

THE LYNCHING OF HOWARD COOPER.

Opinions of the Press of Maryland.

As was perfectly natural the lynching of Howard Cooper has called forth comment pro and con from some of our brethren of the county press, which we append:

We will first give what a colored minister, Rev. J. N. Gilmore, said at St. James' African Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore. We will inflict the JOURNAL'S readers with all the Reverend gentlemen said, as reported by the Baltimore American, so that it may not be said that we published garbled extracts. The subject of his sermon was, "Why Howard Cooper Was Lynched."

We publish the extracts below for the purpose of showing the sentiment of the people of Maryland, in view of the terrible events which have taken place, that something is certainly wrong with the liberty which is allowed the legal profession to take captious action in, especially, criminal cases. It is a notorious fact that no matter how heastly or horrible a crime may have been committed by any beast in human shape, or how pointed or positive the proof of guilt may be, the most guilty wretch may sue for a new trial, or carry his case to the Court of Appeals upon a bare technicality of law. The question of his absolute guilt may not be an issue, a bare technicality controlling the case. This is exactly the case of Cooper.

There is not a single living soul in Baltimore county or in the State who believed him innocent. He himself confessed his guilt. Yet his counsel, upon the empty pretext that colored men had been denied service upon the Grand Jury of Baltimore county, which indicted him, is sufficient ground upon which to take his case before the Supreme Court of the United States, merely because that Court would be asked to review his case in accordance with the 15th Amendment to the Constitution which was passed to grant certain political rights to colored people. The guilt or innocence of Cooper would have been no issue before the Court.— Rightfully did the people believe that such a course would be tampering with and nullifying the solemn act of the Grand Jury of Baltimore County, the solemn act of the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, and the unanimous opinion of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Every man and woman and every child of maturity knows that the taking of the life of Cooper was a violation of the statutory law, and they do not defend the act as one of law, neither do they waste any lachrymal fluid because of the infraction of the law. The act of the body of lynchers was one of that kind of "higher law," that first law of Nature, of self-preservation; that stands above all human laws, when those laws fail to give the relief they are designed to give and are perverted. Cooper's counsel did not claim that he was innocent, or were there any mitigating circumstances. All they wanted to do was to take his case before the Supreme Court upon the bare technicality of a political right supposed to be granted colored people by the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Cooper's counsel do not claim that if his case were sent back to Baltimore county and he were re-indicted, that he would not again be convicted.

In the extracts to be found below we have not published the awful wails of one or two of the daily press of Baltimore upon Cooper's taking off and the infraacted law. If we published such extracts they would not tally with the accounts which appeared in their columns after the commission of the crime, when they lashed the community to a frenzy of fury in horror by their recital of the beastly crime.

We have another and a more important object in publishing these extracts, and that is, to deeply impress upon the minds of the people

chief which the most litigious attorney may fancy lurks in the prosecution. Howard Cooper's case is a case in point, and one that may well bid his eager attorneys wonder whether the wrong they indirectly caused to be done is not a thousand-fold greater outrage on the State than the darkest coloring could portray the wrong they claimed to be trying to avert. There was nothing but the faintest quibble in the point they sought so industriously to make and they must have known that it did not in the slightest affect the question of the malefactor's guilt. All they could hope to achieve was a little longer lease of life for a wretch who was unfit to enjoy it, and a possible reputation for themselves as persistent contenders. In seeking it they ran the perilous risk of firing tow that might envelop the State. It may be that retribution is at times the only vindication, and it may be that the undue zeal of irresponsible representatives of a bad cause has too much to do with making it so."

Calvert (Prince Frederick) Journal:

"Howard Cooper was guilty of a most atrocious crime, and deserved the full penalty of the law that he had been sentenced to receive, but no law-abiding citizen can justify the crime of which a few of the citizens of Baltimore county were guilty when they took him from the Towson jail last Monday morning and lynched him to the nearest tree. The strictest search should be made to find the lynchers, and put a stop to these uncivilized procedures."

