

# AGAINST LYNCH LAW.

A National Convention of Colored  
From Citizens

*Commercial Gazette*

They Ask at the Nation's Hands Opportun-  
ity and Justice.

The National Citizens' Rights Associa-  
tion Indorsed.

Yesterday in the Zion Baptist Church on West Ninth street, near John, was held a meeting of colored delegates, assembled from various parts of the country. It was termed a National Convention and the purpose was to take action upon the varying phases of the race problem and to memorialize Congress upon the growing exercise of lynch law. The attendance upon the two sessions, morning and afternoon, was not large, but it was enthusiastic and the various addresses were remarkable for their spirit and directness.

For the temporary organization Daniel A. Rudd, of Ohio, was chosen temporary Chairman, and S. J. Hunter, of Tennessee, Secretary. (The Committee on Rules comprised Messrs. Samuel Selger, E. J. Cox, W. Rowell, S. J. Hunter and J. L. Jones. That on Permanent Organization contained the names of Robt. J. Harlan, S. B. Hill, W. F. Anderson and W. D. Williams. With the exception of a few remarks from Chairman Rudd and the singing of a song by the veteran Abolitionist, George M. Clark, this settled the business of the morning session.

In the afternoon, by the report of the Committee on Permanent Organization, the following officers were elected: Chairman, D. A. Rudd; Vice Presidents, J. T. F. Carr, Kentucky; Rev. John Merriwether, Arkansas; J. T. Broadwell, Georgia; W. F. Anderson, Michigan; J. T. Robinson, Kentucky; M. S. Spurdick, West Virginia; Secretary, S. J. Hunter, Tennessee. Addresses were made by Hon. George H. Jackson, Colonel Robert J. Harlan, Rev. Merriwether, J. T. Robinson and others. Mr. Robinson was present in avowed advocacy of the National Citizens' Rights Association, of which Albion W. Tourjee, the author and stern friend of the colored race, is the head and front. But this did not meet with extended favor, although, on motion of Secretary Hunter, it was adopted as the sense of the Convention that they give full indorsement to the course of Judge Tourjee. Mr. Hunter held himself as being in unalterable opposition to lynch law, and claimed that the agitation of this question was the prime purpose of this Convention. The report of the Committee on Resolutions was the most significant action of the session, and when that was adopted adjournment was speedy and final. Here is the report:

## TO A TREE

They Strung Him Up.

Heck Willis, a Brutal Colored Fiend, Taken

From Jail at Lebanon, Kentucky, By a Mob.

His Victim's Brother Swore Terrible Vengeance.

Desperate Efforts To Save the Wretched Prisoner's Life.

Daylight Overtook the Lynchers on the Roadway,

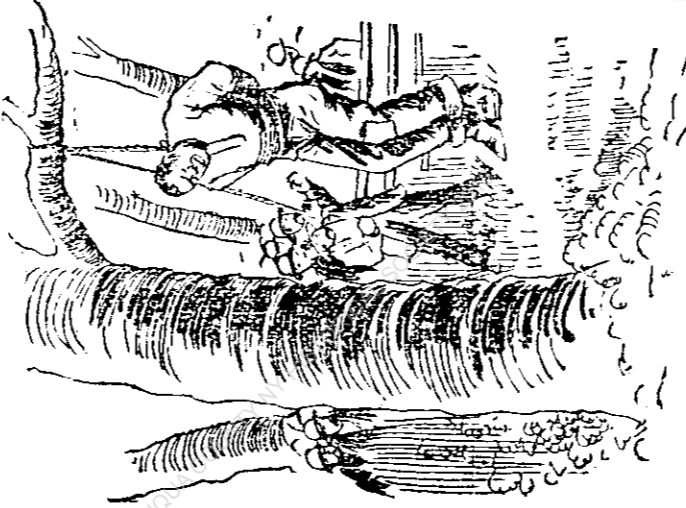
And They Left Him Dangle in His Night-Clothes.

Horrible Crime For Which He Paid the Death Penalty—Quiet Restored.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

LEBANON, KY., May 31.—Heck Willis, a colored man, who was accused of attempting rape and had been brought here from Adair County to escape a mob, was taken from jail this morning and banged to a tree by the roadside.

Last week Willis made a brutal assault upon Miss Dice, near Columbia, Adair County, and was soon arrested and taken to the Adair County Jail. Miss Dice is an orphan, but has a brother, Town Marshal of Temple, Texas. He was telegraphed and responded in person, arriving at Columbia Friday morning. He swore that he would



THE LYNCHING OF HECK WILLIS NEAR CAMP-BELLSVILLE, KY.

kill Willis on sight. Placing himself at the head of a party of the indignant neighbors, the

BROTHER PROCEEDED TO COLUMBIA With the avowed intention of having the brute's life. The officers, however, hearing of the mob, slipped the prisoner from the jail after dark and drove through the country with him, arriving here at midnight and placing him in the Lebanon Jail.

His whereabouts were kept very close by the officers, who believed that his presence here was not known. It seemed to have leaked out, however, in Adair County, although citizens here knew nothing of the prisoner's presence in the city until they heard of the lynching. This morning at 2:15 o'clock six men came to the jail and roused up Jailor Clark, who asked what was wanted. They answered by informing him that Officer Brown, who is a night policeman, had a prisoner that he wanted to place in jail.

MR. CLARK GOT UP and opened the door and three men instantly grabbed him by both arms and the back of the neck. Five men then presented their pistols and told him to surrender the keys or death would be his portion.

Mr. Clark could not do otherwise than obey their orders. He asked them to release their hold and not ask him to unlock the door. His request was promptly refused, and he was forced to unlock the doors leading to the cells.

Before going into the cells they placed two men to guard Mr. Clark, while three of the men entered and struck matches, which enabled them to recognize Willis among the other prisoners. They then pinned his arms behind him. He begged piteously for his life, and denied his guilt, but his entreaties were in vain. He was in his night clothing and they left the jail without giving him time to dress. They quietly left the town with their prisoner, going in the direction of Campbellsville. This morning Willis'

DEAD BODY WAS FOUND

hanging to a tree just outside of Campbellsville. The intention of the mob was to hang him at Columbia, but daylight coming on them they were forced to hang him just where they did. His forehead bears a deep wound, caused by a blunt instrument. It is thought the wound was received while trying to make his escape. Last week Willis met Miss Dice, who belongs to one of the best families of Adair County, on the highway seven miles from Columbia, and tried to outrage her, and was only prevented by two or three men who were attracted by the young lady's screams.

She became unconscious, and has only recovered consciousness at intervals since.

