

THE MEMPHIS RIOTS.

The Report of the Congressional Committee appointed to investigate the Memphis Riots, is a record of unsurpassed atrocities, and the conclusions drawn therefrom in regard to the loyalty of certain sections of the South are unquestionably as just as they are mournful. Indeed, it appears probable that in the "admission of Tennessee," the State that holds within its borders a greater preponderance of rebels than any other has been brought into "practical relations." We doubt if there be any city of the South so cursed with rebel vagabonds and cut-throats as this same city of Memphis. May be the Committee extend their inferences too far, as against "the entire section of country;" but of that every one can fairly judge on reading the statements they give of the horrors of the late Riots. Forty-eight persons were killed, seventy-five wounded, and five women outraged.

Here are some of the details of the "Horrors of Memphis:"

The crowning acts of atrocity and diabolism committed during these terrible nights were the ravishing of five different colored women by these fiends in human shape, independent of other attempts at rape. The details of these outrages are of too shocking and disgusting a character to be given at length in this report, and reference must be had to the testimony of the parties. It is a singular fact, that while this mob was breathing vengeance against the negroes and shooting them down like dogs, yet when they found unprotected colored women they at once "conquered their prejudices" and proceeded to violate them under circumstances of the most licentious brutality.

The rape of Frances Thomas, who had been a slave and was a cripple, using crutches, having a cancer on her foot, is one to which reference is here made. On Tuesday night seven men, two of whom were policemen, came to her house. They first demanded that she should get supper for them, which she did. After supper the wretches threw all the provisions that were in the house, which had not been consumed, out into the bayou. They then laid hold of Frances, hitting her on the side of the face and kicking her. A girl by the name of Lucy Smith, about sixteen years old, living with her, attempted to go out at the window. One of the brutes knocked her down and choked her. They then drew their pistols, and said they would shoot them and fire the house if they did not let them have their own way. The woman, Frances Thompson, was then violated by four of the men, and so beaten and bruised that she lay in bed for three days. They then took all the clothes out of the trunk, one hundred dollars in greenbacks belonging to herself, and two hundred dollars belonging to another colored woman, which had been left to take care of her child, besides silk dresses, bed-clothing etc. They were in the house nearly four hours; and when they left they said they intended "to burn up the last God damn nigger, and drive all the Yankees out of town, and then there would be some rebel niggers and butternuts left." The colored girl, Lucy Smith, who was before the Committee, said to be sixteen or seventeen years old, but who seemed, from her appearance to be two or three years younger, was a girl of modest demeanor and highly respectable in appearance. She corroborated the testimony of Frances Thompson, as to the number of men who broke into the house, and as to the policemen who were with them. They seized her (Lucy) by the neck, and choked her to such an extent that she could not talk for two weeks to any one. She was then violated by one of the men, and the reason given by another for not repeating the act of nameless atrocity was, that she was *so near dead he would not have anything to do with her*. He therefore struck her a severe blow upon the side of the head. The violence of these wretches seemed to be aggravated by the fact that the women had in their room some bed-covering or quilting with red, white and blue, and also some pictures of Union officers. They said, "You niggers have a mighty liking for the damned Yankees, but we will kill you, and you will have no liking for any one then." This young girl was so badly injured that she was unable to leave her bed for two weeks.

Another case is that of—

Rebecca Ann Bloom, who was ravished on the night of the 2d of May. She was in bed with her husband, when five men broke open the door and came into her house. They professed to have authority to arrest Mr. Bloom, and threatened to take him to the station-house unless he should pay them a forfeit of twenty-five dollars. Not having the money, he went out to raise it, and while absent one of the men assaulted the wife and threatened to kill her if she did not let him do as he wished. Brandishing his knife, and swearing she must submit to his wishes, he accomplished his brutal purpose.

Another case is that of Lucy Tibbs. A party of seven men broke into her house on Tuesday night, and demanded to know where her husband was. She had with her two little children of the ages of five and two years, respectively. She implored them not to do anything to her, as she was just there with her "two little children." While the others of the party were plundering the house, one man threatened to kill her if she did not submit to his wishes; and although another man, discovering her situation, interfered, and told him to let that woman alone—that she was not in a situation for doing that, the brute did not desist, but succeeded in violating her person in the presence of the other six men. She was obliged to submit, as the house was full of men, and she thought they would kill her, as they had stabbed a woman the previous night in her neighborhood.

On Wednesday morning, in open day, two men came into the room of Harriet Armor. One of them by the name of Dunn, living on South street, under the pretext of hunting for arms, entered and barred the door, and both of them violated her. This outrage was attended with circumstances of too disgusting and shocking a character to be mentioned except by the most distant allusion.