

# THE - BALLOT AND LYNCHERS,

BY THE PEOPLE.

Published in the Interest of Lynched Men's Widows and Orphans of this Country.

Chicago, Feb 15th. 1893.

Judge A. H. Tourge.  
My Dear Sir.

Since our last issue of The United Christians' Directory of Chicago, our attention has been called to a more important topic; the one above mentioned.

During the last forty-four months, the Lynchers' record has exceeded that of any other period in the history of this Government. The lynching of men on account of crimes committed by them, punishment for which is duly provided under our laws after an impartial trial by judge and jury, Some of our citizens, however, under excitement have taken the law in their own hands, even to go so far as to break open the doors of our prisons, and taking therefrom men who were prisoners of the people, who were awaiting their trial by the law which was made by and for the people, and deprived them of their lives without allowing the law to take its course.

As far as I am informed, the work and plundering of the Lynchers have deprived more than 47,575 men, women and children of their lives, and has caused 11,947 widows and orphans to mourn the loss of their husbands and fathers, within the last thirty-two years. Eight-tenths of these people have no home and are practically helpless.

We have decided to assist this host of friendless ones by publishing a book, containing the names of those who have been lynched, together with the protests of liberty-loving and law-abiding citizens of this country against lawlessness, with the proceeds of which we will purchase a large tract of land and distribute it among the most needy families of those men who have met their death by lynching.

Two competent men will be appointed in each State and Territory of the United States, to look after those in most need, and to report the same to us. We hold that if a man commits a crime, he shall be tried and justly punished according to the laws laid down in the statutes of the respective states, which were adopted by and for the people. If Lynch practice continues, the time will shortly come when our whole country will be thrown into the hands of its bitter enemies. There is great danger, and we submit this for your views upon this matter which rests upon the American people. We would be glad to hear from you upon any one of the following subjects: "An honest count of the ballot." "Lynching practice will lead to the Nation's ruin." "Widows and orphans of lynched men." "The Negro thirty years from bondage to freedom." "The Negro as a citizen; his moral progress; his financial progress." "The laws of our country must prevail." "Lynching must cease." Some of the ablest men of the country are interested and will contribute to this work, and we hope you will do the same. The wrongs were perpetrated by the citizens and the citizens must call a halt. Our files are full to overflowing with authentic cases of wrongs, furnished by our correspondents. Now is the time for good men and women to come to the rescue of society and the civilization of America. She gained independence by bloodshed, and she can lose the greatest system of Government the world now has, if we submit to Lynch rule. A quiet, Christian-like talk among our citizens will remove the now evil practice. A writer, in speaking of the un-called-for methods adopted by some of our citizens said: that whenever a duty is shirked there Christ is rejected.

Respectfully submitted.

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GEO. WASHINGTON, Compiler.

Chicago, Ill.

1471 State Street,

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