Brewer, Evangelist, Winchester, Tenn., in Nashville Banner, February 18, 1918.

AS a constant reader of your editorials I have noticed that you always deprecate lynchings in the strongest terms and that you also lament the stigma which these manifestations of savagery and heathenism bring upon our beloved South. I approve the sentiment and heartily endorse your words. But in view of the recent lynching at Estill Springs and in considering our attitude—the attitude of the Banner, and of all the rest of us, toward this shameful crime so shamelessly perpetrated right in our midst I cannot overcome the feeling that our preachment against these things after they happen is more or less of a camouflage; a sort of defense against the criticisms of other states. Why don't we stop these outrages? Will there be any genuine effort made to apprehend and punish the members of the Estill Springs mob? We know there will not be any such effort. There never is. Was there any effort made to prevent mob violence in this case? Let us consider the facts:

The Negro committed the crime Friday afternoon. He was not taken by officers till Tuesday forenoon. We all knew a mob was hunting him and that he would be lynched when taken. County officers were heard to say Friday night that he would be lynched. Newspaper reporters from Nashville come out to report the burning and followed the officers and dogs all night. Yet nobody came from Nashville or from anywhere else to prevent mob violence.

The Negro committed the crime Fri-

day afternoon. He was not taken by officers till Tuesday forenoon. We all knew a mob was hunting him and that he would be lynched when taken. County officers were heard to say Friday night that he would be lynched. Newspaper reporters from Nashville come out to report the burning and followed the officers and dogs all night. Yet nobody came from Nashville or from anywhere else to prevent mob violence.

The Negro was found in Warren county Monday and men from Estill Springs had ample time to go to the scene. Tuesday morning newspapers carried the report that he was found and held at bay. He was captured, after having been wounded about 11 o'clock Tuesday and the report reached Nashville in time to be published in the noon edition of the Banner. I was in Nashville and read the report while at luncheon. The Negro was taken to McMinnville and released by the officers of the law and committed to the men from Estill Springs who I am told were not officers. These men with their prisoner waited for a train at McMinnville and then came on to Tullahoma where they again waited for a train which leaves Nashville at 3:30 p. m. The train came, but did not bring anybody with authority to prevent mob violence. The men with the prisoner boarded the train for Estill Springs. The county jail is at Winchester where he should have been incarcerated and where his trial should have been held and that train came on to Winchester. Nobody in Winchester, however, was expecting the Negro brought there. The crowd had gathered at Estill Springs for everybody knew what was to take place. On the streets of Winchester Evangelist Culpepper made a speech and begged the people not to go to Estill Springs to witness the horrible sight. According to schedule the captors of the Negro got off the train with him at Estill Springs and there he was tortured and burned alive.

Now in view of these facts, and I think they can be verified, it seems useless, nay it seems weak and spineless if not hypocritical for us to send up a lugubrious wail about a certain class of ignorant and misguided people bringing a stain on our state and our South. We are guilty of criminal negligence, if not of acquiescence in the brutal deed, and we would as well confess it with bowed heads and take

what the Northern papers give us. I doubt if they will give us more than we deserve. Yet let it be understood that I am a Southerner, a native of Tennessee and my people on both sides were Confederate soldiers.

I'll tell you there is no use in disguising facts. We all know that the common people of our state understand that nothing will be done when they lynch a "Nigger." In fact there is a sentiment among them—I am one of them; I was reared among them and I have had opportunity to see five lynchings in my life—that a community that would permit a "Nigger" to commit a brutal crime and escape lynching would be untrue to our traditions, devoid of chivalry and lacking in real manhood. No doubt of it. Of course they always expect a few "high brows" and "sissies" to whine when they see the blood or hear the frying flesh but the real men, the real sons of the South, the descendants of the Ku Klux are not going to let a "Nigger" get by with such crimes.

This is the sentiment that exists among a large portion of our people. It is just one of the curses that have been entailed upon us from the days of the carpetbaggers and we need a strong concerted action of the press, the pulpit, the schoolroom, the courtroom and the governor's chair to educate this sentiment out of our people.

Frankly I do not see how we could consistently punish the Estill Springs mob, when no one said to them nay, and they were permitted to go unmolested to the shocking deed.

MISSISSIPPI FOLKS HELP SOLDIER MOVEMENT

Greenville, Miss., Feb. 14.—Last week the Colored Women's Aid society of this city raised \$100 and sent it on to the National Colored Soldiers' Comfort committee at Washington to help along the fund of \$2,000,000 the national committee is raising for relief work. The Colored people of Greenville have only started in their effort to rank first, in proportion to population, in the amount they will raise for the national committee.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL HAS NOT KILLED JIM-CROW SERVICE

Washington, D. C.—Although the government is now in control of the railroads, and the federal statute forbidding discrimination against soldiers in uniform is still the law of the land, Colored soldiers continue to be segregated in jim-crow cars throughout the South. The appeal of the National Negro Academy made to the President the day the railroads passed under government control, has not as yet secured relief from jim-crow cars.

CONDITIONS CHANGING IN CAPITAL CITY

Washington, D. C.—Two advertisements appearing in a Washington daily last week were straws which showed which way the wind is blowing for the race. Both were "Wanted" advertisements. One was that of a leading laundry which advertised for "Educated Colored Girls," and the other was that of a large gentlemen's clothing and furnishing store which advertised for Colored boys as wrappers. Both of these were new openings offered up to the race. The laundry wanted Colored girls for markers, places not heretofore filled by Colored girls, and the employing of Colored boys for wrappers is a new departure for the big men's clothing store mentioned. The war is proving a great leveler up and leveler down.

