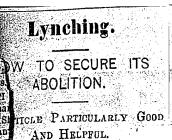
Lynching.: TO SECURE ITS ABOLITON. PARTICULARLY GOOD AND HELPFUL. Afro-American (1893-); Mar 19, 1898; ProQuest



tever may be the remedy for law as d outbreaks, lynch will never be supidemic d by ignoring the conditions keep the atmosphere infectthe germs of the lynching Briefly stated these condiato 1 the prevalence of crime the blacks and 2 the prevof race prejudice among the A serious difficulty which afronted the student of the m from the beginning is the ir disposition to ignore either the other of these condi-For a long while the triends Negro at the north saw to account for the infected of the atmosphere but race dice, while the average south-ould see nothing but Negro In answer to the charge prejudice the southerner point to the statistics, which ed that nearly one-fifth of the ns of lynch law were whites Oft-Ropcated Statement. answer to the oft repeated ment that iynch law was in-d by Negro crime of a pecurevolting character, the ds of the Negro pointed with I confidence to the same stawhich showed that for a derable period hardly one-of the victims of the mob charged with the crime ist female virtue, while not a vere lynched for comparative-ivial offenses. Lately, howivial offenses. Lately, how-there has been a marked gvement in the spirit of both to the controversy, and es is among the more intellia growing disposition to face onditions as they actually ex-It is not an uncommon thing ject a southerner who fully tes how small a matter in the of the masses is the life of a o, and only those who are interested in making the h than in making apologies will deny that a colored skin acts as a red flag to the fury mob. Nor is it uncommon et northern visitors in the who have awakened to the liat the crime against female hasa prominence in a lynchpidemic that it does not have e published statistics.

Both Sides of the Line.

is recent manifestation of a sition on both sides of the line ice the problem in the only eous way offers, it would seem orable opportunity to inquire can be done to eradicate or That nish the lynchiug evil. problem is an exceedingly cone is apparent when it is e one is mbered that within the past n years nearly 2,500 persons been lynched in the United s, and that during this period has been little practical the general situation. The general situation. The been improvement in or three states—notably in min—and there are indica-hat in several other states (continent has begin to **c sentiment has begun** to allize against the evil; but changes have not yet mate-affected the grand total in nnual statistics of lynching. e years ago the South Caro-stature enacted a law mak-county in which a lynching light in exemplary dam-o, the legal representa-by the legal representa-to person lynched, and brzing the county against a judgment has been ob-d for damages in any case of hing to recover the amount of indgment from the parties enhing to recover the amount of indgment from the parties en-d in the lynching! About ametime Governor O Ferrall, smessage to the Virginia leg-ine, recommended that the twin which a lynching occurs onired to pay into the state my a sum not exceeding 100 for the benefit of the pub-ineo ffund Recommendations similar character were subse-

quantly made by the governors of Maryland and Georgia. It was believed by the more enthusiastic advocates of these measures that a pecuniary penalty placed upon an entire county would result in eventually bringing the most unenlightened community to its senses; but as mob leaders are not ordinarily tax-payers, and as they are not apt to be influenced by exhortations to righteousness from tax-paying neighbors who cannot to exhort except by be moved threats aimed at their pockets, it is not likely that any great good would come out of it. The prac-tical value of the South Carolina law has not yet been established. * * The indifferent attitude attitude

of white people toward the young Negro is another serious hiu to moral progress. drance his Sontherners are not indifferent to the "old-time darky"-a type now nearly extinct—but they feel no interest in the new Negro. They taxes to send him to pay their school, but they pay them for con-science' sake and not with any with any ure. The lively interest in his future. fact is, the majority of them be-lieve that there is no future in him. This is a more serious matter than one who is unfamiliar with the Negro character would imagine. The New Negro.

It is often said that the new Negroes are not drawn to the white groes are not drawn to the white people as their fathers were; but while they stand aloof there is nothing which an inspiring youth of the better type desires so much as the good opinion of white peo-ple. It is nothing to him to be honored by his own race if the superior race refuses to see any difference between him and the low difference between him and the low mass from which he has risen. That is all he is complaining of that we insist on counting him in the unclean mass. We do not encourage him to lead a virtuous life. He no longer asks for social he no longer wants it; equalitybut what he does want and what he has the right to ask is a recog-nition of the lines which his own strivings and the strivings of others of his sort are making in the race. He wants to be distinguished from those who do not strive. To adopt his own phrase, he wants to be distinguished from a "nigger." It is time for the people of the couth (and the people of the north, for that matter, to accord to him this right. It is time we were putting virtue for the premium upon a young Negro, employing virtuous Negroes preferably to others, and in every way possible showing the new generation that the colored youth who strives to rise is held in honor by the white race.

Special Legislation Needed.

T. sum up: Not to mention the special legislation that may be needed in some of the states to secure a better enforcement of the laws in existence, these six things ought to be done for the preven-tion of lynch-law epidemics: 1 Executive officials should be chos-en with regard for their personal courage. It is not enough to know how the candidate stands on the law: the question is whether he can be depended upon to stand by the law. 2 The intelligent citizens of the South should individually undertake to awaken in their neighbors a his her regard for law. 3 The papers of the two sections should exchange texts, and the northern press should preach against lawlessness and race prejudice. The good that has already, been accomplianed by the few papers that have made this exchange oughs to encourage the rest to tol-low their example. 4 Southern low their example. 4 Southern newspapors should omit from their news columns the suggestive de-tails of lynchings as well as the inflammatory, details of assaults. 5 The higher education of Negroes should be pushed with a view to supplying the demand, for capable teachers of, righteousness for the race 6 The south should take the worthy Negro by the hand as carnestly as the mob has taken the unworthy Negro by the neck, and unworthy Negro by the neck, and encourage him in all high endeavor that the race may not be without salt to save it. — Edward L. Pell, in the March American Monthly Review of Reviews, New York.

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