

"God has raised up a modern Deborah in the person of Miss ~~I~~ha B. Wells, whose voice has been heard throughout England and the United States wherever it was safe for her to go, pleading as only she can plead for justice and fair treatment to be given her ~~xx~~ long-suffering and unhappy people.

She is now engaged in lecturing and organizing Anti-Lynching Leagues in many of the Northern cities.

We believe the same God who raised up Moses and Joshua to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage, the same God who raised up Lincoln and Grant to 'break every yoke, and let the oppressed go free', has raised up this courageous and eloquent young woman that in the language of the prophet, she might 'cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions and their sins.'

We believe that God delivered her from being lynched at Memphis, that by her portrayal of the burnings at Paris, Texas, Texarcana Arkansas and elsewhere she might light a flame of righteous indignation in England and America which, by God's grace will never be extinguished until a Negro's life is as safe in Mississippi as in Massachusetts or Rhode Island.

Why did they destroy her press at Memphis? <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> For the same reason that they destroyed Lovejoy's and Clay's; because she had the courage of her convictions and told the truth relative th the awful lynching which took place in Memphis. Miss Wells' paper was the only one in that city which was courageous enough to vindicate the victims and demand the punishment of their murderers

"THE WHITE SIDE OF A BLACK SUBJECT"

BY pages 381 ff.

REV. NORMAN B. WOOD

American Publishing House, 325, 354 and 356 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, Ill.  
1897

"On the night of August 31, 1894, six Negroes had been arrested charged with barn-burning; they were chained together in a wagon en route from Kerrville to Memphis.

The prisoners were under the charge of deputy sheriff and detective W.S. Richardson and A.T. Atkinson, who was driving the wagon. When two miles from Lucy, they came to a bridge which was unsafe. Turning off the road to go around it, they were surrounded by fifty men with guns, and the poor helpless victims pleading for mercy, were shot to pieces and having been thrown out of the wagon, another volley was poured into them in pure fiendish wantonness after they were dead.

The Southern papers.....especially in Tennessee, are...denouncing the cowardly murders in their own boundaries, and demanding that they shall be brought to the gallows. Criminal court was in session at Memphis and Judge Cooper, who presides, summoned Richardson before him heard his statement, and believing him guilty of knowingly leading the Negroes into a death trap issued a warrant and had him arrested. The judge then ~~was~~ laid the matter before the grand jury, and went in person to see Governor Turney, who promptly offered \$5,000. for the arrest and conviction of the murderers. Eighteen men are now in jail charged with this crime. The plot has been laid bare in all its hideousness. Memphis has found out that the contempt of the civilized world is a penalty not to be desired, as the following editorial from one of her leading dailies, "The Commercial" demonstrates.

"Men of Memphis, men of Shelby County, brave chivalrous men of the South, shall this bloody record stand against us? Can we look civilization in the face while we stand thus accused? Can we be silent and inactive and remain guiltless of the bloodshed of these poor wretches and guiltless of the crimes that are to follow? Aside from all considerations affecting our more selfish and material interests, this case makes an appeal to humanity that nothing but a heart of stone can resist. The widows and orphans of these murdered men left helpless and destitute are human beings. They know and feel the agony of grief as your wives and children would know and feel it under the same horrible circumstances. It there be a God in heaven, his judgement must descend in wrath and fire upon a people that suffer such things to be." "