

LYNCH LAW IN MARYLAND.—We yesterday gave the particulars of an infamously brutal outrage upon the person of a most respectable lady at Licksville, near Point of Rocks, Frederick county, Md., by a negro called Jas. Carroll. To-day we have to chronicle the fact that the pursuit of the ruffian was finally successful, and that he was subsequently taken from the police and hung in hot blood by his captors. The lady who was the victim of this most cruel and irreparable wrong was feeble and delicate, and her life is greatly imperiled by her injuries. She is the mother of five children, was temporarily left alone at her home, stead by her husband, in a situation and circumstances which would have awakened compunctions in the heart of any human being, it would seem, but proved to be no more than an invitation to the negro canal-boat tramp who did the atrocious deed. The man, after breaking into and robbing premises near by, forced an entrance into the house of Mr. Thomas at eleven o'clock at night, and then and there, by the menace of a brandished knife, accomplished his purpose with the terrified woman all alone in her terror and her despair. Then he fled. A more horrible situation for an unprotected lady to be in it is impossible to conceive. Had her husband been home, had she been armed, either would have been justified in taking the man's life. The neighbors who pursued and captured the ruffian have done this instead. But lynch law, the violent presumption of excited men in taking the law in their own hands, can never be justified—if for no other reason, for this, at least, that no judgment can be clear, or be a safe one when men's minds are darkened by passion, and must ever be deprecated because of the frightful abuses to which it may lead; and because, without the observance due to the enacted law, society itself is in jeopardy. The West Baltimore street homicide was the inevitable sequence of a like attempt, and had Carroll's persecutors hung the wrong man, as they might have done, their crime would have been the direct result of the lawlessness in which they were engaged. As regards Carroll, no possible punishment could be too extreme for the deeds of such a criminal, but he should have been punished by the law in all its severity, with all its majesty, and he should not have been disposed of as he was, by excited men. It is true such terrible outrages as that of Carroll, as well as circumstances which led to the homicide Wednesday in this city, naturally stir men's blood, and it would be discreditable if they did not; but the execution of the judgments of the law, it must never be forgotten, have a double purpose to serve. They are meant to deter others from the perpetration of crimes quite as much, and perhaps even more, than they are intended to remove from earth the lives of such embers of it as this black fiend, James Carroll. The citizens who lynched Carroll have indeed made the earth lighter by his weight, but they have utterly defeated the law's graver purpose by their intemperate precipitancy.