

the precedent of the Parnell Commission Act, passed, despite strong opposition, by the Imperial Parliament in 1888. When in 1853 the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy made from his place in the House of Commons a charge of corruption against Ministers, no question arose as to the tribunal by which such a charge if maintained and not withdrawn should be investigated—a Select Committee of the House of Commons. The investigation of charges made against members of a Legislative Assembly has been conducted almost invariably by a Select Committee of that Assembly, and the delegation of such investigation to an extraneous body must be regarded as a departure from well-established constitutional usage."

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There are a few hopeful signs that there may be in time some diminution in the crime of lynching in the United States, in view of the facts that it is receiving the marked attention of the press and of the judiciary, and that the public are beginning to realize that these frightful atrocities are bringing disgrace upon the nation in the eyes of those whose good opinion it values. The trouble is, unfortunately, that lynch law is partly the result of a defective and often corrupt administration of criminal justice, (which, by the way, is also a crime of the first order). One legal journal has in a recent issue no less than four leading articles on the subject, under the headings of:—"Contagion of mob violence"; "Vengeance of the mob as a check upon crime," taking the ground that "the work of the mob not only brands the nation with indelible disgrace, but tends to multiply the crimes it would repress"; another article lays the blame largely on the delay of justice in the Courts; and the last, in speaking of the cure for mobs says that nothing is needed but the resolute enforcement of the law. The *Albany Law Journal*, in referring to the subject quotes Mr Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court as very properly saying, "Every man who takes part in the burning or lynching of negroes is a murderer, and should be so considered in the eyes of the law," but deplores the powerlessness of the Courts to act as no precautions are brought before them. The *New York Law Journal* after discussing the subject at some length takes comfort from the fact that in many places the negro population have been arming themselves and making systematic preparation to resist force by force, believing that "organized systematic, retaliatory violence by negroes would have a strong influence in ultimately compelling all classes to respect the law." This sounds oddly to the law abiding Britisher, but may nevertheless be a useful factor in helping to put an end to this bloody and pernicious pastime of the Southern States.