

LYNCHINGS

Record for 1909 Shows the Number to Be Seventy

11 WHITES, 59 BLACKS

Occurred in 12 States and One Territory—As in Previous Years Crimes Against White Women Was the Cause of the Majority of the Executions.

According to a report issued from Washington, D. C., a few days ago, lynchings in 1909 have numbered 70, the highest number recorded since 1894. The victims numbered 11 whites and 59 negroes. Lynchings occurred in 12 States and one territory—New Mexico. As in previous years, crimes or alleged crimes against white women and murders caused most of these summary executions. One case, occurring in Cairo, Ill., combined both causes and resulted in the placing of the city under military control for several days. The Cairo lynchings were the only cases of the kind that occurred north of the Ohio river during the year. Several double lynchings occurred at various points in the South, and Oklahoma furnished a quadruple lynching, with four cattlemen as the victims.

In the following record the word "lynching" has been held to apply only to the summary punishment inflicted by a mob or by any number of citizens on a person alleged to have committed a crime. By State the 70 lynchings cases here recorded are classified as follows:

- Georgia 11
Texas 10
Florida 8
Mississippi 6
Louisiana 6
Alabama 5
Arkansas 4
Kentucky 3
South Carolina 3
New Mexico 2
Illinois 2
Missouri 1
West Virginia 1

The detailed record for 1909 is as follows:

- Jan. 6—Lexington, S. C. Unidentified negro, attempted criminal assault.
Jan. 8—Marthville, La. Jim Gilbert, negro, accused of counterfeiting.
Jan. 10—Poplarville, Miss. Pinal Willis, negro, attempted criminal assault.
Jan. 13—Hope, Ark. Hilliard, negro, insulting white woman.
Jan. 23—Mobile, Ala. Douglas Roberson, negro, murder of a deputy sheriff.
Jan. 24—Leighton, Ala. Sam Davoport, negro, incendiary.
Feb. 7—Mexico, Ala. Will Park, negro, criminal assault.
Feb. 9—Houston, Miss. Roby Dawson, negro, murder of the Rev. W. T. Hudson.
Feb. 13—Gainesville, Fla. Jack Wades, negro, criminal assault.
Feb. 11—Hears, Tex. Rolly Wyatt, negro, shooting a white man.
March 4—Blakely, Ga. John Fowler, negro, murder of deputy sheriff.
March 7—Roskwall, Tex. Anderson Ellis, negro, attempted criminal assault.
March 13—Elen, Miss. Joe Gordon, negro, shooting and blinding a white man.
March 19—Etkins, W. Va. Joseph Brown, white, shooting chief of police.
March 25—Cuervo, N. M. Daniel Johnson, negro, and Manuel Sandoval, a Mexican, kidnaping young girl.
March 29—Dawson, Tex. Joe Redden, negro, insulting white woman.
April 6—Pensacola, Fla. Dav Alexander, negro, murder of police man.
April 9—Lafayette, Ky. Be Brame, negro, attempted criminal assault.
April 11—Yazoo City, Miss. Howard Montgomery, negro, assaulting an officer.
April 11—Arcadia, Fla. John Smith, negro, attempted criminal assault.
April 19—Ada, Okla. J. B. Miller, B. B. Burrell, Jesse West and Joe Allen, all white, charged with murder.
April 25—Bessmer, Ala. John Thomas, negro, criminal assault.
April 28—Bartow, Fla. Charles Scarborough, negro, attempted criminal assault.
April 30—Marshall, Tex. Creole Mose, Pie Hill and Mat Chase, negroes, murder.
May 1—Tyler, Tex. Jim Hodges, negro, criminal assault.
May 8—Camden, Fla. Unidentified negro, criminal assault.
May 24—Lincolnton, Ga. Albert Alkon, negro, shooting white man.
May 24—Pine Bluff, Ark. Livest Davis, negro, attempted criminal assault.
May 23—Abilene, Tex. Tom Barnett, white, shot to death in his cell, convicted of murder.
May 30—Portland, Ark. Joseph Blakely, negro, threatening murder.
June 3—Frankfort, Ky. John Maxey, negro, shooting white man.
June 5—Tallahassee, Fla. Mark Morris, negro, convicted of murder.
June 11—Smoaks, S. C. Quillie Simmons and Frank Samuels, white, charged with murder.
June 15—Arcadia, Fla. Unidentified negro, attempted criminal assault.
June 23—Talbott, Ga. William Caneer, negro, murder.
June 23—Talbott, Ga. Joe Hardy, negro, charged with instigating murder.
June 24—Cuthbert, Ga. Albert Reese, negro, assaulting white woman.
June 25—Wilton, Okla. Sylvester Stenlen, negro, murder of deputy constable.
July 1—Darwick, Ga. Unidentified negro, found hiding under a bed in the home of a white family.
July 20—Paris, Ky. Albert Lawson, negro, shooting a sheriff.
July 30—Gum Branch, Ga. Unidentified negro, attempting theft of horse and buggy.
July 20—Opelousas, La. Osemele

