

LYNCHING OF NEGROES.

In Texas, last week, seven negroes were lynched by people of their own race for a most fiendish crime. Lynching, of course, is not unusual in this country, but this was an unusual affair nevertheless.

It has been a great complaint of negroes here and there that they have been made the victims of the passions of whites, and that their race has been punished for crimes which a white man commits with impunity. There has been justification for this complaint, of course, especially in the south, where negroes are often lynched for crimes which, committed by white men in the north, barely attract attention and are punished only nominally. But there are other crimes for which even white men are lynched, and lynched even in the north, where so much horror of lynching is felt until some peaceful community is outraged.

The remarkable thing in connection with this Texas lynching is that while all the victims were negroes so also were all the lynchers. They hanged six of the culprits and shot the seventh. In short, they lynched negroes for a crime against negroes, which white men have avenged similarly when their own race has been so outraged. This takes the sound away from the negro bishop's call to arms and leaves nothing behind. When negroes who feel outraged by the villainies of miscreants of their own color take the law into their own hands there is no occasion for their especial wrath when whites treat colored scoundrels in the same way. Nevertheless lynching is nearly as deplorable as the travesties on justice which save murderers and others from merited punishment.