

LYNCHING A NEGRO WOMAN FOR "UNWISE" REMARKS

Editor Chronicle:

A new capital offense in Georgia—and one so heinous that it cannot wait on the regular and orderly process of law, but must be punished by those notable protectors of society—lynchers! The designation of this crime, calling for such swift punishment, is "Unwise Remarks." This important evolution of our criminal code and its righteous treatment are thus spoken of in the following Associated Press Dispatch:

Negro Woman Hanged and body Riddled with Bullets Because She Made "Unwise" Remarks About Lynching of Husband.

Valdosta, Ga., May 19—Mary Turner, wife of Hayes Turner, was hanged this afternoon at Folsome's bridge, over Little river, about sixteen miles north of Valdosta. Hayes Turner was hanged at Okapilco river, in Brooks county, last night. His wife, it is claimed, made unwise remarks today about the execution of her husband, and the people, in their indignant mood, took exceptions to her remarks, as well as her attitude, and without waiting for nightfall, took her to the river, where she was hanged and her body riddled with bullets.

Of all the horrible occurrences that have disgraced the state of Georgia, this is the most horrible.

Look at this picture: A poor, object Negro woman is informed of the lynching of her husband—let it be granted, himself a murderer. She cannot keep silence. She cannot express her agony in terms of Christian forgiveness. She cannot even use the high-sounding phrases of the fine old pagan philosophers. She blurts out an "unwise remark". Away with her to the nearest limb! Break her neck and manifest the calm, righteous, and judicial judgement of her executioners by "riddling her body with bullets." Were these human beings or fiends hot from hell? Was she a human being? If not let us stop calling on her race for men to fight, as we are sure they will well do, for our country and for us. Where are the grand juries? Where are the petit juries? Where are the sheriffs? Where is public opinion? Is it dead? Or is it crowded out by a handful of the most detestable murderers and cowards? God in heaven have mercy on us! Let the governor—if he will do no more—proclaim a day of deepest humiliation and most earnest prayer, in which we may plead humbly and agonizingly with the All-Father, who, dreadful thought has said: "Vengeance is mine," not to visit his righteous vengeance on us in the slaughter on the sea and across the sea of our dear boys, who, with Negro comrades in arms, have gone to fight for the betterment of the world.

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