

New York Age—Feb. 18, 1893

THE REIGN OF MOB LAW
Iola's Opinion of Doings in the Southern Field.

The lynching epidemic still rages in Texas. Gov. Hogg denounced the lynchers, who burned Henry Smith as murderers, telegraphed the District Attorney and sheriff of Lamar County, where the burning occurred, to discharge their duty and make complaint and report those known to have been engaged in the lynching. . . . The mob has so little fear and so great contempt of the Governor, the sheriff and the District Attorney that it went a few days later February 7th and lynched Will Butler.

Will Butler was a stepson of Henry Smith, the man who was burned alive, and made himself notorious during the search for Smith by claiming to know his whereabouts which he would not divulge"— so said the dispatches. Hence, because Will Butler did not tell where his step-father was, he too was lynched. . . .

New Orleans, Jan. 21— A mob of masked men broke into the jail last night at Convent, St. Joseph Parish and forced the jailer to open the cells of Robert Landy and Pick George, who were incarcerated there, one for garroting and robbing a telegraph operator at Dehon Station and the other for murdering a man named Denhorst.

Both were taken to a shed and lynched. Our race still sits and does nothing about it and say little except to doubt the expediency of or find fault with the remedy proposed, ^{no plan of Raising money} by which the things can be investigated, the country abused and the temple of justice, the pulpit and the press besieged until public opinion shall demand a cessation of the reign of barbarism, lynch law and stake burning. No money and little support to give to this work, but some of our prominent men and women have put their names on a circular asking the race to give entertainments on March 9, to raise money to defray the expenses of a most comfortable "day of praise at the World Fair August 17, to be known as "Afro American Jubilee Day." . . . Even if the condition

of our race was not so serious in this country, the whole thing is lacking in dignity, self respect and judgement to say nothing of good taste.

March 9th is the anniversary of one of the most diabolical lynchings in this country. One year ago, on that day, three of our best young men were lynched in Memphis, and it could more appropriately be a day of mourning.

The idea of a separate day at the fair in which the race is to pose before the world in an attitude of worship and supplication, is a mockery on its face... So it seems to me, and though my judgement may be at fault, I decline to the use of my name and gave these reasons therefor.

Afro American Jubilee Committee:

I cannot permit the use of my name on the circular which has been sent out asking the race to give entertainments to pay the expenses of the contemplated Jubilee Day at the World's Fair in Chicago. I see most of the exchanges, and feel sure had there been any movement of the race at large which appointed officials to speak for and represent us in making such appeal something would have been published concerning it. The eight persons who constitute this commission must have been ^{un}authorized by the Afro Americans of Massachusetts as all of the officers and half of the members of this commission are Massachusetts men and women. If Massachusetts did this, it is too much for the Old Bay State to speak for the entire race in this matter.

Therefore the committee in issuing this circular has usurped an authority which does not belong to it and which will be repudiated by the Race in the United States. The world's Columbus Exposition Managers have persistently ignored and refused recognition in every department of the work. Not content with the slights and snubs we have received, some persons have begged for one day in which to exhibit the race to the world in a mockery of worship of the Most High. The World's Fair Joint Committee

of Ceremonies has yielded to this prayer evidently on condition that the race defray the expenses of such wondrous concession on its part. I believe that the majority of the race is willing that the World Fair Columbus Exposition shall continue to the end the policy of ignoring the Afro Americans which has characterized its action.

They are far too selfrespecting to seize the crumb thrown at the last moment. And will reject the action of those who not only are ready to grasp it, but under the cloak of religion pretend to illustrate the races progress or believe it can be exhibited in one day by a few musicians.

IDA, ^{B.}WELLS BARNETT. (*He was not married in 1893*)

Editorial N.Y. Age Sept. 19, 1891

THE LYNCHERS WINCES

The Jackson (Miss) Tribune and Sun, and the Memphis (Tenn) Daily Commercial Appeal are squirming in great shape over the outspoken sentiments of the "Memphis Free Speech" commending the retaliatory measures adopted by the Afro*Americans of Georgetown, Ky., in revenge for the lynching of one of its members. The Sun insists that the people of Memphis should proceed to muzzle the "Free Speech", and the Commercial Appeal drops into philosophy and declares that two wrongs do not make one right; and that while white people should stick to the law, if they do not do so, the blacks can hope for nothing but extermination if they attempt to defend themselves.

This is a cowardly argument. Fundamentally men have an inherent right to defend themselves, when lawful authority refuses to do it for them; and when a whole community makes itself responsible for a crime it should be held responsible... The way to prevent retaliation is to prevent the lynching. Human nature is human nature.

N.Y. Coe Feb 18, 1893

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Sol's Opinion of Doings in the Southern Field.

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2 Contd.

Our own race still sits and does nothing about it and say little except to doubt the expediency of or find fault with the remedy proposed. No plan of raising money by:

(Nat. Council of Negro Democrats) ~~at~~
meeting at YWCA - 9th + R. St and Sat
Evening at Detroit, Chr
ally Jasiah Henry, Baltimore, Md
Tans of Ohio
meeting at Henry Hotel + YWCA, (Sat)

by which the things can be investigated, the country aroused and the temple of justice, the pulpit + press besieged until public opinion shall demand a cessation of the reign of barbarism, lynch law and stake-burning. No money + little support to give to this work, but some of our prominent men + women have put their names on a circular asking the race to give entertainments on Mon 9th, to raise money, to defray the expenses of a most comfortable "day of praise" at the World Fair Aug 17,

3 Continues

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Editorial Sept 19-1891

The Lyncher's Revenge

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(Tenn) Daily Commercial Appeal are squirming in great
shape ~~over~~ the outspoken sentiments of the Memphis
'Free Speech' commenting the retaliatory measures
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