

Bastrop Texas, June 17, 1893

My dear friend The Bystander,

This letter will show you how colored men rape white women. This week the following took place at Elgin in this county. A white man was courting a farmer's daughter and had been forbidden by the farmer to enter her premises, so he sought clandestine meetings. One night this week he got a ladder and went up to her window and was seen by the farmer and ordered to come down or he would shoot him.

The man came down and seeing no gun, escaped.

The farmer and daughter immediately started the rape racket that a witchdoct had outraged her, and a mob gotten in a few minutes and every available in reach was brought together with a rope around his neck and a wholesale hanging promised. By this time it was daylight and a book was picked up at the foot of the ladder, with this girl's lover's name in it. Then an officer was sent for the his arrest (Such trouble was unnecessary for the six or seven colored men).

The suitor in open court said he carried the ladder there and went up it and it was not the first nor the last time either. Of course that settled the matter and turned him and the colored men free and now they are trying to hush a scandal about the girl (not about the mob).

Now you will not see this in the paper.

they don't print that kind of news here.

Now my dear sir, this story tells its own moral and is a key to the rape mania you hear so much of. When the villainous white scoundrels and of their southern blood are overtaken with their white Delilahs their respectability is lost, but if they have presence of mind enough to say "nigger! rape!" why, presto, change, a dead Negro restores respectability, and brings sympathy and lionizes the outraged maiden. Could you see behind the scenes, you would find that nearly all such cases are prostitutes overtaken and nothing but the blood of a Negro can make her clean.

And mine may be required next.

A. C. Coffin.

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Marshall, Texas.

In reply to yours of

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