WAS HUNTED DOWN

ONE NEGRO SHOT AND BURNED IN HIS OWN HOUSE.

Murder of Young White Man Leads to Death of Slayers' Brother and Wounding of Member of posse.

Magnolia, Ala., is quiet Tuesday night, following a day of intense excitement with much bitter feeling manifested between the whites and blacks of that community. Elmer Slade, one of four white men shot by Clinton Montgomery, a desperate negro, is fatally injured, and his death, expected at any minute, may serve to further fan the flames of race hatred.

Clinton Montgomery's charred body lies in the ruins of a small negro house, near the town, the work of a posse of citizens. Brister and Shelly Montgomery, brothers of the burned negro, barely escaped scorching early Monday morning when the sheriff of Marengo county captured them and eluded the mobsters, taking them to the county jail at Linden.

Search is being continued for Will Montgomery, another of the four brothers, charged with the brutal murder late Saturday night of Alperson Lewis, a young white man, which crime precipitated the trouble. Practically every negro resident of Magnolia left there Monday afternoon. The whites are well armed.

Monday afternoon Clint Montgomery and several other negroes were found barricaded in a house, which was soon surrounded by a determined posse of whites. Fearing for their lives, Montgomery's companions deserted him and surrendered to the posse. Montgomery fastened the door, after defying the men to attempt to get him.

One of his negro companions was then forced to set fire to the house, and when the building was enveloped in smoke, Montgomery threw a window and opened fire upon the posse with a magazine shotgun. Ernest Slade fell mortally wounded, in face and body filled with shot. N. G. Carlton, Tom Shields and Wm. Lindsey were also wounded, though not seriously.

A fusillade of shots struck Montgomery as he was attempting to leave his house, his body being hidden and then allowed to be consumed in the burning building. A report is to the effect that Brister and Shelly Montgomery were placed in the Linden jail. Albert Watkins, another negro suspected of harboring the Montgomery brothers, is under arrest.

The Southern War Cloud.

The American people do not get excited over the row with Zelaya of Nicaragua. The coming of South American intervention has been played a good many years, and the only thing that interests us is the question whether Americans are getting the square deal. It is a shame that these two republics should throttle their own future by making it next to impossible for American business men to develop the country. But that is their own fault. It does not pay in the long run, either, for Americans trying to do business down there to mix too much in their dirty politics. Such interference involves our government to an extent that does not pay for what there is in it. It will be a great many years before there will be a stable government in Central and South America. We could maintain it all right, but the tax bill would not be accompanied by corresponding returns. It's all right to overawe the play armies down there by a sight of our war ships and marines. A practice trip in Southern waters will do them as much good as anything else that might take up their attention. But there are ways and ways of spanking the residents without going to war with it. Zelaya has stepped down and out, but an example should be made of him as a warning to other tyrants that may attempt to imitate him.