Rising Sun (Cecil) Journal:

"At 1 o'clock on Monday last a party of armed men appeared at the Baltimore county jail in Towson and, overpowering the Sheriff, took Howard Cooper from the jail and hanged him to a neighboring tree. Cooper was a colored man, who had been convicted and sentenced to be hung for committing a rape on a young white girl. His lawyer had appealed his case to the Court of Appeals of Maryland, which confirmed the judgment of the lower Court, but the lawyer was preparing to take his case up to the Supreme Court, if the colored population would raise the necessary funds. This kind of trifling with justice outraged the people who cut short the business by hanging."

Cecil Whig:

"It is true that his case had been taken to the Court of Appeals upon a technical point. There was no delay there. The highest appellate court of the State promptly decided against him. There was not the slightest possibility of any other final issue had his case been taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. Every case in which a mob anticipates the action of our constituted State authorities necessarily weakens the popular respect for law and the dignity of our Courts. There has been, it is true, an unwelcome number of similar assaults recently in this State."

Wicamico Record:

"The lynching was the result of an attempt to take Cooper's case on technical grounds to the Supreme Court of the U. S., after he had been convicted and the Court of Appeals of Maryland had sustained the lower court."

"Thus perished the perpetrator of one of the most outrageous crimes in the annals of Maryland. The people holding the safety of their family above the subtleties, intricacies and delays of the law, thus taking the law in their own hands and giving a terrible warning to criminals, to beware in future, or suffer the consequences of their crimes."

Bel Air Democrat:

"If there ever was a case where lynching was justifiable this was the case. And although there will be a general regret that Cooper's execution was not within the forms of law, there will be no regret that one of the most infamous and brutal wretches of modern times has suffered the penalty of his crimes. But for the delays allowed by the law, this lynching would never have taken place, and it is well worth considering, not only in this but in other States, what modification should be made in our criminal procedure. With money enough to hire attorneys and "fix" juries, it is almost impossible to punish the most notorious offenders. In New York the swindler Fish, who fifteen months ago defrauded the people of millions of dollars, is still untried; and in Baltimore, Pearre, who was convicted by a jury of an attempted assault on a lady, is yet at large awaiting the decision of a higher court on a technicality. While all proper safeguards should be thrown around the accused, to insure them a fair trial, there should be a limit to the law's liberality, and when there is made out a prima facie case of guilt they should be more than technically confined, and means should be provided for their sure and swift punishment. All over the country lynch law prevails to an alarming extent, and there is no greater contributing cause for it than the uncertainty and inadequacy of the punishment of the worst criminals."

Democrat Advocate, Westminster:

"The crime for which Cooper was convicted is the most revolting, and is punishable by death. Murder is punishable by death also; but it is rare that the people visit vengeance upon a murderer. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the law is allowed to take its course. It is often permitted to do so in crimes for which Cooper suffered death; but those of that character have been so numerous in this State the past three or four months that summary punishment was deemed necessary. When Townsend Cook assaulted Mrs. Knott, in this county, his was the seventh or eighth that had been committed in this State within two months. The people were prompted to violence in his case because of the frequency of the crime and the delay in the Cooper trial. Since Cook was awung up no further assaults by colored men on white women have occurred in Maryland. The fate of Cooper will have a still further influence to protect the women of this State."

"Lawyers, too, had better note the fact that legal quibbling and delays in such cases may result in

Correspondence of the Maryland Journal

OUR BALTIMORE LETTER

Monument—Humiliating... Strange Beasts... Baltimore--Are Y... Temperance Allian... Punitism... How to Cure... Alleged Geography

