

OFFICE OF

REED & BRANDON,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.

108 N. PEARL STREET.

*Natchez, Miss.*Aug. 7th 1895-

Judge Albion W. Tourgee,
 Mayville N.Y.

Dear Sir ;-

The enclosed clipping will
 doubtless interest you.

I returned a few days since from Chautauqua N.Y. where
 I went to deliver an address. While I was there I read in the papers
 that a society of which you are president, was to have suits
 brought in Federal Court in Ill., vs. the lynchers of the negro
 alleged to have murdered and assaulted two white girls near Cairo
 Ill., - (of course I heartily condemn the action of the lynchers).

About the same time an unsuccessful attempt was made at Dunkirk
 in the county where you reside to lynch a man charged with commit-
 -ting a rape. And I believe that had the officers been deal-
 -ing with men as hot -blooded as our southerners are (by reason of cli-
 -mate,) that the rapist would have been lynched. So you will

notice that some reform work is needed in your section. My atten-
 -tion has been called especially to your work by Mr. Wm. C. Lee of
 Gambier Ohio. He knew that I was an advocate of strict obedience
 to law. I appreciate your good purpose. And extremely regret
 that you are so bitter in your antagonism to the people of the
 South. Especially since I have found at Chautauqua and other places
 where I have had the opportunity of speaking, ^{in the North} so much liberality
 toward our people.

Yours respectfully,

Rich'd F. Reed,

7206

CRIMINAL ASSAULTS

Condemned by the Negroes of Water Valley, who, Resolve to Cooperate with the whites.

Miss

A dispatch from Water Valley says: "A mass meeting, composed entirely of negroes, and which was largely attended, was held in the courthouse last night, the leading and most prominent ones of the town and surrounding country taking an active part. The object of this meeting was to give expression, and likewise their condemnation, of the growing evil of criminal, assaults on white women by men of their color. Strong resolutions were adopted assuring the white people of their cooperation in the suppression of these assaults. Speeches were made by the leaders all tending to the same end, supporting these resolutions and giving them their hearty indorsement. A resolution was also adopted calling upon the officials to arrest and place in jail for trial a white man, who has recently been going through Yalobusha County holding secret meetings and inciting the negroes to deeds of violence, and even to murder. This latter information, if true, will put the white people on their guard, and every effort will be made to capture the individual and short shrife made of him."

COLORED LAWYERS MEET

And Consider the Subject of a National Convention,

To Take Into Consideration Matters Pertaining to the General Welfare of the Colored Race.

TO MEET IN CHATTANOOGA, OCT. 10.

The Convention Considered Imperative, On Account of Frequent Murders, Lynchings, Deprivation of Civil Rights, Denial of Citizenship, Unchristian Practices and a Failure to Do Justice.

About twenty colored lawyers from various parts of the country met by appointment yesterday at 12 1-2 East Ninth street and discussed matters relating to their race in general and the colored bar in particular.

After deliberation, it was decided that as the subjects to be discussed were of such vital importance, and as the remedies for existing evils could only be obtained by active co-operation, a committee be appointed to formulate a circular which is to be sent to colored members of the legal fraternity throughout America. The committee was composed of N. R. Harper, Kentucky; J. H. Ballou, Georgia; J. T. Bailey, Texas; S. A. Morton, Mississippi; W. B. Jones, South Carolina; Charles A. Robinson, Arkansas; J. N. Hutchins, Tennessee; Andrew J. Carter, Louisiana, and Mildred Keane, West Virginia. R. C. O. Benjamin, of Alabama, was elected secretary, and S. L. Hutchins, of Tennessee, chairman.

It having been unanimously decided that the proposed convention would be held in Chattanooga, the date was set for Oct. 10, and the following circular, which will be distributed in every state in the union, was ordered to be printed:

Chattanooga, July 25, 1893.

To the Colored Legal Fraternity in the United States of America:

In pursuance of the action of a conference of lawyers of the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Arkansas and other states whose names are here undersigned, we respectfully invite the co-operation of every lawyer of the colored bar in the national union to meet at Chattanooga, Tenn., Tuesday, Oct. 10, for the purpose of taking into consideration the general welfare of the colored legal fraternity as well as that of the race. It is expected in this convention that national and local bar associations will be formed.

Every colored lawyer who is interested in the enforcement of the constitutional rights of the race will please signify his assent by sending his address to the chairman or secretary of the committee appointed by said conference.

The committee not knowing the names of all the colored lawyers throughout the country, have taken this course and ask that every colored lawyer and colored journalist receiving this circular will send the committee the name or names and address of any colored lawyer or lawyers in their vicinity. No person will be admitted to said convention unless he has been duly admitted to practice at the bar.

The lynchings, repeated murders, deprivations of civil rights, denial of citizenship, unjust discriminations, unchristian practices and a failure to enforce justice in different sections of this country, demand the attention of the negro lawyers. And they, above all others, should, if possible, endeavor to right these wrongs.

There is a limit to human endurance. When King John, of England, had perpetrated so many excuses and deprived the citizens of their ancient privileges, common law lawyers, the great barons and the people, forced him to sign magna carta, the great charter of human rights.

So we must demand of this government our constitutional rights. Our rights have been trifled with long enough. The constitution of the United States and of the several states are our magna carta. It is a peculiar duty of the colored lawyers to live up to them; to see that they are enforced without prejudice or partiality to anyone.

The negro lawyer must either now become a serf or a free citizen, through whom the negro must demand his rights or get none. The sooner the negro race understands this the better it will be.

"Come, let us counsel together, for in the multitude of counsel there is safety."

- By order of the committee.
- S. L. Hutchins, Tennessee, chairman.
- N. R. Harper, Kentucky.
- J. H. Ballou, Georgia.
- J. T. Bailey, Texas.
- S. A. Morton, Mississippi.
- W. B. Jones, South Carolina.
- Chas. A. Robinson, Arkansas.
- J. N. Hutchins, Tennessee.
- Andrew J. Carter, Louisiana.
- Mildred Keane, West Virginia.
- R. C. O. BENJAMIN, Secretary.
- Birmingham, Ala.