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SHOT, LYNCHED AND BURNED. .

Speech by REV. J. J. JONES,

Pastor First Baptist Church, Steelton, Pa.

TO THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

SUBJECT: MOB AND LYNCH LAW,  
HOW TO SAVE THE NATION FROM THE DISGRACE.

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STEELTON, PA :  
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## PREFACE.

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I recognize the fact that I should keep silent, and leave this work to more experienced hands. But as no heart is more willing than mine, and all seem silent. I reluctantly take this plan of speaking to the Nation and to the world my sentiments on the subject of Mob Violence and Lawlessness as practiced upon a helpless people, by lynching them in this Christian land. I disclaim all feelings of bitterness. No spirit of revenge actuates me. Although I was many years a slave, I have love for all my countrymen and malice toward none but lynchers.

In sending out this speech I entertain no thought but the freedom and protection of a worthy people in the enjoyment of their rights as American citizens.

I wish to suggest what I believe to be the best method of curing the evil, and will bring the best good to the country. Education, moral culture, refinement and wealth, must be considered in the elevation of any race to equal rights and privileges; but where prejudice is based upon color, regardless of conditions and qualifications, these will not furnish a perfect cure. These elements of character united with my method here suggested will accomplish the desired end.

It would be worse than foolishness for less than one-eighth of this great population to think of protecting their rights by any form of violence; 8,000,000 against 57,000,000 people; \$263,000,000 against \$65,000,000,000 is as a drop in the mighty ocean. Our educational status as a people is in about the same proportion. If we had any inclination to use any other than civil proceedings in the courts, it would be worse than Indian folly. The violent elements that stand opposed to the rights of the Afro-Americans are organized to carry out their wicked designs, but they are in the minority. The great christian heart of this nation is opposed to mob violence, but it is not organized against it. What we need through our devotion to right living and christian manhood, is to rouse the sympathy of the best thought of the nation—get the best favor of the people. Crystalize this christian sentiment into a moving, active force, against the curse of lynching, by a powerful national citizens' rights association organized throughout the country. The politicians have largely brought on the trouble, but they do not lift a hand against it. Now let the Ministers of the Gospel, with the aid of all good people, begin to organize a local national citizens' rights association in every church and school in the country, holding monthly business meetings, quarterly local union meetings, semi annual district or county meetings, annual state conventions, and a national convention every four years. Such an organization of 2,500,000 or more people paying \$1 00 each annually or 10 cents per month will correct the evil. With this amount of money backing an organized force of earnest men and women in the right would mould public sentiment against mob violence. We would enlist the sympathy of the world in our favor, as against the efforts of our enemies to slander and disgrace us. Dear reader, if I can but get your active aid as a member of this organization, and through you bring about the desired end in your locality, I shall be satisfied.

My hope is to lift the cloud that now rests upon a defenceless people, and save our children from the infamy and shame that will forever stamp us as an inferior and unworthy people. If this organization is effected, the sympathy of the country aroused, the moral support of other nations drawn toward us, my people vindicated in the enjoyment of their rights, mob and lynch law forever removed from the country, I shall be satisfied. I appeal to the pride of all christian nations in this matter.

Yours for the good of the Race and Nation,

REV. J. J. JONES,

Pastor First Baptist church,

Steelton, Pa.

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' RIGHTS ASSOCIATION,

ALBION W. TOURGEE, PRESIDENT.

MAYVILLE, N. Y., July 24th, 1893.

*Rev J. J. Jones, Steelton, Pa., My Dear Sir:*

Yours of the 18th inst., just reached me today, forwarded from *The Inter Ocean*. The postal note it contains will be cashed and the money made a specific deposit as the "Seay J. Miller Fund."

I most heartily endorse your views of a National organization and shall take steps at once for the incorporation of the National Citizens' Rights Association with that end in view. The association has heretofore been only voluntary and I think now is the time to cement this large amount of sentiment so as to make it effective in the assertion of right throughout the country

I send in same mail some copies of *Liberty Worth Preserving*, and as soon as may be will communicate with you farther.

