

Wesley
Kelso Kans.

June 19th 94

Hon Judge

A. Young

Herewith enclosed find

Copies from Globe Democrat in which
Geo. Stone of Mo declares that the Negro's
privileges and rights is as full and sacred as
that of the white in Mo. and also in the
Southern States we here think he is
slightly off in this especially in some of the
Southern States at least yours for equal
rights —

John Hair

IN DEFENSE OF THE SOUTH.

Globe Democrat at Stone
June 19, 1894

Gov. Stone's Reply to a London "News" Editorial on Negro Outrages.

A Severe Indictment Based on Absurd Statements Made Before Conven- tions in England—The Col- ored Race in Missouri.

Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., June 15.—An attack on the Southern States, published in the "Daily News," of London, has brought forth the following letter from Gov. Stone to that paper:

Executive Office, Jefferson City, Mo., U. S. A., June 15, 1894.—The "Daily News," London: Some one has sent me a copy of your issue of May 16, 1894. On the fourth page is an editorial, entitled, "American Horrors." It is stated that at the May meetings in London of the Baptist Union and the Congregational Union resolutions proposed and seconded by certain reverend doctors had been adopted expressing "grief and horror at the wrongs done to the colored people of the Southern States of America by lawless mobs," etc. It also appears that a Miss Ida Wells was presented before the British Women's Temperance Association, and "gave an account of horrors that had occurred under her own notice, and said that in 138 lynchings, or mob murders, last year, only thirty of the victims had been even accused of crime." Miss Wells is described as a "colored lady from Memphis, Tenn.," and as the "editor and proprietor of a newspaper in Memphis who has been exiled under a threat of mob violence for protesting in her paper against these crimes." It seems that she so wrought upon the British Women's Temperance Association that a resolution of sympathy was passed by acclamation, declaring, among other things, that "no exigency can justify the infliction of such forms of retribution, even for crimes the most heinous." It is also stated that "in some of the great towns (in England) meetings have been held on the subject, and a strong feeling of just and righteous indignation has been roused." We are informed that these proceedings, or some parts of them, were had for the purpose of "strengthening the hands of Dr. Bradford and other Americans who are appealing to public opinion at home."

NEGROES IN MISSOURI.

Taking these statements as a basis, and assuming them to be true, you proceeded in your editorial comments to prefer a severe indictment against all the Southern States of the Union. Your paper has a world-wide circulation, and the appearance of this article in your columns, especially in your editorial columns, is calculated to do immeasurable and most unmerited harm to those against whom it is directed, in the opinion of the good people of all Europe. Missouri is not classed as a Southern State. Geographically, it is grouped as a Western State. But it lies right upon the border of the Southern States, was one of the old slave States, and has quite a large negro population. I wish to state emphatically, that negroes are in every respect as well treated in Missouri as in Massachusetts, or any other State. In this State I personally know that they have the same freedom of speech and conduct, and that they enjoy the same privileges of citizenship possessed by the whites. All over the State public schools are provided at public expense for the education of colored children, and here at Jefferson City is a college, erected and maintained by the State, wherein such of these children as have completed the public school course, and care to do so, may prosecute studies in the sciences, classics, etc. The colored people are as safe under our laws as the white, and there is no privilege of the citizen enjoyed by the whites that is not fully shared by the negroes. I know this to be absolutely the truth as to Missouri. I do not hesitate to say that what is true of Missouri is substantially true of all the Southern States. I have been much through the Southern States. I am well acquainted with their people and familiar with their conditions. The arraignment of the Southern States by the organizations mentioned in your editorial is unjust because wholly unwarranted by the facts. The statement by Miss Wells that out of 138 lynchings occurring under her own notice, only thirty were even accused of crime, is absurd; and equally absurd is the statement that she has been "exiled under a threat of mob violence for protesting in her paper against these crimes."

A PURE FABRICATION.

I have not a shadow of doubt that the entire statement of this "colored lady from Memphis" is a pure fabrication. I deny it with the same authority and assurance that you would deny a similar charge if made against any highly reputable community in England. Memphis is a large city, and its people are cultured, humane, hospitable and law abiding. No such social or public conditions exist, or can exist, in that city. The story is absurd. It is surprising that any intelligent person could be found willing to credit the statement of this woman that over 100 cases had come under her personal notice within a year of innocent people being murdered by lawless mobs without even being accused of crime. If the good ladies of the British Women's Temperance Association will reflect somewhat they can not fail to see that they have been imposed upon. Equally has Dr. Bradford, whoever he may be, and the "other Americans who are appealing to public opinion at home," whoever they may be, have imposed upon the Baptist and Congregational Unions. Is it not a little strange that Dr. Bradford and his colleagues should "appeal to public opinion at home" by going away from home to make these monstrous accusations?

What can be the motive of this attack, and what influence is back of it? The people of the Southern States have been holding numerous conventions recently with the object of co-operating in advertising on a large scale their wonderful resources and in devising ways and means of attracting capital and labor to aid in the development of their section, which is not only the richest in natural resources of any part of the Union, but is unsurpassed by any similar area in the world. There are those in some quarters who look with apprehensive and unfriendly eye upon this movement and bring the South into greater prominence. There are those who for selfish and sectional reasons, both commercial and political, would resort to any means to retard the rapid development of the Southern States. In the "News" article, which I am criticising, appears this expression: "The Southern States are asking for both labor and capital to develop their magnificent resources, and they will get neither till order reigns in their cities. Capital asks first of all for the supremacy of law, and labor will keep away from districts where no sympathizer with a negro can feel entirely safe. The Southern States will thus be made to feel that they can not outrage with impunity the sense of justice and of humanity of the whole civilized world." Is the movement of the Southern people to attract capital and labor into their fields, mines and forests to be met by an attack of this character? Are the great newspapers of Europe to be used to keep European capital from the Southern States? In my conjectures as to the motive prompting this attack I may be at fault, but in my statement that the reasons assigned for it are wholly without substantial foundation I know I am literally correct. In behalf of truth and justice, speaking in the name of a Western State, I ask you to insert in your journal this defense of our Southern neighbors. Respectfully,

WM. J. STONE,
Governor of Missouri.