

VICTIM THANKS LYNCHERS

Letter To Annapolis Paper Expresses Mrs. Reid's Gratitude.

DAUGHTER'S NAME SIGNED TO IT

Declares Woman Whom Negro Attacked Would Like To Shake Each Separate Lyncher By Hand.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]
Annapolis, Md., Dec. 27.—In a statement given out today Miss Lillian M. Reid, of Iglehart's Station, daughter of Mrs. John M. Reid, the victim of the negro Davis, who was lynched early yesterday morning, says that her mother is still confined to her bed, extremely ill, as the result of the assault on Friday, December 14, and that her recovery, it is feared, is doubtful. The following communication to the Evening Capital today is signed with Miss Reid's name:

"We heard that the people of and near Annapolis, at an early hour this morning (the communication is dated yesterday) brought out the negro and hanged him and then filled him full of shot.

"Would you please say to the kind people of Annapolis that we all thank them very much for what they have done? For it was not only for my mother's good, but for that of every woman, and my mother bids me say that if she were only able she would like to shake each one by the hand, but as she is so very weak I can only tell you what she says. It was a dreadful, bold thing to do in broad daylight, and my mother is still in a very weak condition. We hope and pray for her recovery, but it is feared to be doubtful."

Although Sheriff Joshua Linthicum and State's Attorney Nicholas H. Green have stated that they will do all in their power to bring to justice the members of the mob, the county officials are ignorant of the identity of the lynchers.

It is said that the mob was moved to the lynching through the fact that, innocently as Davis had on several occasions positively confessed that he accomplished his purpose, and Mrs. Reid is equally emphatic in her denials, it was found that the testimony at the trial would not be sufficient to warrant capital punishment. For an assault where an assailant fails in his purpose, the maximum punishment is 10 years' imprisonment in the penitentiary, whereas death is the penalty fixed for cases in which the purpose is consummated.

Much regret has been expressed that the lynching took place within a quarter of a mile of the home of Governor Warfield, who a few months ago took such great precaution to have a negro, guilty of practically the same crime committed in Somerset county, hanged on Smith's Island, in Chesapeake bay, to avoid a possible lynching.

Eliza Reed, colored, the mother of the negro Davis, started to come to Annapolis yesterday from her home in Baltimore, with the purpose, it is thought, of taking charge of the mutilated body of her son. She did not reach here, but stopped at Waterbury, nine miles from Annapolis, to visit relatives. The negro woman has been twice married and Davis was a son by her first marriage. She said she was sorry that her boy met such an awful fate, but she realized that he had led a bad life.

Governor Warfield deprecates the lynching, but it is beyond his power now to take any action.

It is a source of much regret at St. John's College that the statement has been made that a number of students of that institution participated in the lawless act, and it is stated on high authority that such was not the case. The lynching party forming, as it did, almost in the midst of the students' dormitories, naturally attracted some of them, who, through mere curiosity, followed the crowd and witnessed the proceedings. That the college grounds were chosen as the place for rendezvous has been pointed out to implicate the students, the support of this being that the grounds are not a desirable place for the meeting for such a purpose. But it will be remembered that in 1808, when the mob of more than 100 men from North Severn came to town and lynched the negro Wright Smith, it formed there and laid the plans for the attack upon the jail. The rear campus is a dark place and seldom does a pedestrian pass over it late at night, so that it is well adapted for the assembling of a mob.

A local photographer, who succeeded yesterday in getting pictures of the dead negro's body as it lay on the embankment of College creek, where the lynchers deserted it, has printed copies on postal cards. Today they found ready sale, at two for 25 cents, as souvenirs.