Very truly yours,

ALBION W. TOURGEE.

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No. 1. Headquarters National Citizens' Rights Association, Mayville, N. Y., July 24th, 1893, received of Rev. J. J. Jones, of Steelton, Pa., the sum of \$5 00, to be applied to the work of the National Citizens' Rights Association, "The Seay J. Miller Fund."

ALBION W. TOURGEE, Provisional President.

Per E. K. T.

# MOB AND LYNCH LAW

*Follow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I exceedingly regret the necessity of a meeting of this kind, to protest against the outrages perpetrated upon our people in this Christian land.

The Afro-Americans, for nearly 300 years, have ever been true and loyal to the best interests of this nation, though in slavery the greater part of the time. We have grown up with the country. We are thoroughly American, in all the principles that constitute true Americanism. We love and honor the institutions that make this nation great.

Yet though we be citizens, we are deprived of the rights and privileges guaranteed us, by the laws of the land.

Still, we have been faithful in time of peace, and patriotic in time of war, always willing to dare and die in the country's defence. This country has never passed through a single crisis but what the Afro-American has stood side by side with his white brother in its defence. During the days of its colonial existence, as slaves, our fathers toiled hard in the day to increase their master's wealth, then stood guard during the night to keep them safe, while they slept, from the Indians that skulked about to steel and plunder or take their master's lives. The first blood ever shed for the independence of this country was that of a negro, Crispus Attucks, in the tea riot in the streets of Boston.

Five thousand slaves, in deeds of daring and heroism, fought in the Revolutionary war for independence.

A shot from a negro's gun, Petter Salem, which killed Major Pitcairn, in the battle of Bunker Hill, turned the tide of victory in favor of the Americans. The Afro-Americans fought bravely in the war of 1812, at the battle of New Orleans, when they received from General Jackson the highest notes of praise for their bravery and patriotism. For 246 years under hard task masters, our fathers and mothers,

bathed this country in tears, sweat and blood. They helped to build its rail roads, bridge its rivers, and cut down its forests. We have done just as much to add to the wealth and greatness of this country, as any of its citizens. Yet greater protection is given to other people who are doing all they can to ruin the nation. When the nation's life was at stake, and armed hosts in rebellion marched against the stars and stripes, 200,000 negro soldiers, without pay, laid their lives on the nation's altar, 40,000 of which sleep in their graves.

They counted their lives not dear, but gave them freely to protect the flag, and to help save the nation from dissolution.



This banner of freedom and liberty should be a guarantee of protection to the rights, life and property of every American citizen. No home, no country, no friends, yet they fought to save the country that now refuses to protect them.

Bravely they fought with the boys in blue; their life's blood flowed and mingled together, forming a crimson bond of everlasting union in the salvation of this country. If the glory of this nation is founded upon the blood of her loyal sons the Afro-American's blood, in deeds of heroism, stains every step of its history, planting a pillar of crimson beauty, in that amethyst foundation upon which the country rests.

Hon. William Moses says: "Their patriotism has never been questioned. They loved the flag and all the institutions of the country. They made brave and courageous soldiers, during the civil war, and their friendship was pure and con-

stant." President Lincoln said: "No one who wore the blue, ever found the colored man untrue. The smoke of his chimney and the lamp in the window, were the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, to guide our boys from starving prisons, to the protection of the stars and stripes."

Though we are shot, lynched and burned by those who tried to destroy the country, like martyrs! Amid tears and suffering we can earnestly sing

My country 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee we sing,  
Land where our fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountain side,  
Let freedom ring.

