

The Courier-Journal

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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 behalf 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 know 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 incident 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 problem. The Nation has obligingly accommodated her, and to-day the spectacle is presented 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-abiding people should take some steps to make such acts impossible."