Baltimore, July 24

The "Baltimore Monument," in front of the City Office, has become so venerable that persons now-a-days give it even a notice. Artistically, it has no merit; and its sole practicalness is the record on its shaft of the names of ancient persons who "fit, bled and North Point, or thereabouts, on that day when the British Gen. Ross vainly pronounced that "he intended to eat that morning in Baltimore or thereabouts. There is unquestioned record that he did not breakfast in Baltimore; and must never dispute a gallant warrior you are obliged to consent that his matutinal refreshments in Satar. The names recorded on the shaft are rendered somewhat obscure to the average School scholar by the fact that idiotically inscribed in the Latin tongue, as that tongue could be made to do, Gaius for Bill, and Jacobus for James. There is a peculiarity of the monument has never been satisfactorily explained ago a singularly-attired gentleman stood in front of Guy's Old Monument House and asked for a translation of the book at which he was gazing. And he read it in my usual accurate style. I had given him a thrilling version of the remarkable Apocalyptic beasts which disfigure the four upper corners of the story of the concern, he pleasantly suggested I was slightly off in my nomenclature; and that the design of the monument must have had a severe jim-jams when he conceived said horrors. A strangely-dressed gentleman was, I afterwards knew, Charles Dickens, the novelist, who was then giving "reading parties" in the blasted country.

I have often thought of his remarking those strange marble beasts, and to all questions addressed to intelligence have been told that the animals are griffins. Seeking further information, I find a griffin is an animal generated between an eagle, having the body and limbs of a lion, and the head and wings of an eagle. But all the heraldic pictures of the eagle's claws to its front feet, and its ears atop its beak. Consequently, Monument beasts are not griffins, but are baldly short in the matter of ears. What are they, then? I am almost to place on record, from the heraldic pen-photograph of our monument makers: "Opinicus, one of the fabulous known in Heraldry, with the head of an eagle, wings; the body of a lion, like that of a camel: which was the Company of Barbers of London." Le abominable fact, I wept over the idea that our emblematic memorial of majesty is really nothing more than a pole after all! The Italian fellow upon us this ineffable and iniquitous as dead as Cristoforo Colombo, or was amply justifiable in lynching him as for with the same prompt rope. was Capelleno, and as a large proportion imported Italians are barbers we can count for the barber-crest so lovingly appropriated sculpted upon our marble of Baltimore's Defenders.

Thus, one by one, the roses and lilies of romantic history do become transugly and noisome weeds. Alas! I am afraid that, a century hence, there will be like discovery as to the Barye breed that now tinge with gloom the sacred of Mt. Vernon Place. There will be scientific doubts as to the species of animals as chairs by the warriors, and it will be mously voted that the present bronze to conceive of a cow being made into a chair? And the exceedingly un-likely will be relegated to the "Opinicus" to some equally impossible breed of animals.

The population of this city has been by the addition of about one hundred men, who have taught us their habit of spitting upon shirts preparatory to them. They dabble a little, also, in the methods of Sunday School Christian eye to business. But their chief lies in the fact that they are rapid

of Baltimore county that when they elect members of the General Assembly the coming fall to demand of them some revision of the criminal code to prevent just such scenes as have taken place, not only in Baltimore county but elsewhere in the State.

