

We regret that for the first time in the history of this county, to the best of our knowledge, Judge Lynch has held his court in our midst. The crime for which Charles Whitley suffered death by mob violence on Sunday night was of a most brutal nature—such a one as would naturally arouse the indignation of a parent, of whatsoever color, to the highest pitch. There can be but little doubt that the evidence of guilt of the criminal would have been sufficient to convict him in a court of law of an offense for which the punishment is death. But on the other hand, while we have able and impartial judges to preside over our courts, justice is so often defeated by the confusing methods employed by crafty counsel in defense of criminals, and our laws allow of so many technicalities behind which a criminal may seek refuge, that an unfortunate distrust of justice in such cases has arisen in the public mind, and to which may be attributed the frequent resort to lynch law. While we deplore the tragedy that has occurred in our county, yet the offense that led to it must strike us all as deserving a terrible punishment.