

The Work of Lynchers Upon the Lives of Negroes.

Springfield, Tenn., February 20.—The country for miles around was in a fever heat of excitement yesterday over the wholesale lynching which occurred in this quiet little town Friday night. The crime for which these negroes were lynched was the brutal murder of a bachelor farmer named Laprade, who lived alone on his farm near Sadlersville, Robinson county, about a mile away from any neighbor. He lived a sort of hermit life, eccentric, opposed to the shedding of blood and keeps no animals or fowls on his premises. His neighbors inferred that he had money. The report was current that he and his two brothers had fallen heirs to \$9,000 a few days before the murder. A party of nine negroes went to his house on the night of September 8, 1880. Going in the rear of his dwelling, one of them knocked at the door, and, imitating the voice of Laprade's brother, asked admission. Laprade opened the door without thought of harm.

The nine black fiends rushed in upon him, knocked him down and then demanded his money. He gave them \$5, saying that was all he had. This but enraged his assailants. Throwing a rope around his neck they dragged him around his grounds hanged him to the limb of a tree repeatedly until he was almost unconscious, singed his body with torches and lacerated and mutilated him with knives in the endeavor to compel him to admit that he had concealed money, but always with the same result.

Finally made desperate by their repeated failures to extort from him the place of concealment of his supposed wealth, the demons proceeded to still more inhuman tortures. With the rope he was dragged about the yard, and nameless outrages were committed upon his person. Finally, his legs were cut and hacked, and the tendons torn from their places from the knee down. Then his skull was crushed with an axe, after which the body was hid under some bushes in a neighboring thicket.

Two nights later two of them carried the body to a sink hole twenty feet deep, where it was found two weeks afterward through the agency of an alleged "fortune teller." She told a man named David Allen how the crime was committed, and that the body had been thrown into the sink hole where it was found. This woman, who was considered a sort of witch in the neighborhood, had evidently been told by some of the negroes what they had done.

The discovery of the murder caused intense excitement throughout the adjacent neighborhood, and threats of lynching were freely made against the murderers so soon as they should be apprehended. Suspicion fell upon Jim Higgins, and after being imprisoned some days he made a confession implicating his associates, who were arrested. Higgins, who was an old negro was taken out and his feet burned until, in his agony, he is said to have given the details of the Laprade murder. The prisoners, including Higgins were brought to the Nashville jail. Higgins had one of his feet amputated and subsequently died in jail.

Four nights after extorting the confession from Higgins, namely—on the night of September 15—two of the murderers Bell and Jamieson were taken from the Springfield jail and lynched. On the same night a white man named Ramsey was shot to death in his cell. He had been confined for shooting Miss Holt, whom he began to persecute on account of her engagement with another person.

After this summary vengeance had been wreaked upon these culprits things quieted down somewhat, but there was an undercurrent of dark forebodings which betokened no good to the remaining prisoners.

The work of lynching the colored murderers was resumed on Friday night. The trial of the prisoners had been in progress all day and in the evening it had reached a termination in the charge of Judge Strake to the jury. The five murderers, James Elder, Loch Mallory, Lun Stell, Robert Thwait and another man whose name has not been ascertained were delivered to the custody of the sheriff and that official prepared to start to jail with them. Bill Murphy and Anthony Duffy, who had testified for the state, were set at liberty and it is thought that their release led to the terrible tragedy. As the sheriff departed with his prisoners he was met at the door by an infuriated mob who, presenting pistols at his head, rushed upon him and took the trembling prisoners from him. Attorney General Bell tried to collect a posse to resist the mob, but failed and was compelled to make his exit through a window.

The mob ordered all the lights out, fired a regular fusillade of shots to intimidate any would-be rescuers, dragged the five captives to the east door of the courthouse, where ropes were awaiting them. The ropes were suspended from the veranda above. The five bodies in an instant were swinging beneath the veranda. Jim Elder was the only one who made any struggle, asking for time to offer up a prayer, when one of the mob said, "Did you give Laprade time to pray?" He responded, "No, I didn't." "Then you

go over," said one of the leaders as he turned Elder over the railing. The mob guarded the bodies until they were sure that they were dead. The leader then gave the order, "Disperse," and the mob some 200 in number—immediately departed, going on horseback in three different directions. The crowd attending the trial was paralyzed with terror at first, and then jumped from the windows of the court room and rushed off in every direction, uttering cries of affright.