"The congregation was small, but seemed to endorse all he said. The impression prevails, he said, that Cooper was injudicious in the time he chose to demand his rights. He was sentenced to be hanged on the 31st of the present month. There was not a colored man who breathed any spirit of desire to take him by force from the law, but we did wish to see that he had a fair trial, because of the discrimination made in selecting the jury, and, second, because of the unfair conduct of the trial.— These men who publicly made efforts to bring his case before the Supreme Court had no more intention of screening a guilty man than the lynchers had. Possibly some of the lynchers were relations of the man who, a few years ago, sprang from the bushes one night and committed an outrage on the sweet and innocent life of Cooper's mother. That was all right. Her skin was of a dusky color.— "Because of efforts to bring the case to the Supreme Court." That is the reason given in the newspapers. I don't make it. This was the cause of the lynching, and not the crime. It shows that there were fears that Cooper would obtain another hearing. It shows conclusively that they thought he would get a new trial. If not, why did they put him out of the way? They doubted the evidence and the circumstances under which he was adjudged guilty. In addition to which, Miss Gray would be again brought into Court to give her evidence. Fifty men kill Cooper to prevent the necessity of her appearing in Court, because modesty makes her reluctant to testify to her innocence. A new trial would have brought race representation on the jury. In the second place, it would have brought out important witnesses who were not used. I am not saying how they were kept from being used, but a new trial would have brought them before the jury. I admit that there are some crimes which deserve death. There is first degree murder, and the law makes rape a capital offence, but every man who approved the lynching of Cooper is guilty of murder. It is dishonest for them to say that their homes and lives are in security when they say such a deed was right. If a white man wants blood, and sheds it, he is not satisfied. He wants more, and might go on in rage and fury until he would slay every man that came within his reach. White men place themselves in danger when they do this. Did the Sheriff do his duty? He suspected something at half past 9 o'clock, and shortly after 11 he was warned again. His business was to make an outcry and to fortify the place if he suspected anything. After he had been warned he lies down to go to sleep. Baltimore county is guilty until it brings him before the law to answer for his neglect of duty. The county is responsible for every prisoner in the county to the State, and the State is to the general government. As the matter stands, any white woman, whatever her character may be, and whatever her enticements may have been, has simply to cry out that she has been outraged, and innocent or guilty, men's necks must be broken. There have been cases where colored men have been compelled to flee from the passions of their employers. The Scriptures don't teach retaliation, and I don't teach it, but I intimate it. In the counties it frequently happens that men have grudges against each other, and when a case like this arises they say: 'Here's a chance to get rid of that nigger.' God help these things to run until they set fire to men's hearts and consciences, and bring about a just administration of the law. If it cost ten thousand necks, because I tried to secure colored men their rights, I would not apologize. And because a few malefactors take Cooper's life, does not prove me wrong. Mr. Steele says he has no regret that Cooper was punished. I regret from the depth of my heart that a colored man's neck is broken for a deed for which a white man would go free. Some say that the colored people should have lynched him first. They are poor, dirty, filthy liars, whoever said it. If in the future you should be called upon to accept, stand to your rights like men, and though you be slain, yet trust Him in whose sight a thousand years are as a day.

If this is the kind of "peace on earth, good will towards men," preached by Rev. Gilmore, the sooner St. James gets another pastor the better for that congregation. His "intimations" are calculated to do the colored people harm, and are regarded by our people in Baltimore county as idle badinage.

Comet and Advertiser, Eastern.
"There is no doubt if Cooper had been caught immediately after the perpetration of his crime, that he would have been sent at short notice to that unknown country where earthly judges have no jurisdiction, but after he had been quietly placed in the hands of the law the people were willing to trust the law with the case, until the fear became well grounded that the poor girl, who had suffered so much already, would have to be dragged again through the filth and slime of another trial, and then and not till then did they take the law into their own hands. It is this tardiness of the law that has caused people all over the United States to take matters into their own hands in so many cases. There were 3,376 murders committed in 1884, of these but 313 were executed, and two-thirds, or over 200 met death at the hands of lynch law, and but 103 by legal process.
"Those men who executed the negro Cooper, without doubt, knew this, but at the same time they struck a blow at the very roots of all government when they took the law into their own hands. The protection of mother, daughter or sweetheart, however, often overrules any other consideration, and the summary execution of Howard Cooper will no doubt have a salutary effect upon the morals of a certain class."

Cecil Democrat:
"How far an attorney may be justified in espousing the cause of his client will always be a matter of tolerant opinion. It would seem to the conscientious on-looker, however, that the line of fealty in civil cases might be drawn at the point where the client must stop or lose his claim to integrity. It is difficult to furnish a good reason why a lawyer may do for another without penalty what he may not do for himself. But, when the relation extends to practice in criminal cases, such rule in the nature of the case fails to give the proper measure. Whether his counsel, who constructively puts himself in his client's place, can go so far without sacrifice of what he owes to the public good and a consequent sacrifice of his own claim to consideration, is the puzzling question about which there will be more than one opinion. The law's delay may be as vexatious to the popular heart, when it shields a member from due punishment, as it is to the individual who feels his private rights sacrificed. If there is no merit either beyond the putting off of the evil day, the evil consequences of the putting off may be because of the greater concern than the mis-

quibbling and delays in such cases may result in injury to themselves. Much condemnation has been heaped upon Cooper's attorneys, and had they been at hand on the night of the lynching, they, also, might have suffered some violence."

