

Rogers Park, Mo. March 11. 1892

Albion W. Burgess Esq.  
Mayotte Mo.

Dear Sir.

I read your letter in the "Independent"  
Every Saturday and whilst opposing  
politically to you I agree with you  
in much that you write. I want to ask  
you however (in view of the "Davis Case")  
whether supposing some one should  
inflict upon your daughter some similar  
outrage accompanied with torture &  
leading eventually to death. whether  
having caught the culprit you would  
feel that the offense was atoned by

handing him over to the Courts, have him  
committed for trial - in six or 9 months  
the case comes up, found guilty and  
sentenced for say ten years -  
2 1/2 years off for good conduct  
and he comes - It may be and  
probably is the right thing to do, and  
we can moralize and debate over  
it again and again. but it seems  
to me that when it comes right  
home and becomes a personal  
matter, the cool-headed amongst  
us are apt to have our feelings  
get slightly beyond our control -  
It was the fact that so many  
criminals escape by some legal  
technicality or quibble at the  
bottom of most of these lynchings,  
I presume the "tu quoque" argument  
applies considerably - They say,  
"You tortured my daughter, I will

torture you - I trust however that  
as the years go on a better  
state of things will gradually  
exist or what is our boasted  
Christian Civilization worth -  
Excuse me writing you, but as I  
read the article today I kind of  
thought I would like to ask you  
the question to the foregoing.

I am  
Yours faithfully  
James D. Spicer