

THE END OF WHITE CAPISM IN MISSISSIPPI.

The surrender of forty-seven of the White Caps to Judge Chrisman may be considered as ending that episode in Mississippi affairs, and winding up the White Caps as law-breakers. The affair has been thoroughly creditable throughout, and we know of no State in the Union that could make a better showing than Mississippi has done in this matter. It is seldom that a conspiracy like this against the laws, which includes so many thousand persons, and a majority of the population in some portions of the State, has been so completely suppressed, and that without a drop of blood being spilt. The mere announcement of the law, the declaration of the Governor of his intention to enforce it, although backed by very little display of force, sufficed to bring the law-breakers to order, to suppress their violence, and actually to induce them to come forward and voluntarily surrender themselves.

A very strong appeal was made to Judge Chrisman in behalf of the White Caps, and it was explained that their acts of violence and lawlessness were due to misconception and ignorance. Lawlessness nearly always results from ignorance, and that is a bad excuse for it; but the law-breakers in this case have undoubtedly won some sympathy by prompt confession of their offense, their voluntary surrender and their plea of guilty. Judge Chrisman dealt mercifully but properly with them by placing them under bonds to keep the peace and to appear for trial at a future day. We do not imagine, however, that any further trouble will ever arise from the White Caps in Southwestern Mississippi. The prompt, vigorous and brave stand of the authorities sufficed to completely suppress what threatened to be an ugly riot and dangerous outbreak. It is a strong argument in favor of vigor and spirit on the part of the authorities, which in this case prevented riot and bloodshed, as they always will.

To Hon. Albion W. Tourgee
Mayville-on-Chautauqua
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U.S.A.

Why did, - the judicious and gallant Gov. and officials in the State of Mississippi could not have power to enforce respect to the law, as long as it concerned only the killing of negroes, but as soon as the "White Caps" began to tease or trifles white men properties, without any extra expenses to the state the Governor goes in Lincoln Co. and open Court with a speech, - which is clearly criticized by the Southern people (particularly those of Mississippi) as a fine piece of diplomacy, a governor a judge should treat as peers, acknowledged criminals against law and society, bargained with them as diplomats - to inform them as may be clearly apparent as to what shall be the decision of the court & Gov. on their case if they surrender and plead guilty. And also the polite or cowardly excuses offered in open court by said judge for passing sentence on said violators of laws. He said he realized that the men were poor, - all but one? - with wives and children, his duty was indeed a painful one - but the enforcement of the law could not be made a farce of; It was true - that the men into whose houses they had fired in the night-time jeopardizing the lives of themselves and families were also poor men, the law was for the protection of the poor as well as the rich, - the surprising thing to him was that poor men would undertake to trample the law under foot (He should say at least he knows, they were thought to violate the laws by the rich particularly the officials, but then it was only in killing negroes, but not in destroying properties and after sentencing them two years each in the penitentiary. He said -

He would pledge himself if the friends and associates of the
condemned men would desist from further acts of lawlessness
and in future conduct themselves as good citizens, at the
end of a year he would be one of the first citizens of Lincoln
Co^{ty} to head a petition to Gov. Stone ^(who was present) and endeavor to se-
cure their pardon. Now Dear Sir if this is
not asking excuses or pardon to enforce the law &
a compromise with violators of laws! to give a
mild sentence upon criminals & cut-throat, I do
not know what to call it, if you get the ^{the same}
newspaper ^{N.D.} of May 9/93. you will find more on this subject
it is a farce? It is believed by almost every one
those men will not serve in the Penitentiary at
all. may be hired out to their friend a short time
and pardoned by the Governor.

Yours Respectfully C. Dejeu

Bay's Louis Miss May 14/93

I am a Republican, an ex officer of ^{Vol} in the U.S. service
during part of the rebellion but by my surround-
ing have to be careful. I am poor must
depend on everyone otherwise I would write
often although imperfectly but can always
detect much of our people mean habits -
south. if you should see ex senator Kellogg
you can ask him if I am serious on anything
you can inquire also with M^r L. A. Martinet
editor of the ^{N.D.} Crusader. I am from Louisiana also
your notes in that paper from the inter ocean induced me to write
yours truly C. D.