

ANTI-LYNCHING MOVEMENT.

MISS IDA B. WELLS, a young colored woman formerly of Memphis, Tenn., has lately been conducting a lecturing crusade in England against the lynching of negroes in the South. An Anti-Lynch League has been formed in England, and a number of prominent men have signified their intention to support the movement. Mrs. Humphry Ward is president of the Woman's Auxiliary to the league and Lady Henry Somerset and the Countess of Aberdeen are members. A fund of £5,000 has been subscribed and it is reported that a committee will be sent to this country to make an investigation. It is intended that the league shall co-operate with a similar society to be organized in the United States. Among those whom it is said will interest themselves in the work in this country are Hon. Carl Schurz, R. W. Gilder, Hon. Bourke Cockran, and Dr. John Hall of New York, Archbishop Ireland, Archbishop Janssens of St. Louis, three Protestant Episcopal bishops of the South, and many others. The opinions of a few southern governors on the visit of the English committee are quoted below. They are taken from a symposium in the *New York World* and are fairly representative of the large number of comments received from the executives of the states in the South and Southwest, a majority of which ridiculed the movement.

Governor Northen of Georgia.

We challenge investigation by all persons who have the right to investigate these charges, but any attempt upon the part of Englishmen, tainted by their own national crimes, to arraign us for trial must be considered by us a gross impertinence.

Governor O'Ferral of Virginia.

Things have come to a pretty pass in this country when we are to have a lot of English moralists sticking their noses into our internal affairs. It is the quintessence of brass and impudence.

Governor Hogg of Texas.

Neither moral nor political sentiment or law will prohibit Englishmen or other people from freely and fully inquiring into supposed race troubles or other questions in Texas.

Governor Tiltman of South Carolina.

The Englishmen are welcome to come to South Carolina and learn the truth. They can't investigate us in New York. I will afford them every facility to get at facts.

(Rep.) Chicago Inter-Ocean. (Ill.)

Miss Wells is to be congratulated upon the success of her crusade. It has aroused the people north and south, in England and America, with the exception of a few southern governors, who begin to feel the lash of public condemnation and are giving public exhibitions of their squirming, and attempts to evade the responsibility which rests upon them.

(Dem.) Richmond Times. (Va.)

We welcome these cranks and hope they will travel from one end of the South to another and make all the inquiries they may feel inclined to make about our customs in lynching, or our customs in any other behalf. They will find the negroes responsible for terrible provocations for lynchings, to which the more inflammable and light-headed of our population are only too prone to yield. But they will find the great body of the thinking and conservative people of the South deplore lynching as one of the very worst evils and curses that can befall a people, and that they are exerting themselves all the time, to the best of their ability, in an endeavor to break it up.

(Evan.) The Outlook. (New York, N. Y.)

International public opinion is one of the prime elements in modern civilization. It put an end to the atrocities of the Bourbon rule in Italy; it has modified the anti-socialistic and repressive legislation in Germany; it is exerting a cognizable influence upon corrupting influences at work under the English government in India; it is beginning to have some effect on the horrible atrocities perpetrated by the Russian government in Siberia; it is stirring philanthropy and religion to deal with the problems of the "submerged tenth" in London; and it is little short of absurd for the governors of Virginia and Georgia to suppose that a Chinese wall can be built about the southern states so high and so thick that crime perpetrated behind that wall can be kept concealed from the observation of Christendom and the condemnation of a universal and enlightened conscience.

(Dem.) The Post. (Houston, Tex.)

The best way to cure the evil is to remove the cause.

(Afro-American.) The Freedman. (Indianapolis, Ind.)

In some instances, we have no doubt, colored men have been guilty as charged, and have contributed to the deplorable condition that civilization stands aghast at, but a mistake was made and a double crime committed, that a punishment was not meted out to them by a legitimate process of law.

(N. E. Church, South.) Christian Advocate. (Nashville, Tenn.)

A different course must be pursued—a different object must be aimed at. Let Englishmen protest, let our northern brethren protest, let Ida Wells protest—that is all right—we join them all in protesting against lynching, and will go as far as any to put a stop to it, but to go that far and cease is to stop far short of duty. What is needed is a few Englishmen, and a few northern men, and a few Ida Wellses to come south and do duty as missionaries among the colored people, and teach them better morals. The white people have been preached to, and lectured to, at long range, long enough. Let the missionaries come south and work among the negroes.