We love this country; it's our home. We fought for its life, we fought for our rights, we fought for our liberty and freedom, we fought for American citizenship. It was not given to us, we won it upon many blood battlefields. We believe in the doctrine, that the country for which we fought has the right to protect its citizens, but no one dares to lift up his voice in our defence. Oh! justice where art thou; hast thou fled forever? Since the emancipation proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln, and we made citizens of the United States by the 15th amendment, we have been a peaceful, industrious, law abiding people. While circumstances have been greatly to our disadvantage, yet no race in history has made the same progress in the same length of time. We pay taxes today on more than \$263,000,000 worth of property, as against \$12,000 at the close of the war. Thousands of our people live in their own homes, some own elegant mansions. We have men and women among us who own all the way from \$1,000 to \$500,000 worth of property.

Our educational progress, our schools and churches, teachers and ministers, editors, lawyers, doctors, musicians, authors and professors, indicate that no race of men more deserves the right to enjoy the highest and best privileges of American citizenship than the Afro-American.

We have done enough to commend us to the government and to the christian people of this country, to show that we merit their best favor and protection and an equal chance in the race of life. Every

citizen, without regard to color or previous condition, when accused of crime, should have a fair and impartial trial before a jury of twelve of his countrymen in a court of the land, in the south as in the north; if found guilty, then let him suffer the penalty of the law. Mob and lynch law which is spreading so alarmingly in this country, is a disgrace to christian civilization. We condemn it as barbarous in the extreme.

For savagery, cruelty, meanness and debauchery it is not excelled among the heathen races of 2000 years ago. America "the land of the free and the home of the brave," is the only nation on earth where such cowardly meanness is carried on. She is the only nation that does not dare to protect its citizens from mob violence. Though this country boasts of being the greatest christian nation on earth, it excels all others in meanness.

True national greatness consists not in material wealth only; the richer a nation gets, without true honor, the nearer it is to its grave. True national greatness and honor is the distribution of justice, mercy and truth, from a humane stand point, to all her citizens alike. She protects the poor and the weak from the oppressor. We do not believe that one-third of the crimes, for which our people are lynched, are true. They are trumped up misrepresented, and sent broadcast through the newspapers to hide the meanness of the murderers.

The lynching is done to hide the real truth from the public and to put the Afro-American in a bad light before the world. If the matter was brought before the courts two-thirds of the cases would reveal a condition of affairs now kept from the public. Out of 169 lynchings last year, including the atrocious work done this year, we believe there cannot be five real cases of attempted rape found upon the most careful investigation. We were born and raised in the south, and we know a few chapters in the history of the inside meanness against the race; of instances and places that would put a very different phase on these outrages. The jim crow car system, and every mean invention that the negro hating class can create, and every disgraceful thing they can say and do, is done to make the Afro-American feel that he is less than a man.

The more educated and respectable classes of our people are the greatest objects of prejudice and hate.

They may buy their sleeping car ticket through from New York to New Orleans, but when they enter the southern states they are driven into an indecent box especially prepared for "niggers."

Their whole cry is "keep the negro down." They hold up their bloody hands, dripping with the gore of helpless men and women. They pretend great sympathy for the oppressed of other lands, while they stand with their heels on the neck of the defenceless Afro-American. They have murdered more of our people since sixty-four than was killed during the war.

They have broke up our homes, killed our husbands, wives and children, our teachers and ministers. They have burned our schools and churches.

Why are they so cruel to a people they have held in bondage so many years? During the war, while they were fighting to keep us in slavery, we protected, fed and clothed their wives and children, but no outrages were committed. I ask myself this question: Is there a God in heaven? Will God permit this American meanness to go on? I believe not. God told the Jews they should suffer for the injustice they inflicted upon the poor and helpless. That judgment came and today the Jews are scattered to the four winds of heaven.

Their suffering and woe are known to every student of history. The nation that is unjust to its helpless citizens shall perish. Because it is the outcome of a wicked depraved condition, opposed to that progress, essential to national life. I believe the history of other nations will be repeated in the history of this nation before it is half as old.

God has so fixed it that whatever a nation sows that shall it also reap. Shall we keep silent, or shall we lift up our voices and cry aloud? It has been said if a people suffers injustice and they do not rise up in their might and protest against it, that they ought to suffer. Let us make this country hear the plaintive voice of an oppressed people, crying under the iron heel of injustice. We are not permitted in the south even a fair trial before the courts. But we are shot, lynched and

burned, by lawless scoundrels, who are never brought to justice.

