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Appeals of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association re.: the murders in the South, n.d.

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An Appeal by Bethel Literary and Historical Association

The recent atrocious murders committed by white men upon defenseless Negroes in the States of South Carolina and North Carolina are facts known to all the civilized world.

So wicked, cruel, and savage were these barbarous assassinations, that unpretended Christianity and true civilization are sickened and saddened by the perpetration of a crime falsely alleged to be necessary for the upholding of Christian civilization.

Notwithstanding the fact that the murder-loving white people of the south are seeking to inflame the good people of the North into a passion of prejudice and hate of the Negro, by exaggerated allegations of his inability to partake of civilization, we feel that the truth, when presented as it should be, will paint in vivid colors the utter lack of any civilizing or Christianizing influence animating the mob of blood-thirsty cowards who ~~slew~~ ^{in an attempt} insatiate women and children to gratify their cruelty and greed for office.

This organization, and its friends, representing, as they do in a large measure, the culture, intelligence, character, civilization and progress of the colored people of this country, proclaim to the Christianity and Civilization of the world that the cry of the assassin, of "Negro Domination", is a miserable pretext.

It is the lie of the wolf from up the stream when devouring the innocent lamb down the stream.

The disturbed muddied water became so ~~the~~ by the work of

that occupied by

the treacherous ~~beast~~ at a point higher up than the lamb, ~~occupied~~.

When streams flow upward and true civilization and Christianity tend downward, then may it be said that a people inferior in numbers and resources, are powerful to dominate and menace a people who outnumber them in colossal proportion and whose resources are as the great ocean compared with an artificial pool.

A careful study of the nation's history will
We wish to assure the Christian and civilized people that no more docile, peace-loving, and industrious people are to be found in the South, than are the victims of the barbarous institution that dominated that section of our country and nearly consummated the overthrow of the United States.

The barbarism of slavery so ably presented by the late Charles Sumner, is fully exemplified by its lingering effect upon the white people of the South. A people that has for its wealth the result of the robbery of the Negro, will not hesitate to lie about the defrauded and outraged people of that race.

*1** Hence the false cry of Negro domination, and of Negro outrages made to consummate the purpose of the South to once again humiliate this Nation by making it fall down in awe before the people who lately sought its destruction.

At no time has the white South acquiesced in and obeyed the Constitution of the United States. Themselves lawbreakers and assassins, they try to turn the attention of good men from the real criminals by crying out "Stop Thief" at the Negro, and by laying

at the black man's door charges against which he is not allowed to defend himself, under the civilized rules of a court of justice. *

magnum the learned professor who
Diske ~~a tutor~~ in Dartmouth College in 1795 said, "Let who will

startle I steadfastly maintain that we must bring them (the negroes) to an equal standing, in point of privileges, with the whites. They must enjoy all the rights belonging to human nature".

These words are from the lips of Christianity and Civilization

In them is no trace of savagery and murder. To the influence of such instrumentalities of civilization as Dartmouth we appeal to weigh carefully the refuge of lying ~~taken~~ *taken* by the descendants of the traffickers in human flesh, the despoilers of chastity and the brutal miscegenationists of the South who prate against Social Equality.

We ask only justice? We call upon the good people of the Nation to treat this momentous question of Humanity without prejudice.

Scatter to the winds race hate and accept and remain true to your knowledge of Right and your ~~professions~~ *noble convictions* of Christianity.

This done, and the wicked wantonness of the slaying of children, women, and unoffending men in North and South Carolina will meet your utter detestation.

Bethel Literary and Historical Association having for twenty years watched with intense interest, the struggles of the Negro race in America, to reach and maintain in the nation an honored and honorable place, and now aroused and made apprehensive by the recent developments in North and South Carolina-the murder of unarmed and peaceful men; the massacre of defenceless women and children--issues to the public the following address, which, in the interest of humanity and christian civilization, it earnestly commends to the American People.

The despoliation of the Negro's civil and political rights, begun several years ago in the states of Miss. South Carolina and La., is now sought to be extended throughout the south. The recently organized conspiracy in sections of North Carolina, which so wantonly murdered three score innocent human beings and forcibly expelled many others from their native homes, is but another chapter in the story of horrors perpetrated upon the helpless Negro of the south.

We denounce this conspiracy as inhuman, unchristian and barbarous. We characterize the cry of "Negro domination" as a miserable, false pretext, given to the world in a vain attempt to conceal the savage instincts which prompted the outrages.

We denounce also another conspiracy that has begun the work of driving the Negro out of certain employments, thereby diminishing his economic status and efficiency.

We deplore the existence of vice and crime among the Negroes

as well as among the whites, but we submit that in all instances it should be met with the same correction or retribution without distinction as to the criminal. "Equal and exact justice to all" is the highest attribute of a noble and enlightened government and the only guarantee of its perpetuity; hence, it would seem that the best interests of all are on the side of humanity and right.

We appeal to the Negro to abstain from vicious and criminal practices; we appeal to the whites no less in the same behalf.

We appeal to the American People, north and south, to afford to every class of citizens equal protection of the courts that the dignity of the law and the beneficial functions of government may be patent in the administration of justice between man and man.

We appeal to all the people in all sections of our country to accept finally and in good faith the citizenship and the ballot of the Negro, on the same terms and under the same restrictions that the citizenship and ballot of other men are accepted.

We appeal to all the fair-minded and justice loving people of the country to extend a kind and helpful sympathy to a race struggling up towards an enlightened and christian civilization.

Can the instincts of a finer civilization, so much needed, be developed in the Negro amid scenes of violence and bloodshed? Can he be made a better, truer citizen by denying him the protection of the government he serves? Can he be taught veneration for a law that affords him neither protection in his rights nor redress for his grievances?

We have given to the nation our loyalty, our labor and our
lives. What could we do more? In return we ask protection and
justice, what less could we ask?

Therefore do we appeal to this great nation, for the "Right to
labor and enjoy the fruits of labor", guarded and protected by the
laws of the land, enacted impartially, interpreted righteously, ad-
ministered fairly.

Comr

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