

HORROR AND INDIGNATION OVER COWARDLY LYNCHING OF FEMALE

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.)

Augusta, Ga.—The lynching of Mary Turner at Valdosta, Ga., who was hanged to a tree and her body riddled with bullets because she made "unwise remarks" about the unlawful killing of her husband, Hayes Turner, has given some southern editors no little concern, and an insistent demand is being made that the cowards who participated in the horrible affair be brought to justice.

One of the strongest editorials on the subject has been published by the *Augusta Chronicle*, which, under the caption, "Another Cowardly Crime Added to Georgia's Score; What Will She Do About It?" says:

"The *Chronicle* need waste no words in expressing its horror of the detestable and cowardly attack committed by a party of Lowndes County outlaws, who, on Sunday afternoon last, took from her home a woman—whose husband had been lynched the night before—hanged her to a tree and riddled her body with bullets, because, forsooth, she had made unwise remarks about the unlawful killing of her husband.

"All civilized people must stand aghast at such a crime, and who does not is at heart a criminal and a coward. So much, then, for this crime against the State of Georgia, against society, against humanity and against God.

"The only thing worth discussing, in view of all the condemnation that similar crimes and lynchings in general have received from the right-thinking press and people of this and all other states—in which the *Chronicle* has, heretofore, performed its full duty to the public, when some others failed—the only thing worth discussing now, we say, is—what is the State of Georgia going to do about it?

"First of all, what is the governor of Georgia going to do? For, of all the governors who have served Georgia since the war, or since lynching became a more or less popular pastime in this State, it will seem to most people that he is more obligated, if that be possible, to put down lynching than any of his predecessors.

"For we cannot forget that Governor Dorsey was swept into the governor's chair by the lynching sentiment of the State. Not meaning, of course, that all the people who voted for him were lynchers in practice or sentiment, but saving and meaning that without this sentiment back of him, he might still be solicitor general of the Atlanta circuit.

"We cannot forget, nor can it be denied, that his elevation to the governorship was the direct and immediate result of the Leo Frank lynching.

"Nor can we get away from the fact, that, following the upsurge of lawless sentiment, lynching followed lynching in this State, until Georgia soon won

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"Alas! that Georgia permitted herself to be set afire a few years ago with the lynching fever. Alas! that, at that time, the *Chronicle* was the only daily newspaper that dared to wage a crusade against this unlawful sentiment, and to conduct a systematic expose of the motives and mendacity of the men who were responsible for it; a service to its state for which reprisals were attempted against the *Chronicle* such as have never been directed against any newspaper in Georgia.

"Georgia then sowed the wind—and she has been reaping the whirlwind ever since.

"Is it not, we ask, peculiarly up to Governor Dorsey to use every agency of his high office—and if these be not enough, to use his tongue and pen and AGE—Seventeen 78905... every power of his position—to put down lynching in Georgia; to help redeem his state from such lawlessness as felt itself justified and glorified by his election?

"And Lowndes County!—one of the most prosperous and progressive counties in the state; with as cultured and noble people in it as are to be found anywhere on earth—what will be its answer? What will its good people do to punish this crime of crimes and, in a measure at least, wipe away this stain?

"Or are such people outnumbered within its borders? Must its law-officers give more heed to the ignorant and lawless of its population than to those who have made Lowndes County what it is?—one of the best counties in Georgia? It remains to be seen.

"But, when we recall that Lowndes with its neighboring county of Brooks has been the hotbed of anti-dip-va sentiment; that many of its citizens deliberately dynamited government operated plants for eradicating the cattle tick in that county—and when we see at this very time, that in the published list of deserters under the draft law Lowndes County easily leads all the rest, any forty other counties, in fact with 211 deserters—we are compelled to confess that we fear for the power and influence of its better element and, really, look for little or nothing to be done toward apprehending and punishing the cowardly murderers of Mary Turner, the poor black woman who made unwise remarks about the lynching of her husband; a new capital of Georgia, of Major Joseph B.

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The New York Age

IS RELIABLE WHEN YOU SEE IT IN 'THE AGE' YOU CAN DEPEND UPON IT. NEWS THAT IS INFORMING.

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PRICE FIVE

Association for advancement of people of color

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"Nor can we get away from the fact, that, following this upheaval of lawless sentiment, lynching followed lynching in this State—until Georgia soon won, and has held ever since, the lynching record of the country.

"And, right here, it may be recalled that this is not the first time a Negro woman has been lynched in Georgia; another case of very recent time being the cruel and cowardly lynching of a Negro mother at, or near, Leary, Ga., for committing the horrible crime of trying to protect her son from an unmerciful beating.

"This and scores upon scores of other lynchings that have occurred in this State within recent years have gone absolutely unpunished. As protest from the press, an expression of disapproval, here and there, from the public, the perfunctory offering of rewards for the lynchers—and there was an end to it.

"Not a single individual has been made to pay the penalty for these crimes. Not a serious effort has been made to apprehend and punish the perpetrators of them.

"Is it any wonder, then—assuming that men can be found who are so cowardly and inhuman as to take part in such outrages—that lynchings continue to occur in Georgia?"

"Is it to be expected that they will grow fewer in number, or cease altogether, until somebody in Georgia does something to bring to the gallows the

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"Stain on Democracy."

—Says the *Charleston Gazette* of Charleston, W. Va.:

"There are so many sidelights to our national character that we turn automatically hot and cold with self pride, but fortunately the thermometer registers high. We stood on the streets only a day ago and witnessed a remarkable spectacle in our own city when 5,000 colored men and women, led by bands, one a soldier organization from a cantonment, march through the city streets in a patriotic demonstration. The thrill of pride that we all had in this race, which at the best is fighting under a great handicap, was dampened by a sense of shame we felt when the papers carried a news item of another lynching outrage in the South where a crazy mob of white men perpetrated another outrage on the Negroes.

"There can be no extenuating circumstances for lynching. The fact that a major crime had been committed is not a license for embracing lynch law,