

Very little of the testimony taken by republican committees in the south is worth serious consideration. It is generally the testimony of white carpet-beggars and ignorant negroes, and in numerous instances has been shown to be wholly and wickedly false. The same may be said of many of the outrages alleged to have been committed in that section of the country. Some time ago one Frances Thompson appeared before a republican committee in Memphis, Tennessee, and testified to having been "the victim of sixteen successive ravishments" by white ruffians in that city. The story was given to the country by the committee, and many doubtless believed it to be true. Frances Thompson, however, has since turned out to be a negro man, keeping a disorderly house in woman's attire! Another outrage was alleged to have been committed in Alabama. The facts in the case are disclosed in the sworn testimony of J. S. Ferris, republican member of the legislature of Alabama and deputy United States marshal. Says Ferris: "I shot a hole in my hat and reported that I had been attacked by Ku Klux, and I sent troops to arrest the mythical assailants. I kept the troops as long as I could use them as a political machine. Our purpose was to secure the legislature at all hazards, and elect Spencer." In numerous instances investigating committees have reported men as murdered who were afterward found in exuberant health. Crimes having their origin in the natural depravity of man, and having no reference whatever to the political affairs of the state or nation, have been eagerly seized upon by partisan committees and quoted by them as evidence of political anarchy and misrule. We do not say that political crimes have not been committed in the south—the same has been done in the north—but we do affirm that many, very many, of the reported outrages, like those we have referred to, are ridiculously and wickedly false.