

Hon. A. W. Touque

Dear Sir

The enclosed editorial from one of the leading
Democratic dailies of this State forms interesting
reading from the fact that said Journal which
one word calling for the law to suppress lawlessness
was instrumental in bringing about such a state
of affairs. For political purposes they have incited and
through the hoodlum elements to overt acts, and now
that their purposes are accomplished the fact on
the part of law abiding persons. I do not intend
this for publication but merely to state the above facts
in order that you might make comments on said
editorial.

Respt
R. W. M.

THE "WHITE CAP" OUTLAWS.

The "White Cap" outlawry is the latest form of outrage that has come to plague the Southern people. No sooner have they secured in a Democratic victory that which places political control of the national administration in the hands of friends, an assurance that sectional legislation and interference with their right of self-government by the federal power are to be things of the past, than the White Caps come to plague us.

These outlaws, organized into secret bands that ride through the country at midnight and perpetrate every species of outrage on peaceable people at their homes, can be heard from on all sides. They infest many parts of Louisiana and Mississippi and other States to such an extent that they dominate neighborhoods, intimidating or securing the countenance of the authorities and terrorizing the peaceable people of such communities. They undertake to regulate all questions of manners, morals, politics and opinions generally, and neither age, sex nor the sanctity of the people's right to be secure in their homes are any bar to the lawless atrocities of these brigands. They break into the dwellings of the people in the night time to make upon their victims such unlawful demands as may please these marauders, and, if not readily complied with, are enforced by violent assaults which often do not stop short of murder.

The crimes of these outlaws are reported on all sides, and so far none of the perpetrators have been brought to justice. A large number of men have been arrested in the Louisiana parish of Avoyelles, but they have not yet been brought to trial, the fruitful resources of the law's delay having been put in operation to prevent such action. In the meantime the outrages continue, and the marauders seem to have everything their own way.

If there ever was a time in the South when this sort of lawlessness was excusable, that time has long passed away. The Southern States are all under the control of their own people, with settled governments and free institutions made by their own people. Interference in Southern elections by the Federal power is no longer to be thought of. The legal rights of all citizens and residents are clearly defined and fully guaranteed by the most solemn covenants and constitutions. Then let it not be said that from the moment the Southern people escaped the danger of outside interference with their own affairs they commenced a system of violent internal disorder and a course of shameful and atrocious assaults upon the most sacred rights of their fellows.

Under these circumstances it becomes the duty of the authorities of the States where these crimes are rife to put down the criminals with a strong hand. The Governors of these States must take the lead in the repression of these disorders. The people of all classes and conditions are entitled to the fullest protection, and it is the duty of the constituted authorities to give that protection, or go before the world with the declaration that they are incompetent or unwilling to enforce the laws of the land.

In default of any other relief, let the people themselves rise up and exterminate the outlaws. This is a desperate remedy and just now we are far from believing for a moment that any such resort is necessary, but the Southern people must remember that they have much at stake in this issue, and they must maintain their character as a law-abiding and honorable population. At this moment our people are making every exertion to attract immigration and capital to develop the rich resources of our States, and they can ill afford to have to meet the charge that any part of their country is overruled and completely under the domination of outlaws and criminals. The duties of the hour are most urgent and they cannot be put aside. Shall there be a reign of law or of outlawry? That is for the people to decide.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN THE CON-

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