IDA J. WELLS SPEAKS

SHE DENOUNCES THE WHOLESALE
LYNCHING IN TENNESSEE,

And Says It Is High Time Steps Were
Taken to Make Such Crimes
Impossible.

CHICAGO, Sept. 2.—Ida J. Wells, the
young colored woman whose work on the
lecture platform here and abroad in be-
half of the anti-lynching movement has
made her name well known, could scarcely
restrain her emotion when she read the
published account of the fate visited upon
six of her race near Millington, Tenn.

"Granting that those men were guilty
of the crime charged," she said, "there
is no other place in the world where a
capital offense is made of burning barns. I
scarcely knew what to say of the men
who are responsible for this butchery.
This last example of lynch law is but a
sample of the sort of things done in the
South. The white men down there do not
think any more of killing a negro than
they do of slaying a mad dog. This inci-
dent serves to back up the contention that
the negroes are not lynched solely for the
perpetration of foul crimes, notwithstanding
the symposium contributed recently
to a New York newspaper by a number
of Southern Congressmen, reaffirming that
lynching seldom or never took place in
the South except for crimes committed
against women and children. An excuse
is made by the whites for the purpose of
shielding themselves and leaving them
free to murder all the negroes they wish.
Despite the history of races and nations,
the Southern white man vainly believes he
can keep down an entire race by such
methods of oppression and intimidation.
The South has more than once insisted
upon being left alone with the negro prob-
lem. The Nation has obligingly accommo-
dated her, and to-day the spectacle is pre-
sented of a so-called civilized country
standing idly by and seeing one section
disgrace the entire country. I think it is
high time the justice-loving and law-abidi-
ng people should take some steps to make
such acts

This copy contains the complete text of the
original document, which has been discarded
because of its poor physical condition.