

## A MARYLAND NEGRO LYNCHED.

TAKEN FROM WESTMINSTER JAIL AND  
HANGED TO A TREE.

BALTIMORE, June 2.—Townsend Cook, the negro who assaulted Mrs. Carrie V. Knott, of Carroll County, was taken from the jail at Westminster about 1 o'clock this morning by a body of masked men and hanged. The assault was perpetrated by Cook near Mount Airey last Saturday, when the negro entered the farm house, and, finding the woman alone, felled her with a club. Ever since the people throughout the county have been very much excited. No violence was attempted at the hearing, which took place in the victim's house, but when on the next day another outrage was attempted by a negro named Gaither upon a girl 12 years old, the daughter of William Pickett, in Howard County, which adjoins Carroll, the residents determined to take matters into their own hands. Cook was taken to jail on Saturday night, since which time he has been carefully guarded. About 12:30 o'clock this morning 50 horsemen entered the city and proceeded to the jail. They threw out guards to prevent any interference on the part of the authorities. Sheriff Shower had retired, but, being apprised of their approach before they reached the jail, he sent word to the Hon. Charles D. Roberts, Attorney-General of the State, who lives close by. Mr. Roberts hurried out, but had not gone far before he was ordered to halt. He attempted to keep on, when four men advanced toward him and presented four cocked pistols at his head, the muzzle of one almost pressing against his neck.

"Are you a friend or foe?" inquired one of them.

"You know me, gentlemen," he replied. "I am Mr. Roberts, the Attorney-General of Maryland, and it is of no use to point your pistols at me."

They then permitted him to pass on, and he went to the jail, where he found five men holding Sheriff Shower.

"Gentlemen," exclaimed Mr. Roberts, "for God's sake don't do this. The prisoner is in jail, and I will see that he is tried, and, if guilty, punished. Trust it to me and do not do any violence."

The reply was: "We have got our man and we are going to hang him ourselves. We must make an example of him to protect our wives, sisters, and daughters from such brutes."

Seeing that the men were determined and that his remonstrance was of no avail, the Attorney-General attempted to get to the jail, but he was forced to return to his home. In the meantime the rest of the lynchers had secured admission to the jail by battering down the doors. They then overpowered the Sheriff and, binding him hand and foot, made a rush for Cook's cell. This was quickly opened and Cook was dragged out on the porch, where a rope was placed around his neck. Quietly, yet very expeditiously, they made their way out of the city, and when about two miles out hanged the ruffian to a large white oak tree. Here the body was found dangling from a limb. It was stripped to the waist, and there were two holes found in his scalp produced by pistol balls. On the body was fastened a paper on which was written, "This man confessed his crime." The verdict of the Coroner's jury was that Cook came to his death by hanging at the hands of persons unknown.

The lynchers were evidently men of respectability, and are supposed to be farmers living in the neighborhood. The summary punishment inflicted on the criminal is approved of by the citizens of the county. Cook, when taken from his cell, seemed utterly devoid of feeling, and maintained a stolid imperturbability. He offered no resistance, but quietly submitted to his captors.