

### NO EXCUSE FOR IT.

There can be no sort of an excuse for the Salina lynching. For that matter, there is no sufficient excuse for any lynching, however much the public may sympathize with the passions of the mob. In this case the offender had been dealt with by the law, and the highest punishment provided for the act with which he was charged had been assessed against him. The celerity with which his case was dealt with should, of itself, have been his protection against mob violence. He was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary on the very day that his crime was committed. If the punishment was insufficient it was not the fault of the court or the jury. The culprit plead guilty to the charge which was brought against him, and the court fixed his punishment at the very extreme provided by statute. That he was a bad man on general principles there is no doubt, but criminals are not tried on their reputation. He had committed an assault with intent to kill, but his victim was not fatally wounded. Neither the court nor the mob had a right, either by statutory law or unwritten lynch law, to condemn him for murder.

The newspaper correspondents undertake to excuse this lynching on the ground that it was but a few days ago that a mob in the same town was thwarted in its attempt to mete out summary punishment to a prisoner suspected of a much more brutal crime. It is hard to see what that has to do with this case. In the first place these same correspondents on that occasion claimed that the people of Salina were not of the blood-thirsty lot, but that the mob came from surrounding towns. The prisoner proved to be innocent of the charge on which he was arrested, and the participants in the attempt at lynching should have been thankful that the self-respecting citizens of the town prevented them from becoming murderers. Salina owes it to the good name it has always held as a center of culture and refinement to bring the leaders of the mob before its courts for punishment.