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## Article which appeared in "The Ladies Pictorial" May. 1892. 1893

Miss Ida Bell Wells, a negro lady who has come to England on the invitation of Miss Catherine Impey, has been becturing with great success on a subject was somewhat new to British audiences, namely, "Lynch Law in the United States", especially as it affects the coloured people in the South. It is hoped that by this means the moral sentiment of this country may be aroused in favour of the just and equal treatment of the negro race throughout the world. Miss Wells comes from Holly Springs, Mississippi, and was first engaged in teaching and then in journalistic work. She has attracted manners and a pleasant voice, and is exceedingly pleased with the reception accorded her in this country. The statements she made in a recent interview will probably startle some of our readers, who think that the prejudice against the coboured race has quite passed away. When asked if the spread of education and growth of property among the negro mace it was increasing she replied that "the colour line" was as distinctly drawn as ever. For instance, no "Afro-American" whatever his moral, financial, or educational standing-can enter a white church Y.M.C.A. school or railway car. In the theaters they may only go into the gallery, a part of which has been railted off to separate them even there. One sign that the feeling is not on the decrease is that several Southern States have within the last six years passed laws to prevent the admission of Afro-Americans to the same railway cars as the whites. When asked is she preferred the term "Afro-American" as a name for her people, she said it accurately describes the position and had become a popular designation. "'Negro' leaves out the element of nationality, and we are all Americans, nor has the Republic more faithful and loyal citizens than those of our race. Some of the 'coloured' people are not distinguishable from the whites, so far has their negro blood been diluted, but they ar all "Afro-Americans" - that is Americans of African descent." "Could not an Afro-American obtain damages for breach of contract if a railway refused to give him the accomodation for which he had paid and received his ticket?" said the interviewer, and Miss Wells replied that she herself was dragged out of a railway car in Tennessee, and on refusing to go into the "Jim Crow Car," was left behind in the station, to the great delight of the passengers, sho stood up on their seats and applauded the action of the conductor, baggage-master and station master in expelling her. Any one who has travelled through America knows the horrors of the "coloured car" and will sympathise with Miss Wells. The dislike of the South is not to the negroes as labourers or servants, but to the recognition of them as citizens. As a servant a negro may enter places from which, whatever her wealth, intellect, education or refinement, she is still ruthlessly excluded as a citizen. Miss Wells seems to think that as the negro advances in education and in the qualities of good citizenship, the disinclination to allow him civil rights becomes deeper. Her revelations with regard to the lynchings were horrible. "The mob", she said, "are no longer content with shooting and hanging, but burn negroes alive," and she justly appeals for a fair trial and legal punishment when the offense is proven. She maintains that British opinion and protest will have great force, and for this reason has determined to hold meetings in the principal cities here. She is delighted with the reception hitherto accorded her, and feels greatly encouraged.