

Alexandria Va. July 7<sup>th</sup> 94

— Judge Lougee

Dear Sir — I am indeed  
glad to see that you have  
resumed "A Bystander's Notes"  
in the Luter Ocean.

I hope you will not for-  
get your promise to me  
some months ago viz-  
to say something about  
my Pamphlet on "Southern  
Outrages." Miss Lda B.  
Wells are being heard  
from in England Gov.  
Stone of Missouri has  
written a letter to the  
London "Times" in which

he denies all Miss Wells says. But of all the hellish outrages that Miss Wells has told to the people of England she has not exaggerated in in one single instance. Not only the people of England but the people of this country should have kept before them the number of Negroes who have been shot, burned, and otherwise put to death in a most shameful manner. Only a few days ago a Negro was skinned alive in the State of Georgia. Governor Stone have not seen my book, the people of his State should know more

about these diabolical  
deeds— The first time  
you write on the subject  
of lynching please do not  
forget the book —

God bless you! may you  
live long to continue  
depending the weak and  
lowly — is the prayer of  
your humble servant

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Cutting from

*Anti-Ocean*

Address

*Chicago Ill.*

Date

*Feb 28 94*

#### Lynching on the Increase.

Those who take an optimistic view of the race prejudice in the South and believe that it is decreasing will do well to read the pamphlet just published by R. C. O. Benjamin, secretary of the Colored Lawyers' National Bar Association, under the title of "Southern Outrages." Mr. Benjamin is an attorney, living at Alexandria, Va., and he gives a statistical record of the lynchings in the South, together with many details of the cases, the causes leading up to murder, and the testimony of white witnesses. This record does not indicate that the crime of lynching is decreasing, but on the contrary that it has been rapidly increasing. Taking the ten years from 1882 to 1892, he shows that while in 1882 there were fifty-two negroes murdered by mobs, and that in each year following up to 1890 the number was less than one hundred, in 1890 it reached an even hundred, in 1891 it was increased to 169, and in 1892 there were 241 of these horrible outrages upon law and civilization.

Louisiana led the list with 29 lynchings, Tennessee came next with 28, Arkansas had 25, Alabama 22, Georgia 17, Mississippi 16, Texas 15, Florida 11, and Virginia 7. There were five women among the victims of Southern mobs that year.

Mr. Benjamin has not succeeded in gathering the statistics for 1893, but whatever they will show in figures, the lynchings of last year were among the most horrible that have been recorded and so brutal were these exhibitions of mob violence that the Southern press was awakened to the danger to that section, and spoke out in plain language against such lawlessness.

Mr. Benjamin does not deny that there are bad negroes in the South, but he successfully refutes the charge that the negroes are a menace to the white women of that section. He does not hold that the white men of the South sympathize with this lawlessness and intimidation of the negroes, but he does hold the white people of the South responsible for failure, through carelessness, indifference, or willful neglect, to enforce the law of the land against those who commit such crimes.

There is not a State, a county, or a city in the South where the machinery of law is not wholly in the possession of the whites, and they must, therefore, bear the responsibility for the failure of the law, both in its operation to bring negroes charged with crime to trial and justice, and also with the utter disregard of the law by white men when a negro is charged with crime.

Mr. Benjamin's conclusion that the charge of "assault" so frequently brought against negroes is simply for the purpose of finding an excuse for the race prejudice which ends in murder, to make the negro appear like a hateful and unreliable animal unworthy of citizenship, and to successfully intimidate the race, to keep it in subjection, is a terrible arraignment of the whites, but with the evidence he has collected it does not appear to be entirely unjustified.

#### SOUTHERN OUTRAGES.

From New Hampshire [Concord] "Statesman" Feb. 22, '94.

Under this title Mr. R. C. O. Benjamin has written, and Mr. Magnus L. Robinson has published, a pamphlet of 64 pages, rehearsing the crimes committed against negroes in the South within the last 10 years or so. Mr. Benjamin is well qualified to write such a work. He himself bears the marks of the knife pistol, and bludgeon, having been assaulted, stabbed and shot by high-toned southern gentlemen who objected to his studying law and wearing a silk hat. These incidents Mr. Benjamin has not recorded; he has found enough graver and more brutal outrages to fill his book. A more gruesome recital can hardly be imagined. The blood-red cover of the pamphlet is but a hint of the ensanguined chapters of assault and murder within. Not only do bold statistical tables show the number and frequency of southern outrages and their alleged provocations, but there has been gathered in the book brief newspaper accounts of many of the more fiendish acts of violence which have befouled the later history of the new South. Here are recorded the facts, as a dispassionate newsgathering force, the Associated Press, has set them forth. Mr. Benjamin has apparently not trusted himself to write the history of these shameful events, lest his zeal for his wronged race should rouse him to misstatement. And his cleverness in turning to the Association Press records has produced its result. Nobody can read these brief summaries of horrible crimes without realizing the utmost of their enormities. The simple eloquence of truth is here. What an appeal is it!

This little pamphlet should have a wide distribution. The knowledge of the facts it contains may dull the eloquence of many an apostrophe to our country's greatness, but such a knowledge could never lessen one's patriotism. On the contrary, it will arouse patriotism to a sense of its responsibilities and its opportunities. Those responsibilities will weigh heavy upon the American conscience as long as such narratives as Mr. Benjamin's are possible; these opportunities will remain unexercised so long as the free and unbarassed voters of the North do not exercise their franchise in behalf of the intimidated citizens at the South. *Senator Chandler's paper*