

Mayville N. Y.
Feb'y 17th 1893.

Geo. Washington Key

Dear Sir:

I have your circular concerning "The Bullet and the Hyacks". Recognizing the purpose as most commendable, you will allow me to say that I think the means by which you are seeking to accomplish it most unadvisable and indiscreet.

1- "Lynchings" is not a specific evil. It is only a symptom. The putting the symptom for the disease weakens the attention which should be given that.

- 2 - Contribution for the families of the "lynched," is a poor way to call the matter to public attention. People do not like to be asked for money and they do not care anything about the "wives and families" of lynchers.
- 3 - It may often compell you to ask funds for those who hardly deserve sympathy.
- 4 - It is not hostility to lynching but the recognition and security for

rights that is desired. If you undertake such a thing you must make yourself the excuser of those lynched, which in many cases cannot be done. The result will be that all colored people will be charged with attempting to excuse and favor crime.

4— Such a work, is like advertising a house of prostitution, even

to make a bad matter
worse. Every book of that
sort sold will be a
bid for a new lynch=
ing. You cannot
fight such an evil in
that way. The more elab=
orate your portrayal of
such barbarism the more
frequent it will become.
Don't make yourself a
"Jane James" of barbarism

in the hope or self-de-
ceived by the idea that
it will do good. The people
who would buy or read
such a category of horrors
are the raw material
out of which "lynching =
pees" are made.

Yours very truly,

William D. Howze