A cowardly sheriff with a helpless prisoner in his custody, in violation of his oath of office and every vestige of honor, cries out "overpowered." The coroner says "lynched by an unknown mob," and that's the end of it. I charge this whole matter of mob violence against our people to the cowardly, evasive position assumed by this government. It has the constitutional right to protect its citizens at home as well as abroad.

This government with its money and navy can protect its fish in the sea and its sealing interests against English poachers, but it cannot protect its citizens, in the enjoyment of life against mob violence. A greater curse never rested upon a free people. If the Afro-Americans were lynching the whites, the president of the United States would not say to them as he said to our suffering people, "go and pray, I cannot help you." Every sworn officer in this nation, if he keeps his oath inviolate, is in honor bound to protect its citizens.

General Grant, one of the greatest men in history, was the last president who had the courage to offer protection to our people in the south. He said "this nation is one from the lakes to the gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The United States' soldiers have a right to quarters wherever the stars and stripes wave, to protect the American home, that its citizens might enjoy prosperity, peace and happiness."

Brave men who love their country will dare to check the murderous hands of thugs and toughs, who shed the blood of its citizens. They will see to it that bad men are brought to justice, that criminals are tried by due process of law, that law and order shall prevail, and thieves, murderers and cut-throats shall not run the country.

In this "land of the free and home of the brave," wherever the stars and stripes wave, every brave man must go to the rescue of the oppressed.

If this designation of country means anything it must be manifested in self government, in the protection of the weak and in bringing assassins and murderers to justice. None but cowards can stand

# ◊ LECTURE OUTLINE ◊

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## THE RACE PROBLEM SOLVED.

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- How to secure Homes in the West.
- How to organize for co operative Business.
- How to make Money Honorably.
- How to become Wealthy.
- How to establish Business Institutions, Banks, Stores and Manufacturing Establishments.
- How to help each other in Business.
- How to own Steamboats, Ships and Railroads.
- How to make respectable places for our own Boys and Girls.
- How to be honest and true to each other.
- How to raise Two Million Dollars annually for our protection.
- How to own Good Homes, Elegant Mansions, and not to be crowded into back alleys.
- How to be an Industrious, Thriving, Thrifty People.
- How to rise from Poverty, Illiteracy and Immorality to Wealth, Education and Moral Excellence.
- How to rise from Scrubbing and Spitoon Washing to the most Honorable Stations in Life.
- How to make home happy.
- How to be Cultured, Educated and Refined.
- How to appreciate Good Books, Good Company and Good Lectures.
- How to dispell the Prejudice Against Us, and occupy our place among Men.
- How not to be Dudes, Tramps and Dudeens.
- How to make our Boys and Girls models of honor, and of the most virtuous character.
- How to Court, and get the choice of your Love.
- How to cure the Curse of Intemperance.
- How to make Others happy and be happy Yourself.
- How our Condition more than Our Color is against us.
- How to be Great People, Loved, Honored and Admired by all Nations.
- How to be Innocently Amused, having your sides to crack with laughter.
- How to succeed in Life, and the future glory of the Negro.
- How Pluck and not Luck brings success in Life.
- How the Negroes have accumulated \$263,000,000 worth of Property in 30 years.
- How the Educational Status of the Negro in 30 years excels the record of any Race in the same length of time.
- How the Ancient glory of the Negro excels that of all other Races, and Ethiopia—the cradle of civilization.
- How the Ancient greatness and present Record of the Negro ought to stimulate self respect and Race pride in our Boys and Girls.
- How Ignorance, Sin and Dissipation hinder Racial Progress.

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**Rev. J. J. JONES,** of ARKANSAS, formerly of NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, **Lecturer.**

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**SUBJECTS:**

***“ Growth a Safe-Guard Against Failure.”***

***“ How to Succeed in Life.”***

***“ The Future Glory of the Race.”***

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