One of the most scientific men of his day felt called upon to write a book to prove that the phonograph was a fake, and that it was an utter impossibility to phonate the human voice. The success of Edison shows how much this learned scientist knew about the matter. Since then our confidence in so-called scientists has been badly shaken.

Thomas and Emile Antoine, negroes, assault.

July 31—Wellston, Ga. Sim Anderson, negro, peeping into a white woman's bedroom.

Aug. 2—Platte City, Mo. George Ohawa, white, murder.

Aug. 9—Cadiz, Ky. Joe Miller, negro, criminal assault.

Aug. 12—Greenview, Miss. Will Tolson, negro, insulting white girl.

Aug. 27—Tarrytown, Ga. John Sweeney, negro, aiding a negro murderer to escape.

Sept. 1—Jackson, Ala. Josh and Lewis Balam, negroes, murder of a deputy sheriff.

Sept. 6—Clarksdale, Miss. Herman McDonald, negro, accused of being concerned in a murder committed by his brother.

Sept. 7—Mangham, La. Henry Hill, negro, drowned by mob, attempted criminal assault.

Sept. 25—Perry, Fla. Charley Anderson, negro, murder.

Oct. 5—Greensburg, La. Ape Ard, negro, murder.

Oct. 21—Greenville, Tex. Frank Williams and "Louis," negroes, criminal assault.

Nov. 12—Cairo, Ill. Henry Salmer, white, charged with wife murder, and Will James, negro, confessed assassin and murderer of a young white woman.

Nov. 20—Delhi, La. James Estes, negro, shooting city marshal.

Nov. 25—Meehan, Miss. Morgan Chambers, negro, criminal assault.

Nov. 26—West Shreveport, La. Henry Rachel, negro, attempted criminal assault.

Dec. 1—Cochran, Ga. John Harward, negro, burned at stake, shooting white man.

JONE'S SLOGAN

Is No Taxation Without Equalization In South Carolina

FIGHTING TAX DODGERS

The Comptroller-General at War With the Tax Assessment Methods in This State and is Doing All He Can to Have Them Changed to His Way.

A. W. Jones, comptroller-general of South Carolina has a new slogan and one which he thinks should supplant the famous expression of Patrick Henry. "No taxation without equalization," says the comptroller, for the other, "the taxation without representation," has passed away and it seems to be the life work of Mr. Jones to equalize the taxes in this State. For twenty years he has fought for such a condition, long before he played into State politics.

He is not fighting the corporations for in his opinion they are better assessed than the land of the State. However, exceptions have been taken to his statement as to street railways and power companies.

The following is a story published and an answer written by Mr. Jones in newspaper style:

"The report made by Comptroller-General Jones, published yesterday in the assessment of the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company, has attracted considerable attention and as a result some figures in defense of the Richmond county board of equalization show that the present equalization on returns made by the corporation in question and that the assessment of a franchise—that is, the goodwill of a corporation—is impossible under the present law.

"The street railway company, according to Mr. Gibbs, is assessed on a basis of \$8,000 a mile and following the rule, the assessment is \$4,000 a mile. In addition to this the equipment of the company is also so returned, as with other corporations, and assessed at the usual Richmond standard, which is, probably, as high as any county in the State. Mr. Gibbs said a thorough investigation was made for property valuation.

"Concerning the assessment of the Columbia canal, Auditor Gibbs pointed out that this came under the supervision of the State board of equalization and the judgment of that body is that the canal is worth \$150,000. The board, following out the usual rule, does not tax the value of the franchise.

"The figures given by Comptroller-General Jones on the local plant are disputed by William Elliott, general manager of the Street Railway, Light and Power Company, especially as to earnings and gross receipts. However, as the matter has been brought up in this manner and will be given in the annual report of the comptroller, it is probable that some standard will be adopted for a basis of valuation or franchise. At present there is no way to determine the 'goodwill' of a public service corporation."