HOG ISLAND PROBE SHOWS WASTE OF MONEY

Philadelphia, Pa.—The investigation under way at Hog Island shipyard has disclosed the fact that the American International shipbuilding corporation is composed of New York bankers and millionaires who never built a ship and that expenses have exceeded estimates by \$8,000,000 in a period of ninety days. All kinds of fancy salaries were paid men absolutely unacquainted with the science of shipbuilding.

The Negro Soldier of America: What We Are Fighting For

(Written for The Monitor.)

WE fight—and for DEMOCRACY.
Lord, we are glad of this sweet chance
To brave whatever hells there be
Beside the bleeding heart of France!

We fight—for all who suffer pain
We give our souls in sympathy;
We fight that Liberty may reign
From Berlin unto Tennessee.

In Tennessee—where last we saw
Infernal brands of death applied
To men—our men—within the law,
Yet "lawless" as they moaned and died.

In Tennessee—where vain, it seems,
Have been the gifts of passing years;
Where vain have been the eternal dreams
And toil of Lincoln, sad with tears.

In Tennessee—where Life's best part;
Rich "pearls are cast before the swine";
CHRIST'S GOLDEN RULE that rules the heart
And keeps man nearer the Divine.

In Tennessee—where Wrong is Might,
With Hat and Horror on the throne;
Where GOD'S DEMOCRACY OF LIGHT
AND LOVE, it seems, has never shone.

In Tennessee—and all her kin
Of sister criminals, year by year,
Who've lost the consciousness of sin,
The tenderness that is a tear.

We fight—and for DEMOCRACY.
We'll dare Atlantic's tragic foam—
Go "over the top"—Lord, just to see
PEACE AND ITS HAPPINESS AT HOME!

LUCIAN B. WATKINS,
Sergeant (First Class) Medical Department, United States
Army. Field Hospital 366, 92d Division, Camp Funston,
Hotel Warden, Omaha, Neb., Feb. 23, 1918.

Austin, Capital of Lone Star State

Not Only the Seat of Government, But
Also of Important Educational In-
stitutions. Race Progressive and
Prosperous.

IN the midst of a slow, drizzling rain I boarded the I. and G. N. for points north and east. With brief stops at New Braunfels, San Marcos and Kyle I arrived at the city of Austin, the capital of the state, situated on the north bank of the Colorado river, with about 40,000 in population, one-third of which is claimed for the race.

Austin as a capital is very impressive and wears well the honor of being the seat of government of the largest state of the Union. Here are also located the state institutions for the insane, deaf and dumb and blind. As the race is segregated, the institutions provided by the state are equal to those of the other races. The school for the blind is especially worth a visit from any one. You will find that the state is very liberal in its support. It is located in large expansive grounds in modern as well as comfortable buildings in charge of an efficient superintendent and corps of teachers. Here are also located two large colleges promoted for the race by Church foundation. The first, Tillitson Institute, was founded in 1880 by the American Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, whose purpose was to give to boys and girls of our race an opportunity of obtaining a short college course of education. How well they have succeeded is liberally testified to by the many fine men and women you meet in this section of the country who claim Tillitson as their alma mater. The other, Samuel Huston, is of a later date, being established about sixteen years ago. It was named Samuel Huston, not after the first President of the Republic of Texas, but in honor of a philanthropic Iowan who donated the first \$10,000 for the building and support for this school that was established by the Freedmen's Aid Society. It is ideally situated on a large hill overlooking the residential portion of the city. It consists of five large modern buildings, has an enrollment of 872 students under the care and control of Prof. M. S. Davage and a corps of twenty-one able and efficient teachers. East avenue, an exceptionally wide boulevard, leads directly past the main entrance.

There is connected with the college the Eliza Dee Industrial Home for girls. It is the finest in the entire system of Freedmen's Aid Schools. It specializes in home economics. The city of Austin you would like to the city of Washington. Standing on the broad granite steps of the state capitol building, which is the third finest and largest in the United States; built of red granite and finished inside in blue and white marble, both products of the state, and looking south on Congress avenue at the foot of which is the Colorado river, one would imagine himself in Washington and following his gaze along Pennsylvania avenue down to the Potomac. Strange coincidence of topography and scenery, one the capital of the great United States, the other the capital of the largest state.

Austin is the city of homes, 80 per cent of the race owning or buying their homes. They are well represented in the business and professional world as well as holding positions of merit in both state and governmental service. I bade farewell to Austin Thursday morning for Round Rock, which lays no claim to prominence other than it is the place where forty years ago was killed the famous outlaw, Sam Bass. I spent a day here and passed on to Taylor, my next stop. After a busy day I jumped to Thrall, where lives relative number two, my cousin, Mrs. Helen Lafond. Today finds me preparing to move on after spending four pleasant yet wet days as the guest of Prof. and Mrs. J. H. Lafond, who are engaged in educational work at this point, he being principal of the city school. I only intended to spend Sunday here, but the long looked for, gladly welcomed, yet disagreeable rains came and I had to—well, if you have ever been in the black land county in a rainy season you know what everybody has to do—stay in doors, of course.

Well, the rain has ceased and the sun and wind are rapidly drying things up and I am about to be on my way again.

FRED C. WILLIAMS,

BUY
ANOTHER
WAR SAVINGS
STAMP