Caroline Democrat, Denton:
"Howard Cooper was taken from Towson jail on Monday morning of last week, by a party of about seventy-five masked men, and hanged to the nearest tree. The lynching of this brute has been threatened for some time past, and the wonder is that he was ever allowed to see the inside of a jail or court house. The ill-advised action of prominent colored men in trying to bring this case before the United States Supreme Court is, no doubt, the cause of the excitement that led the white men of that vicinity into taking the law in their own hands. While we deprecate the manner of his taking off we are sure his fate was richly deserved, and will doubtless deter others from the commission of such hellish crimes."

Del Air Egls:
"The citizens of Baltimore county, who had waited patiently while the law took its course, saw that if Messrs. Weld and White succeeded in taking the case to the Supreme Court months and perhaps years might elapse before a decision would be rendered. If the decision below were sustained and Cooper's execution followed, the good effect which it might have in deterring others from committing like crimes would be in a great measure lost. It is only the swiftness and certainty with which punishment follows crime that can make it an effective example to evil-doers. On the other hand, if the Supreme Court had decided in favor of Cooper, the case would be remanded to the lower Courts for a new trial, and the unfortunate young lady who was the victim of his fiendish assault, if then alive, would have been compelled to undergo again the pain of telling the horrible story in open Court.
"Therefore, since Cooper was tried under the law as it applies to whites and blacks alike; was found guilty by an impartial jury; admitted his crime; was properly sentenced and the points raised in his behalf examined and pronounced invalid by the highest Court in the State; justice has not been defeated, although his execution was not according to the forms of the written law, but according to society's older law of self-preservation. The points relied upon by Cooper's counsel to secure a new trial with the chances of a reversal of the first verdict, were entirely technical. They did not relate to Cooper's guilt or innocence, and there was a well-grounded fear that in the intricacies of the law justice might not only be retarded but altogether lost sight of and the guilty wretch escape to boast of if not to repeat his crime."

Annapolis Advertiser:
"Howard Cooper, the brute whose fiendish crime has been the theme of all the papers in Maryland, on Monday morning expiated it. The citizens of the neighborhood who knew him and also the innocent and desecrated victim of his vile passions, assaulted the Baltimore county jail, dragged him from thence and hanged him to the nearest tree.
"We have no regrets at the action of these good citizens of Baltimore county. Public sentiment on the subject is practically unanimous that in all such cases the punishment should be summary; and that the slow and doubtful processes of legal trials do not furnish such a remedy as are adequate to the prevention of crimes of such revolting horror. All the situations and circumstances of our rural communities enforce the necessity of crushing all such tendencies whenever they spring up, with a remorseless punishment that speaks to fiendish natures who would be disposed to follow the suggestions of depraved and morbid lust with that emphasis that compels them to hear and understand its meaning. The impulse that persuaded so many of the best citizens of Baltimore county to the execution of the penalty and the performance of a service only justifiable on grounds of supreme and over-riding necessity, arose from judgments and convictions that compass the safety of our homes and their honor and purity, and to our minds need neither apology nor excuse."

Del Air Times:
"There is no point of view, so far as we can see from which the lynching of Cooper at Towson town can be justified. The man's guilt had been so clearly established that there was not the slightest probability that he would escape death at the hands of the law, and the brutal mob that usurped the functions of the public authority and took the life of the culprit, are simply a band of murderers whom it would be easy to identify and punish, did not a vitiated sentiment justify their crime and shield them from its consequences."

THE INTENSE HEAT.