Mr. Jones' Reply.

"Comptroller-General Jones referring to the estimated valuation of the property of the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company, which now owns both the Columbia canal, formerly of the Columbia Water Power Company and street railway system in Columbia and vicinity, at \$2,500,000.00, and Mr. Elliott's contention that the figures as to income are incorrect, says, that these figures were taken by him from the returns of the Columbia Electric Street Railway, Light and Power Company, sworn to by Mr. Elliott in the spring of 1908, as follows: Gross receipts from power department (annual) \$108,139.28 Gross receipts from Lighting department 108,645.26 Gross receipts from Street Railway Department 159,401.90

Aggregate income of Columbia Elec. Street Ry. L. & P. Co., \$376,186.33. "This company operated 21.36 miles of Street Railway, Columbia Canal and Electric Lighting Plant, has a monopoly of transportation, sale of power, and through the ownership by its stockholders of the Columbia Gas Company, has also a monopoly of the lighting plants in the city. While the Columbia Gas Company is a separate corporation, it has the same general control as the Street Railway Company, to wit: Edwin W. Robinson, president; G. M. Berry, secretary, and William Elliott, general manager."

"The Comptroller-General says he does not propose to be diverted from estimating the true money value of this property, what it is actually worth and will produce in dollars and cents, by talk about an indefinable 'goodwill' or 'franchise' as existing apart from the property."

Joe Sparks.

Negro Shot About Boose.

A dispatch from Elko says there is quite a lively trade going on between Barrowville county folks and the dispensary at Salveys. To avoid Sheriff Creech a number of parties get off at Ashleigh, a small flag station between Blacksville and Barrowville. They bring the liquor in bars and satchels on foot across the country. Saturday night Cliff Williams and Gus Hallenquest got into an altercation on one of the liquor trips, when Williams drew a gun and shot Hallenquest twice.

Was a Big Pig.

Alvin Derick, who lives near Johnston, killed a hog a few days ago which weighed 640 pounds net. This pig was 20 months old. Mr. Derick obtained 175 pounds of lard from one hog. Mr. Derick lives at home and always has corn to sell and makes a bale of cotton per acre.

KILLED IN THE STREET

THE KOREAN PREMIER ASSASSINATED WHILE RIDING.

His Attendant Was Also Stabbed by the Assassin and Soon Died From the Wound.

While riding along one of the streets of Seoul on Tuesday, Premier Yi, the head of the Korean cabinet, was stabbed and fatally wounded by a Korean, Yi Chamm Yong.

Premier Yi was formerly minister. He became prime minister in May, 1909, when a reconstruction of the cabinet followed a five-hour audience which Marquis Ito, the Japanese resident, had with the emperor. Yi was regarded as a firm and competent officer, but his efforts to carry out the policy of the new administration met with continued and determined opposition from his political adversaries.

The attack occurred at 10 o'clock in the morning. The assailant was a young Christian who was for many years a resident of the United States. The premier was riding in his Jinkisha when the assassin came up with a long kitchen knife in his hand. He drove this twice into the abdomen of the premier and once into the latter's leg.

The assassin then turned on the premier's Jinkisha man, whom he stabbed and instantly killed. The assassin was immediately arrested. He is a youth of about 20 years and is believed to be a member of a political secret society.

The premier was removed to the hospital. Yi was always credited with fostering anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea. He bitterly opposed the faction among the Koreans which favored annexation to Japan and refused to present a petition for annexation to the Korean emperor.

Notwithstanding Yi's known sentiments in regard to the relations between Japan and Korea, Marquis Ito regarded Yi as an honest and conscientious patriot and refused to listen to the premier's repeated requests that he be allowed to resign his office.

It is believed that the assassination is the result of political intrigue.

A BRUTAL MURDER.

