

In the north, California, Ohio, Nevada, Alaska, and Illinois have had 1 each. Of the victims of these 97 lynchings 80 have been negroes, 14 whites and 3 Indians."

A legal periodical (*Chicago Law Journal*) takes up the parable and thus moralises on this primitive mode of administering justice:

"Lynching a Virtue.—Lynch law is bad, very bad, but lynch law is a virtue compared to the horrible crime of the outrage of a pure, good woman, and you may preach the authority of the law from sunrise to sunset to men whose female relatives or friends have suffered such an outrage, but their tempers will never be soothed into submission to the law's delays. Just as long as such outrages continue will lynch law continue."

It may safely be said that no amount of lynching or any other punitive process will put an end to crime; and the very lawlessness of lynching tends to aggravate the evil in some shape or other. One cannot but feel surprised that a legal journal should be betrayed into advocating such barbarous and illegal acts in a civilized country, especially so when the point attempted to be made is not supported by the facts. This appears by the following analysis:

"The southern papers, in seeking to palliate and excuse the prevailing lawlessness in that section, continually charge odious crime upon the negroes as the main cause. The statistics, however, do not sustain the charge. Of the 80 negroes lynched 35 were killed for the crime of murder, while but 14 have been killed for assault on women, and 9 for attempting it. Of the remainder, 4 have been lynched for robbery, 3 for arson, 2 for suspicion of arson, 2 for race prejudice (!) 2 for murderous assaults, 2 for unknown causes, and 1 each for burglary, writing an insulting letter, eloping with a white woman, train-wreckers, refusing to give evidence, insults, and harboring a murderer."

It has been aptly said that lynch law "marks the difference between civilized and uncivilized nations;" and it is appalling to contemplate the volume of lawlessness which these figures indicate. These acts were not the outcome of dire necessity for self-protection in a country where from some temporary reason might is right, and ruffianism is rampant,