Surely the citizens of the United States will not complain of the want of heat during the past ten days. It has been pretty general over the country; but, for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Baltimore and its vicinity was the hottest spot in the United States, the thermometer ranging from 90° to 100° in the shade during the days named. On Tuesday a thermometer placed in the sun for five minutes only ran up to 116°. As a consequence of the heat humanity as well as animals suffered terribly, and there were many deaths from sun stroke in the cities throughout the country. On Wednesday evening the heat had somewhat moderated in Baltimore and its locality, a grateful breeze having sprung up from the South, which somewhat tempered the parched, hot earth, and made sleeping possible. On Thursday the weather continued moderate, the thermometer ranging at about 84°, with indications of rain.

The law's delay may be as vexatious to the popular heart when it shields a monster from due punishment, as it is to the individual who feels his private rights sacrificed. If there is no merit either beyond the putting off of the evil day, the evil consequences of the putting off may be because of the greater concern than the mis-

lies in the fact that they are rapid us that opium-smoking is superior whiskey in the matter of "making d It is not certain that they are b benevolent purpose by the Tempa ance, but it is a fact that they hav "opium-joints," or smoking dens, i sections of the city, and that they patronized. So profitable is this : that a number of natives have business, and, to a certain extent, ished the national revenue from and Jersey lightning. This additi ready superior civilization has brot lie view the old fact that large nu citizens of both sexes are excessiv to opium in its various forms. Ph druggists know the extent of th drunkenness, and they have busin for keeping the knowledge to the there can be no concealment of th large proportion of the current Spring Grove, Mount Hope, and of for persons with minds diseased, is opium eaters. It is thought that t tion of smoking the intoxicant v modify the evils of eating it; for t tistical evidence that in China, w nineteen-twentieths of the entire duct of the world are consumed smoking—the effects are far from h terious as is commonly supposed. A common use there as beer is in G physicians who have given years China to the subject make as the observations the statement that "a immoderate practice of opium-smo destructive to those who live in distress, it does not appear that th easy circumstances, and who ha efforts of life about them, are at all respect to longevity by addiction t In fact the drug is used in that co much as tobacco is consumed here and without the injurious effects So that our Chinese American c taught us a valuable vile habit, if ing prove to be a substitute for v cigarettes. And, in exchange for I maintain that it is sheer ingrati deavor to instill into them any form Christianity and its concomitant iquities. For even a Chinaman ca canized into a worse pagan than tended him to be.

"Liberty of the Press," as guaran Constitution, was never intende the "license" so frequently practis of our journals. The fact that co are evincing a determination to Republican party to its fate does that party's newspapers in stirring by incendiary appeals against wh Yet this is precisely the effect an the infamous attacks by certain press upon the people of Baltimore cause Howard Cooper was lynched there is no just ground for con timely taking off of that beast in b but the journals alluded to have n from which they preach that the ple are being "defrauded of the And, in their ignorance, the n eagerly swallowed the incendiary their churches, in their social circ military organizations, and in the Secret Societies, the subject is now and unreasoning discussion, with infuriated outcome of disaster and Last Sunday a colored Methodist this city took Cooper's case as the diatribe of threats against the wh said much in disparagement of t of the young lady who was Coop and declared that if the wretch b new trial there would have been duced to acquit him! He des lynchers as "malefactors," and

one should have lynched him ple must become lynchers, the for us in the many white met wives, our daughters and our can a white man do these things escape the dagger and the bayonet honest for these men to expect will be unviolated when they st It is right to take a man's life The bloodthirsty spirit will not men, but will seek others. I can and teach retaliation, but I can I will, whatever may be the consa lation may become a virtue Maryland! May God direct the they set fire to men's consciences and force them to right these w effect of this infamous harange ctable and illegal negroes must dons; but the blame therefor upon the colored preacher so those "journals of civilization put the diabolical thought into the abominable words into his Grand Jury of Baltimore city w of its duty if it fail to inquire as of an indictment for this lecting