J. E. Liddell Dies Within Sight of His Home.

At Greenville at ten o'clock on Christmas Eve J. E. Liddell, a real estate dealer, was found dead near the spot in the southeastern part of the city, where Wesley Russell, a mill worker was found wounded on Thursday night. Liddell had been dead an hour or more when found as the body was almost covered with snow.

Christmas Eve he had been in the city shopping and started for home about 8 o'clock. He is a married man, and his wife becoming alarmed at his failure to arrive sent a neighbor to look for him, with the result that his body was found within a stone's throw of his home, a terrible gash in the man's head told the story of the tragedy, the wound evidently having been made with an axe or some sharp instrument. Scattered all about the dead man were toys for his little children and a number of gifts for his wife.

Residents of the neighborhood, where the two tragedies have occurred, are greatly wrought up over the crimes. Russell and Liddell were both struck in much the same manner, except Russell had four gashes in his head, while Liddell had but one. Russell died Christmas night from his wounds.

Jess Fuller and Joe Baker, two white men, were arrested Sunday morning for the murder. The arrest was made after a confession alleged to have been made by Fuller to W. O. Stever, a contractor.

Fuller was taken to the police station and a large crowd gathered. It was feared for a time that the prisoner would be taken from the guard house and lynched. He was finally escorted to the jail by the mayor and other citizens in company with the police. The crowd gathered around the jail, and two squads of a local military company were stationed about to keep down any disorder. The prisoner was finally spirited away in a large automobile by C. M. Wing and taken to Spartanburg.

Sunday Sanitary Plan.

Newspaper clippings received by Dr. L. W. Dunn of Asheville, N. C., show the thought of the people in both the Carolinas and adjoining States to be strongly in favor of the "Sanitary Sunday plan." This is a plan of preaching and teaching the right care of the human body was suggested by the North Carolina Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, of which Dr. Dunn is president. "The press and the pulpit, supplemented by the teacher in the Sunday school and the week-day school, must do a large part of the missionary and educational work which is necessary to rid this city of tuberculosis or consumption. During the last few weeks many of the leading newspapers in the Southern States," according to Dr. Dunn, "have been cordial in their support of the plan for Sanitary Sunday and have been intelligently appreciative of its real significance. The newspapers in their editorials have shown that the campaign against tuberculosis must largely be fostered by those agencies which influence the judgment and arouse the conscience of the average people. Hence this first step to enlist the active cooperation of the pulpit and the preacher."

Five Men Perish.

At Shawnee, Okla., five workmen were killed and 17 others were injured Friday by the explosion of a locomotive boiler that wrecked the repair shop of the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific railroad. Railway officials say that only two are dead, although fragments of bodies found in the wreckage make it almost certain that five were killed.

Free lunch does it, as a rule, in a street man doesn't like to receive

COMET COMING

Astronomer Camille Flammarion Says It is Now Traveling

WITH ENORMOUS SPEED

Just Now the Path of the Erratic Visitor is Directed Both Towards the Earth and the Sun, But It Will Soon Draw Away From the Earth.

Camille Flammarion, the distinguished French astronomer, writes of Halley's comet to The New York Herald as follows: Halley's comet, the arrival of which I was permitted to witness by quite a celestial favor on the photographic plates of Heidelberg University, on September 12, is advancing rapidly toward the earth. At that time it was 522 million kilometers from us; this distance has been reduced to 226 million, which is about the distance of the orbit of Mars to the sun. The comet then has come about three hundred million kilometers closer to us in seventy-six days, which gives it an average speed of 3,390,000 kilometers, or very nearly four million kilometers a day. Truly a pretty fair speed! That speed, too, will go on increasing according as the comet draws nearer to the sun.

Just now the comet's path is directed toward both the sun and the earth, while still speeding onward toward the sun, it will draw away from our planet. Later on, however, it will again move toward the earth through the combination of its elliptic orbit with the almost circular path which the terrestrial globe describes every year around the radiant heat center of the solar system.

