

JULY · 1897

into the case of the colored young man, Mitchell, lately put to death there by a mob which broke into the jail, and this was her statement concerning it.

The other paper was from Shelbyville, Ill., in which was mentioned the fact that you are to attend a meeting, early in August, in the neighborhood of that town, at a place called Lithia Springs.

It comes to me as a duty from which I cannot escape, and to which I seem to be compelled by the power above me — “which makes for righteousness” — that I should see to it that you are informed of this state of things; that you may not go into that neighborhood without being made fully aware of the facts thus far ascertained; and that you may have time to consider them carefully, before being called to speak of them at Lithia Springs, as you will probably be.

The difficulties of the case are obvious; but the word of God, and our Christian duty to our brother man, spoken as you are wont to speak them, and which grace will still be given you to speak them, are sufficient for all difficulties.

I enclose Mrs. Wells-Barnett’s communication.

I find no editorial comment in the Chicago paper upon *this* case; but there is one upon a late Southern lynching, which I cut out & enclose.

Much to sadden us, dear Mr. Washington, but we *must keep* our *faith*, our *hope*, our *patience*, and our *courage*, “speaking the truth in love.” Always yours,

Samuel May

ALS Con. 131 BTW Papers DLC.

¹Ida B. Wells-Barnett wrote a vivid account of the lynching in Urbana, Ohio, of Charles Mitchell for allegedly raping a white woman. Mitchell had turned himself in when informed that he was a suspect. A mob of 5,000 persons took Mitchell from the jail and hanged him. Attempts by the militia to save Mitchell resulted in the deaths of three of the mob. (Chicago *Inter Ocean*, July 17, 1897, 9.)

To Warren Logan

Crawford House, Boston, Mass. July 27th, 1897

Dear Mr. Logan: I notice that arrangements are being made by the city council of Tuskegee to support a public school for the white