

miscarriage of justice would then have been complete and irremediable. Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New-Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices.

That was the justification of the mob, if it had any justification. Orderly and law-abiding persons will not pretend that the butchery of the Italians was either "justifiable or proper." There is no room for argument about that, for before the argument begins we must grant the postulate that our civilization and our patiently-constructed system of criminal jurisprudence are failures. Yet while every good citizen will readily assent to the proposition that this affair is to be deplored, it would be difficult to find any one individual who would confess that privately he deplores it very much. That is because human nature, in some respects, has been but slightly modified since the days of savagery by civilization and criminal jurisprudence, and "respect for the constable's staff."

THE NEW-ORLEANS AFFAIR.

The records of Judge Lynch's court probably afford no parallel to this bloody business in the city of New-Orleans. The lynching of a pair of murderers or horse thieves in the West or Southwest is not an event of such uncommon occurrence as to attract much attention. But the New-Orleans mob shot to death eleven victims. Two or three others upon whom it sought to carry out its notions of justice could not be found.

The diligence of the mob in doing its work thoroughly and to the end was not, however, its most remarkable characteristic. As was said by a New-Hampshire clergyman who witnessed the sacking of the office of a "Copperhead" newspaper at Concord during the war of the rebellion, it was "a very respectable mob." Nor did its leaders make any concealment of their part in the undertaking. Mr. PARKERSON, Mr. DENEGRE, and Mr. WICKLIFFE made short exhortatory speeches. It was announced that Mr. HOUSTON would be the "First Lieutenant." These are all well-known citizens of New-Orleans. A "committee" had procured rifles, pistols, and shotguns. In broad daylight the angry throng followed its leaders to the Parish Prison. Once inside the walls of the prison, they shot down the crouching and shrieking Italians as they would have shot down street curs.

The New-Orleans Cotton Exchange at once adopted resolutions declaring that the action of the mob was "proper and justifiable." How many citizens of the United States believe that? There can be no doubt that the people of New-Orleans believe it. The Stock Exchange and the Board of Trade adopted similar resolutions. The newspapers do not condemn the lynching, and some of them approve it. Evidently an immense preponderance of popular feeling in New-Orleans sustains the lynchers. It is not probable that any of them will ever be punished.

Nor can there be any doubt that the mob's victims were desperate ruffians and murderers. These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigations. Our own rattlesnakes are as good citizens as they. Our own murderers are men of feeling and nobility compared to them. These men of the Mafia killed Chief HENNESSY in circumstances of peculiar atrocity. That assassination was a menace to the peace and good order of the city of New-Orleans and to every one of its inhabitants.

To these circumstances of unusual provocation, there was added the astonishing verdict of the jury acquitting most of the indicted murderers, and disagreeing as to the rest. The evidence had been considered ample for conviction. The conclusion that the jury had been corrupted was irresistible. The acquitted men were about to be set at liberty. The