As a pale nebula, invisible even by means of the most powerful instruments, perceptible only by the photographic eye, the comet passed, in the middle of September, from the 17th to the 16th magnitude. By the middle of October it had reached the 15th, and at the beginning of November the 14th. It has now reached the 13th magnitude, and its movements are followed punctually by the powerful instruments of the observatories. Even its spectral analysis already has been commenced.

The comet should on April 20 reach the point of its nearest approach to the sun, its perihelion 90,000,000 kilometers from the solar sphere. Its speed is then 54,000 meters a second, 3,240 kilometers a minute, or 194,444 kilometers an hour. Bathing in the effluvia of the electric, chlorine, luminous radiation of the sun, it becomes impregnated with its rays, undergoing in its whole being fantastic transformations which lend it prodigious glory, develop it by multiplying, ten times, a hundred times, its volume-lengthening it to millions and millions of kilometers by a kind of phosphorescence which always is extended away from the sun and gives rise to the formidable tails which filled with terror the souls of our ancestors.

Thenceforth the wanderer's path takes it away from the ardent center to sink into the deserts of immensity, gradually diminishing in size, becoming a sort of invisible bubble, and finally to find again the night of its apheleon in which for years and years it is lost to the eyes of astronomers on the earth. It goes away to a distance of five thousand million kilometers into the ultra-Neptunian night, in which its speed is gradually decreased to less than a kilometer per second. The total duration of its circuit is sixty-five years.

After leaving its perihelion the comet, traveling away from the sun again approaches the terrestrial orbit. Up to the time it reaches a perihelion—that is, until April 29—it will be a morning star, visible in the east before the sun rises. It becomes an evening star after the perihelion and will be visible in the west after sunset. Quite probably it will be then very remarkable, as it was in the spring of 1966, at the time of the Conquest of England, and in the spring of 1456, at the period of the wars of the Turks and the Christians directed by Mahomet II and Pope Calixtus III.

This time possibly it is to give us a surprise on the after effects of which it is difficult to theorize. According to the calculations of several astronomers who are now occupied by the special orbit of the comet during its present opposition, it may pass before the sun about May 18. Mr. Crommelin, in England, and Mr. Searle, in America, agree with the calculations of others on this position. At that date the head of the comet will be twenty-six million kilometers away from us.

Now, the comet's tails are often thirty, forty or fifty million kilometers in length and they are all ways extended away from the sun. This immense appendix then might reach us, might envelop us for several hours. What will be the result of this meeting of such an immersion? Without going again over the ground I covered in my work on the subject, "La Flia due Monde," or discussing the various forms which a cometary encounter with our wandering visitor might present from the mechanical, physical, chemical and thermodynamic viewpoints, we may at once acknowledge that we know nothing of the fate reserved for us next May. The poisoning of humanity by deleterious gases is improbable.

doubtless of the oxygen of the atmosphere combined with the hydrogen of the comet's tail it would mean universal death with short respite. If, on the contrary, there resulted a diminution in the supply of nitrogen the brain of every one of us would experience an unexpected sensation of physical activity and the human race would come to a sudden end in a paroxysm of joy, universal delirium and madness, as bottom, probably, overpowered at its fate. Carbonic oxide, on the contrary, would cause universal poisoning of the lungs. Special notes

The sweet thing about a hair is how insignificant it makes him to save you know it. Make yourself at home, but be careful not to make others wish that you were. Even when it burns your fingers or a hole in your pocket, never is that hair all right.

CLAIMS TO CURE CANCER

WITHOUT OPERATION OR THE USE OF KNIFE IN ANY WAY.

Dr. Armstrong, of New York, Says His Treatment Has Been Successfully Tested.

Dr. Thomas M. Armstrong, of New York, asserts he has discovered an almost certain cure for cancer; other physicians seem to agree in this opinion.

