

## The Wilmington Lynching.

Never has there been witnessed in any of the Southern States a more ferocious punishment of a hideous crime than was inflicted in Wilmington, Del., on the morning of June 23 on the negro assailant and murderer of a young white woman, the daughter of Rev. Dr. E. A. Bishop. This deplorable outburst of savagery might probably have been averted had the Delaware judges granted the request of the Attorney-General of the State that a court might be convoked and a grand jury impaneled, so that the accused person might be speedily indicted and tried. \* \* \*

Hereafter when Southerners are reproached for outbreaks of mob violence in their section under like provocation they will be able to point to the scene enacted in Wilmington, Del., as a proof that the passions of white men are not changed by geographical lines. What really has changed in both sections is the attitude of the negro toward white women. As we pointed out not long ago, there is not a recorded example of an assault having been committed on a white woman by a negro in the Southern States before the Civil War, nor, as far as we know, was there a single instance of such an offense in the Northern States either, during the antebellum epoch, although some of them contained a good many negro inhabitants. That is why we are justified in speaking of the "new" negro crime, and may well ask ourselves to what deep-seated and far-reaching causes the phenomenon should be attributed. We, ourselves, as we have formerly said, are inclined to think it directly traceable to the notions of equality implanted in ignorant and brutal negroes by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the Federal Constitution and by the practical applications thereof in the carpetbag governments of the Reconstruction period and in the deference paid in many Northern States to the negro vote. A telling piece of evidence in favor of this theory is the fact, if it be one—it is reported on good authority—that in Mississippi, since the blacks were practically disfranchised in that State, there has not been a single instance of the crime against white women. Before the new State Constitution of Mississippi became operative the crime was by no means infrequent in that Commonwealth, and it provoked just such summary vengeance as was visited upon it in Wilmington. The truth seems to be that in such cases the laws, as commonly administered, are felt to be too slow and inefficient to satisfy an outraged sense of justice and the instinct of a racial self-preservation from loathsome contamination.—Harper's Weekly.