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Outrages of the Ku-Klux Klan. Volume 1385, Report no. 23 1869

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OUTRAGES BY KU-KLUX KLAN.

(To accompany H. Res. No. 408.)

JANUARY 18, 1869.—Ordered to be printed.

OFFICE CLERK CIRCUIT COURT,
MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA,
Huntsville, January 4, 1869.

DEAR SIR: As our representative in the Congress of the United States, I would most respectfully urge upon you the importance of your honorable body taking some immediate action for the protection of the Union citizens of this portion of the State of Alabama against the organization of armed men called the Ku-Klux Klan. I will give you a brief and plain statement of facts as they exist at this time, and as you are personally acquainted with me and know that I am no enthusiast, trust that you will not make any allowance for my statements, but consider them really worse than I represent them to be. I will give you a statement of a few facts that occurred within the past two days.

Saturday last the organization known as the Ku-Klux Klan called on Mr. Biglow, a man who has never taken any part in politics, broke open the doors of his dwelling-house, knocked his wife down for pleading for the life of her husband, dragged him from his house and carried him several miles from the city to a grove, tied a rope around his neck and swung him to a branch of a tree; when life was about extinct, cut him down and said to him "You voted for General Grant, did you; this is the way we intend to treat all Grant men." After giving him a few swings, each time repeating the same as above, they turned him loose, warning him to leave the State, or the next time they would not spare his life; then turned him loose to find his way back to the city the best way he could.

Mr. Sibley returned home from Montgomery, Saturday morning, and stopped at the hotel. At night he had every reason to believe that the Ku-Klux Klan intended to call on him with the intention of killing him. So he did not remain in his room, but sought protection by fleeing to the mountains. At night, as he expected, about 50 men, armed and disguised, called at his hotel, demanded that Sibley be delivered up to them; forced an entrance to his room by breaking down his door, and I honestly believe that his life was saved by him being absent from the hotel.

I called on the civil authorities this morning and asked if they would make any effort to protect their citizens against these outrages. They plainly and positively informed me that they could not command force sufficient to give any one protection. I asked them if in case I was called for by the Ku-Klux Klan and made an effort to protect myself, if I could depend upon any assistance from the civil authorities if I gave the alarm. They said that they could not give me any assistance; that if they were determined to kill me I would have to submit.

I entered the United States army early in 1861, remained till the close of the war; was wounded seriously three different times; located in this

State in 1865; invested my all, about \$10,000, with the impression that the United States government would protect me in my honest pursuits of a living and life.

The question is now, must I pick up my wife and babes and leave my all to the mercy of the party I at one time thought we had subdued?

Hundreds of our citizens would make the same statements to you, but they are afraid that their letters would never reach you and they would sacrifice their lives in writing.

Yours, truly,

JAMES H. BONE.

General J. B. CALLIS, *Washington, D. C.*

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, *November 17, 1868.*

DEAR GENERAL: I received a Herald this morning, in which I noticed your arrival at Lancaster; and you may be thankful that you are out of this Ku-Klux hole. One week ago to-night some unknown person fired a large load of buckshot into the bow-window of Mr. Lakin's house. This happened about 8½ o'clock and while Mr. and Mrs. Lakin and myself were sitting around and enjoying our evening fire. We heard the cap snap three times before the gun went off, and thinking it was nothing but the cracking of a whip, we did not move until the gun was discharged. No one was hurt, the whole charge passing over our heads and striking the walls above and in front of us. Eleven large buckshot have been found in the room. We nightly expect further demonstrations. The women are very much alarmed.

JOHNNIE RAINES.

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, *January 4, 1869.*

DEAR GENERAL: I write you a few lines that you may know the condition of affairs in this section of the country. The Ku-Klux are still at their hellish work. Senator Sibley and the other members of the legislature arrived here from Montgomery on last Saturday at 12 o'clock.

The Ku-Klux have sworn to take Sibley's life; so on Saturday night they came out in force and went to his room at the Johnson House, and broke into his room, where he was supposed to be, with the intention, no doubt, of killing him; but, fortunately for him, he had heard that they (Ku Klux) were coming out and would probably visit him, so he quietly slipped out of his room and went to the Easley House, and remained all night. They failing to find Mr. Sibley, went to the house of Mr. Frank Biglow; broke into his house, knocked down his wife, tumbled the things in his house completely upside down, and took him out into the country about two miles and gave him a whipping. We expected them to visit our house, and they did pass by, but for some unknown reason did not trouble us. We had also been notified that they would be out, and consequently were on our guard and prepared to receive them, not with opened arms, but with powder and shot.

Now, then, I want to know if Congress cannot do something to stop these outrages. If they cannot, the Union men, and especially the carpet-baggers, might as well leave the country at once.

Your friend,

JOHN W. RAINES.

General JOHN B. CALLIS, M. C.,
Washington, D. C.