

THE LESSON OF THE BROOKLYN MURDERS.

The murder of King Johnson, the negro who had killed a white companion with whom he was carousing at Brooklyn, was not a typical lynching. It seems to have been the continuation of a drunken orgy which began Saturday night. The small party of men who broke into the Brooklyn lockup and killed the prisoner were probably drunk and certainly did not represent the sentiment of the community. The law should be vindicated and the guilty persons should be detected and punished to the full extent.

In the meantime the incident directs attention to the need of better police protection in Brooklyn. The practice of locking a prisoner up and leaving without a watchman or a guard cannot be defended. The best way to provide against lawlessness in the suburbs of the city by better police protection would be to annex Brooklyn, Westport and the eastern suburbs to the city, and it would be well for the Legislature at the coming session to pass an enabling act for the annexation.