
THE LYNCHING OF SNOWDEN AT ELLICOTT CITY.—The lynching of a colored man at Ellicott City early yesterday morning by men of his own race is another instance of a kind of violation of law and interference with the course of justice against which THE SUN has too often found it necessary to protest. In this case there was no reason to believe that the culprit would not be speedily brought to trial, and, if guilty of the revolting crime charged upon him, would be properly punished. Perhaps the delays interposed in the Howard Cooper case may have suggested the rash proceeding at Ellicott City, men whose best sentiments are outraged by acts of barbarity being impatient of legal technicalities spun out to too fine a point. Yet, beyond question, Snowden was entitled to have his fate decided by the facts of his own case, and no mere anticipation of legal quibbles should have prejudiced his right to a fair trial. The Ellicott City lynch-ers have unfortunately had too many bad examples set them. While their act may be interpreted as indicating their approval of previous lynchings of colored men charged with the crime of which Snowden was accused, it was not justified by any circumstances leading to the belief that he would escape the just penalty of his crime.
