

**Lynching.**—Ida B. Wells, a colored woman driven out of Memphis, has been lecturing in England on the wrongs suffered by colored people in this country. *The Independent* says: It will not at all do for Gov. William J. Stone, of Missouri, to assert, as he does in a long letter to the London *Daily News*, that Miss Ida B. Wells' statements before English audiences are "a pure fabrication." They certainly are not. He says:

"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."

Now, it is a fact beyond question that two successful colored business men of Memphis were murdered by a mob which was led by white business rivals of theirs; that the colored paper of Memphis, of which she was one of the editors, denounced the outrage, and that, in the course of the discussion, it made certain remarks which were regarded as defamatory to white women of the South. As a result, the editors of that paper had to flee for their lives, and the paper did not issue another number. The abuse of the colored people and of their paper at that time by certain white papers of Memphis, which we saw, was barbarous. We do not believe that she has exaggerated the number of such lynchings that take place in the South or the North, for that matter, and it would be impossible to exaggerate the barbarity of some of them. These lynchings take place on account of vengeance or a desire to save the county the trouble and expense of a trial. We are thoroughly glad that she has made her campaign in England because foreign criticism will affect us here in America when, perhaps, home criticism will not; and these cases of lynchings are becoming almost more than sporadic here in the North.