Dr. Armstrong, who lives at No. 166 West Thirty-sixth street, New York City, insists that he does not seek newspaper notoriety, but feels bound, for the sake of suffering humanity, to make his cure known. He was graduated from the medical department of Toronto University in 1877 and has practiced medicine in the West and in New York. Twenty-four years ago he began to study cancer in the living patient and microscopically and chemically.

"I found my cure nine days ago," said Dr. Armstrong a few days ago. "Since then I have treated thirty-nine cases of true cancer, thirty-six have been cured perfectly. The three failures, I believe, resulted because the physicians in immediate attendance did not strictly follow my method of treatment. Ninety days is the shortest period in which I have effected a cure; successful treatment has taken from three to five months on the average.

"I never use the knife. My treatment is twofold. I use a lotion and a medicine taken internally. It seems that Dr. Armstrong considers his treatment to other physicians, as the ethics of the medical profession require. He mentioned the names of several physicians in New York who he said have employed the treatment. One is Dr. P. W. Popham, No. 354 Schermerhorn street, Brooklyn.

"I am using Dr. Armstrong's treatment in two cases with excellent results," said Dr. Popham. "One patient has a deep cancer of the back. After three months of treatment with patients are greatly improved. The lotion which Dr. Armstrong prescribes seems to eradicate the diseased tissue; to dispel the cancerous growth."

The reporter asked Dr. Popham if Dr. Armstrong keeps his treatment secret, and, if not, to tell what it is.

"I do not know that he keeps it secret," said Dr. Popham. "It consists of phosphorus sulphate."

Then pausing as if in second thought, Dr. Popham added: "No, I shall not tell you."

"Do you know of a case which has been cured absolutely by this treatment?"

"Yes, one," said Dr. Popham; "a woman who was a patient of Dr. James Sparks, No. 146 South Port land avenue. This patient had been treated for cancer for two years and was going from bad to worse. After Dr. Sparks had treated her for four months by Dr. Armstrong's method she was cured as far as is possible to determine."

"I do not care to talk to a newspaper about my practice," said Dr. James Sparks when asked about his patient.

Fight to a Finish.

The parliamentary struggle in England is naturally watched with deep interest in this country because the principle at stake is the same that led to the revolt of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain—no taxation without representation. The lords, which represent no one, want to dictate what shall be raised and the method of raising them; while the commons, as the direct representatives of the people, assert that by virtue of that position they alone have the right to impose and collect the taxes, in such a contest the sympathies of Americans are naturally with the commons, who, in our opinion, are bound to win, which means the beginning of the end with the lords. The people of England have long wanted an excuse to abolish the House of Lords, and they will not fail to improve the present opportunity.

It has not yet shown us what are the chief elements in the tail of the comet. Hydrocarbon combinations of nitrogen are frequent.

From photographs and analyses made last year by my Juvist observatory, by Messrs. Quenisset, de la Haume-Pluvial and Baldet of the Morehouse comet electricity seems to play an important part in the strange dislocations observed. There exists here a formidable electrostatic field, and electro-magnetic forces have added their influence to the repulsive force of the sun. Anxious minds have, however, no reason to be tormented—uselessly, too—by these prognostications. Comet tails, it is true, are immense, but they are so light, as raffled, that the terrestrial atmosphere is like lead in comparison. Even were our globe completely plunged into such a tail we would, without doubt, be saved from a cataclysm by the atmospheric curtain which surrounds us. The comet might be compared to a fog through which a locomotive was rushing at full speed. A shower of shooting stars might, perhaps, fall silently in the high regions of our sky or we might be treated to the illumination of an immense aurora borealis. Besides the earth has twice within the last hundred years passed through the tail of a comet without being troubled thereby. This was in 1813 and in 1881. Let us hope that it will be the same this time.

For Americans the passing of the comet before the sun will take place during the day. It will be night in France. In both conditions the phenomenon will be interesting to observe. It is not, however, certain that this phenomenon will be produced. The calculations are not yet finished. Let us live in peace.

GEN. R. E. LEE

Is Said Northerners Object to His Image in the Capital.

