

## Letter from Denton, Md.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

DENTON, Md., November 3

*The Recent Outrage in the First District—The Negro Man Wilson taken from the Jail by Citizens—He is Hung, Shot, Quartered and Burned—Incidents of the Affair. &c.*

Dears Editors:—You have, doubtless, ere this, heard of and given publicity to the damnable deed of attempted rape and murder committed by the negro man Jim Wilson, in the upper part of this county, on the 30th ultimo; and your readers will not be much surprised, I take it, to learn that the fiend who perpetrated the deed has been made to suffer the penalty of his crime without "due process of law."

It is impossible to describe the effect of this dark and unnatural deed upon the popular mind. On Friday the funeral of the little girl took place at the residence of her father, and was largely attended by the people from that entire section of the county. The scenes there witnessed very naturally intensified the already fearfully excited public mind, and the negro's doom was plainly written in the determined features of an exasperated populace.

Towards night, on Saturday last, people from different sections commenced arriving in town, and by 8 o'clock there were not less than three hundred persons collected from different parts of the county, mainly, however, from this and the upper district. About this hour a general movement was made for the jail, and the sheriff, being unsupported by an adequate posse, could only protest against the threatened violence. This, of course, was of no avail; the crowd pressed forward and gained an easy entrance to the passage of the building. From thence they rushed up stairs to the room in which the negro was confined, broke open the door with an axe, and in a few moments re-appeared outside with the prisoner in charge. He was taken to a tree in the rear of the jail, a rope was placed around his neck, and in less time than it takes to tell it, his body was dangling in the air. Simultaneously with the hanging, his body was perforated by perhaps a dozen or more musket and pistol balls.

Thus a fearful retribution was summarily visited upon the perpetrator of one of the most heinous crimes of which it is possible to conceive; and here, it was supposed and hoped the matter had ended, but in this the public expectation was not gratified, and we are sorry to say that the scene which followed was of a character justly meriting and doubtless receiving the condemnation of nearly all classes of the community. After being pronounced dead, the more excited of the crowd took the body down and dragged it through the street to the colored people's church, where it was suspended to a tree.—Various propositions, as we learn, were then made as to what further disposition to make of it, one of which was to place it inside of the church and to burn both together. These propositions, however, were voted down, and it was finally concluded that the body should be taken to the river shore and burned. Accordingly a fire was kindled, the body was cut into small pieces, and thrown into the flames and consumed.

This last act, as we have above intimated, was well calculated to shock the moral sense of the community, and to elicit everywhere expressions of earnest condemnation: in view of the aggravated character of the crime but few, comparatively, made any serious objection to the simple hanging of the culprit. In view of the exasperated state of the public mind, and the manifest determination of the crowd, the sheriff determined to make no forcible resistance to the possession of the criminal, and in this he doubtless did well. At an early hour in the evening he determined to remove the negro to Easton jail for safety, and for this purpose had him actually in his carriage; but this was found out, and he prudently yielded to a peremptory demand for his return to the jail.

The only place in town where intoxicating liquors are sold was closed at an early hour in the evening, and hence there were very few intoxicated persons to be seen. Indeed, a survey of the vast concourse of people assembled showed that the intemperate and rowdy element of the community was by no means largely represented.

During his imprisonment the negro conversed freely upon the subject of the horrible act he had committed, and seemed fully to appreciate the magnitude of its character. He seemed quite penitent, and anticipated that he would be hung without a trial. In speaking of what he had done he, told one or two gentlemen that there was a good deal of talk among some of the colored people in his neighborhood respecting the present and prospective position of his race, growing out of the present condition of national affairs and hinted that the appropriation of white women for the wives of black men was a subject entering into their vague calculation.

I have thus endeavored to give you a full and truthful statement respecting this serious and, in some respects, unfortunate affair, and hope its length may not deter you from laying it in full before your readers. Yours, truly,  
GALLATIN