

South Haven Feb 8th 1893

Albion: W. Tourque Esq

Mayville New York

My Very Dear Friend; I enclose a clipping from an editorial in the Detroit Evening News a daily paper that numbers among its subscribers several thousand colored people.

I hope you will find it a good text to be noticed in your notes in the Inter-Ocean some time soon.

He (the editor) not only justifies the southern people in their barbarous treatment of the Negro, but he insults the race by saying that such assaults are of almost daily occurrence, while we admit that we have perhaps more than our share of criminals I say that the statement is far from the truth. Senator Grady, ⁱⁿ his speech just before his death paid the race this compliment: "The Negro left to care for the wives & daughters of those who were fighting to retain him in bondage he never betrayed

his trust."

It seems strange to me that they could be trusted with the honor^{ing} lives of the wives^{and} daughters of the whites than^{ing} in a few short years^{ing} of all of a sudden become beasts^{ing} of traps too under less favorable circumstances for committing such acts.

Some one wrote: "The pen is mightier than the sword"

It could have been said with as much truth that the pen is more cruel than the sword under certain circumstances.

I feel every week like writing you a letter of thanks for ~~the~~ your unselfish devotion to the ^{rights} cause of a weak^{ing} helpless race.

Permit me to subscribe myself
your devoted friend

J. A. Drangill
Member local advisory committee
South Haven, Mich.

The lynching of a negro criminal at Paris, Tex., is reported today as having occurred under circumstances so horrible that many persons will be disposed to doubt the truth of it. The feeling of horror that will thrill through the north will be based upon a sentiment with reference to crime which is in the main a healthy one. Strangely enough, this sentiment will find opposite expressions, and both will be right in their way. One class will express deprecation of such a mode of lynching, if lynching must be, and another class will say that the torture has served the brute exactly right. All must in the end confess that all communities must settle their special problems in their own way. It is notorious that the southern whites are subject to one danger more frightful than any that threatens any cultivated and sensitive people in the world. Considering the great number of these assaults which have occurred since the war, the wonder is that the extreme measure that has now been taken has not been taken years ago. During its history the human family has been threatened often with extermination by wild beasts, but such a fate is a quite welcome one compared with that which almost daily overtakes some defenceless female in the south. As a matter of bloodthirsty revenge the burning of a negro would be unjustifiable, but southern society will protect itself. It is a condition and not a theory with which the southerners have to deal. Their community will adopt whatever means are necessary to protect itself from an evil worse than famine, pestilence and death combined. We may deprecate the necessity, but we cannot condemn the means unless we can show that they are more than adequate to accomplish their end.

THE press of Great Britain affects great horror at the burning of a negro in Texas, and points to it as if it were an illustration of the instincts and daily custom of the American people. Very well, let it be so. The American people are not peculiar among peoples in the instinct of self-preservation. They will go to all necessary lengths to ward off dangers from within and without. It is not recorded that Americans have ever found it necessary to burn at the stake for simple rebellion against political authority, as the British have done in Jamaica, nor has the military necessity arisen on this continent for using living Sepoys for wadding for cannon. For furnishing pointers in the art of brutality the British may find their certificates of character in very many pages of history.