Miscellaneous News Items.

Lewisburg has lost since last August upwards of sixty children from that fell destroyer, diphtheria.

A Pike county weather-prophet says we are to have seven snows before the winter will be over.

A short distance from Greensburg resides an old lady eighty years of age, who, as soon as 4 o'clock in the afternoon arrives each day, puts out every vestige of fire in the house and retires to bed, where she remains until 8 o'clock the next morning.

WILKESBARRE, Feb. 20.—At Nanticoke last night a Hungarian named Lafschuaki broke a bottle of alcohol in his pocket and the contents saturated his clothing. He afterwards lit a match, when his clothes caught fire and he was so terribly burned that he will probably die.

Dr. T. A. Ward, of Dundee, Fond du Lac county, Wis., was visiting a patient about two miles from Dundee, one day last week, and while at that place was taken with malignant scarlatina, expiring the same day, in the same room with the patient he was attending.

By the rise in the Tulpehocken creek it was estimated that 50,000 cords of wood were swept down the stream, while fences have been obliterated and bateaux lost. Some person at the outlet of that creek can open a wood yard.

WEST CHESTER, Feb. 21.—On Saturday, Newlin twp., was the scene of an accident whereby Courtland Michener, a prominent farmer, aged about 55 years, was almost instantly killed. About noon on Saturday word reached our borough that he had been killed while engaged in threshing near Unionville. His death was caused by the bursting of the fly-wheel.

Mr. Jas. McIlvaine, who died at a wagon yard at Eufaula, Ala., applied at the branch probate office in that city the day before the night of his death for a marriage license. On his first application he forgot the name of his intended bride and had to go off and learn it, when he returned and procured the license. That night he became a corpse.

When the congregation of the Ames M. E. church, New Orleans, assembled on Sunday morning last, it was found that the flooring of the church had all been removed and the furniture taken away. On inquiry it was ascertained that the work had been done by order of Rev. Mr. Bristol, the former pastor, who had been removed for alleged intimacy with female members.

James Tate, a well-known citizen of Warren county, Mo., had a harmless excrescence on his nose. During the fall a traveling fellow stopped at Mr. T's farm, and, seeing the pimple on his nose, persuaded him that it was a cancer and that he could cure it. He was to receive \$50 if he succeeded. He gave Mr. Tate some sort of acid ointment and made him apply it several times. In a short time the whole of the fleshy and cartilaginous portions of his nose were destroyed and eaten down level with his face.

The residents of Sussex county, N. J., have become greatly excited over the number of incendiary fires which have occurred recently, and are taking steps to fathom the mysteries attending the circumstances. There have been some twenty-three incendiary fires in the county within the past two years, with an aggregate loss of over \$200,000. Detectives have been employed to work up the case and bring the offenders to justice.

The tragic death of Lottie Merrill, the young huntress of Wayne county, is reported. A party of hunters a few days since came across her cabin, which was still burning, and within was found the charred remains of the girl and six bears. She had dragged the carcass of a deer to her cabin, and the hungry bears had followed the trail. After eating the deer the bears had attacked and overpowered her after she had killed two of the number.—Her remains were buried near the site of her burned cabin.

On Monday last week, a three-year old child of a farmer named Stough, in Manchester township, six miles from York, died from burns. The mother had tied the little one with a rope to keep it from the fire while she went out to attend to her evening's milking. The rope proved too long and the little one, in its mother's absence, crawled over to the stove and began playing with the coals. Its clothes caught fire and upon the mother's return its clothes were nearly all burned from the body, while its limbs were reduced to a crisp.

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ESTATE NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given that letters of Administration on the estate of William F. Miller, late of Watts township, Perry county, Pa., deceased, have been granted to the undersigned residing in the same township. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims to present them duly authenticated for settlement to SMORY B. MILLER, Administrator, Feb. 8, 1881 pd. WILSON LUPER, Atty.

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