ALL TOURISTS SEE IT

Virginia May Refuse to Let Statues of Lee and Washington Remain Unless Congress Accepts the Former Promptly in the Spirit in Which It Is Offered.

A Washington dispatch to The News and Courier says it is learned that immediately after the holidays the question of whether or not the handsome bronze statue of Robert E. Lee, recently placed in Statuary Hall at the capitol, is to be accepted by the government or returned to Virginia will be settled. The matter, it is understood, will be forced to a decision.

A member of the Virginia commission charged with the duty of arranging both for the preparation of the Lee statue and for its presentation to the government on behalf of the State of Virginia, Wednesday stated in most emphatic terms that the Old Dominion would not let the question be forced, neither the acceptance of the statue, together with that of Gen. Washington, by the government.

"As a member of the commission," he said, "and a citizen of Virginia, I will do my best to have the statues both of Lee and Washington removed at once from Statuary Hall in the capitol and carried to Richmond, unless congress shall agree to accept them both, not only pleasantly but in the best of spirit. Virginia, you may be sure, is not anxious to force congress or any other body to recognize Lee in Statuary Hall. In fact, I feel almost justified in saying that the matter has gone too far already. The grand old State of Virginia, and indeed, the entire South, has been insulted by the very thought of rejecting the Lee statue.

"If congress will not accept it in the spirit in which it is offered then I feel safe in saying that a place will be found not only for this statue—the Lee statue—but for that of Washington also in the State capitol in Richmond. The people not only of Virginia, but of the entire South would be glad to see both Washington and Lee in the city of Richmond. But I hope sincerely that no more will be said in a way that will make the Virginia people feel that they would have to take satisfaction as might some day be greatly regretted."

It is learned here that there is a considerable amount of ill feeling engendered by the placing of the statues in the capitol. The official guides, who conduct tourist parties all through the building and see and talk with people from all over this and other countries, form an excellent index into the general sentiment of the people on various topics of interest.

One of these guides was asked what the tourists thought of the matter—irrespective of who they were or where they came from. He replied that his business had increased wonderfully since Lee was placed in the capitol, that many had viewed the Confederate general and his uniform with curiosity, and that almost without exception Northern sight-seers had condemned it. The feeling is thus seen to be quite bitter.

Washington and Lee. A few days ago the press dispatches announced the protest of the Michigan Loyal Legion against the acceptance by congress of Gen. Robert E. Lee's statue to stand beside the statue of George Washington the two being the contribution of Virginia to the National Hall of Fame. The incident, says the News and Courier, has served to call attention to the curious fact that the Washingtons and the Lees have always been closely associated in the history of Virginia and the country from the Colonial days down to the bloody War Between the States. The gallant and dashing "Light Horse Harry" Lee was a favorite of Washington and the banner of the Continental Army whose knightly deeds will ever live in the history of the American Revolution.

It appears that the day before the protest of the Michigan Loyal Legion was made public the Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans met in Richmond, Va., to receive a picture of Col. John Augustine Washington, brother of George Washington, and aide-de-camp to Gen. Robert E. Lee, and a Washington of the genuine blood and breed. It is said that he was about the first man chosen by Gen. Lee for service on his personal staff, and that he met a soldier's death five months after the beginning of the civil war in the battle of Valley Mountain September 13, 1861. He was the last Washington to own and occupy the historic homestead at Mount Vernon, and in his memory the following lines were written by the Rt. Rev. B. D. Tucker, Bishop conductor of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Southern Virginia, himself a fearless soldier of the Confederacy.

No soldier of fortune, no speaker of self, No lover of glory and fame, But simply a man who was true to himself. The home where he dwelt and his name.

He rode far away at the call of the land, Unmindful of peril and fate; A smile on his face and a wave of his hand For the children who stood at the gate. He rode by the side of the kindest knight, And deemed it a pleasure to share His tent, and the marks of the dearest and best.