

## THOMPSON.

"Crutchy" Frances the Infamous—Her  
His Testimony Before the Repub-  
lican Congressional Com-  
mittee in 1866.

A Sample of the Evidence in which  
Memphis was "Found Guilty" of  
Riotous Conduct by the  
Congressional Com-  
mittee.

It would be impossible to estimate the amount of damage done by the black brute now doing duty on the chain-gang. There is no knowing what amount of corruption he has aided and abetted, nor how many women, both white and black, he has ruined. He has played the part of a go-between and procuress, and plied a nefarious trade as a wholesale debaucher. Of his utter depravity there is no room to doubt, and as little that he is capable of using his vile tongue to the injury of any one whom he may regard his enemy. Of his capacity in this regard, we have a sample in the testimony he gave before the congressional committee to investigate the Memphis riots in 1866, which we copy in the APPEAL to-day, as follows, from pages 196-97 of the report of the committee:

Question—State your name and residence? Answer—My name is Frances Thompson; I live in Gayoso street, here in Memphis.

Q.—What is your occupation? A.—I sew, and take in washing and ironing.

Q.—Have you been a slave? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Where were you raised? A.—I was raised in Maryland. All our people but mistress, got killed in the rebel army.

Q.—Have you been injured? A.—I am a cripple. [The witness used crutches]. I have a cancer in my foot.

Q.—Were you here during the late riots? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—State what you know or saw of the rioting? A.—Between one and two o'clock, Tuesday night, seven men, two of whom were policemen, came to my house; I knew they were policemen by their stars; they were all Irishmen; they said they must have supper, and asked me what I had, and said they must have some eggs and ham and biscuit; I made them some biscuit and some strong coffee, and they all sat down and eat; a girl lives with me; her name is Lucy Smith; she is about sixteen years old; when they had eaten supper they said they wanted some woman to sleep with; I said we were not that sort of women, and they must go; they said "that didn't make a damned bit of difference;" one of them laid hold of me, and hit me on the side of my face, and, holding my throat, choked me; Lucy tried to get out of the window, when one of them knocked her down and choked her; they drew their pistols, and said they would shoot us and fire the house if we did not let them have their way with us; all seven of the men violated us two; four of them had to do with me; and the rest with Lucy.

Q.—Were you injured? A.—I was sick for two weeks; I lay for three days with a hot burning fever.

Q.—Did any one attend you? A.—I had a cold before, and Dr. Rambert attended me after this.

Q.—Were you robbed? A.—After they got through with us they just robbed the house; they took the clothes out of my trunk, and took one hundred dollars that I had in greenbacks belonging to me, and two hundred that belonged to a colored woman that was left with me to keep safe for her.

Q.—Did they take anything else? A.—They took three silk dresses of mine and a right nice one of Lucy's; they put the things into two pillow slips and took them away.

Q.—How long did the men stay? A.—They were there perhaps for nearly four hours; it was getting near day when they left.

Q.—Did they say anything? A.—They said they intended to "burn up the last God-d-d nigger."

Q.—Did you know any of them? A.—They were all Irishmen; there was not an American among them.

Q.—Did anything else take place? A.—There were some quilts about that we had been making. They asked us what they were made for. When we told them for the soldiers, they swore at us, and said the soldiers would never have them on their beds, and took them away with the rest of the things. They said they would drive all the Yankees out of the town, and then there would be only some rebel niggers and butternuts left. I thought all the time they would burn the house, but they didn't.

And this statement of the brute Thompson, so utterly at variance with the truth, was in part corroborated by the girl Lucy Smith, who, however, stated that she was violated but once. "Violated" just after she had been forced from occupying the same bed with Thompson. Upon such testimony as this Memphis was stigmatized by a Radical congressional committee, from whose report, based upon this testimony, we copy the following:

"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 the 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 Thompson, 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. She knew the two to be policemen by their stars. They were all Irishmen. 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 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 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 damned nigger, and drive all the Yankees out of town, and then there would be only 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 that he would not have anything to do with her. He thereupon 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-covers or quilt 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."