

WEEKLY CALL, TOPEKA July 21, 1894

FROM THOMAS FORTUNE

To the Presidents of the Local Leagues and the Afro-American League of the United States, Greeting:

We have reached a period in our contention for justice under the Federal Constitution and the constitutions of the several States and for an honorable and Christian consideration of our manhood rights, when a decent regard for the opinions of mankind demands that we should enter a concerted and emphatic protest against the mob spirit abroad in the Republic and the unanimous action of the white citizens of the Southern States, backed up by their newspapers and the news service of the South, to break down the testimony given by Miss Ida B. Wells to the British public as to the extent of race prejudice, and mob violence in the United States, whereof we are the victims without due process of law and in defiance of Constitutional guarantees, State and Federal. The necessity is upon us to give voice to the grievous wrongs inflicted upon the race... to the end that the British public may not be deceived by the avalanche of misrepresentations which is now being poured into Great Britain by white men of the South who feel that they are being injured in their financial standing before the world by the plain, blunt, truthful statement of the facts which has been made to the British public by a woman of the race whose reputation is being assailed with all the malignancy and mendacity which desperate men employ in a hopeless and dishonorable cause.

In view of these facts and by virtue of the authority conferred upon me as President of the Afro-American League of the United States, I hereby direct that the presidents of all local leagues call mass meetings under the auspices of their league, on Monday evening July 16th, and take such action as may be considered wise and judicious, and forward to me as soon as possible a certified copy of such action.

Invoking the Divine favor and the sympathy of mankind everywhere.

T. THOMAS FORTUNE