

Tri-Weekly Index

Columbus, Miss., Tuesday Morning, November 14, 1876

Jackson Clarion upon the Artesia Affair

We notice in the *CLARION* of the 8th, comments upon the Artesia disturbance; its comments being predicated upon anaration of events by the Meridian *MERCURY*.

The *MERCURY* may have desired to represent the people of Lowndes and adjoining counties as law abiding and submissive, but those people do not envy a national reputation for forbearance at the expense of a local reputation for emasculation and cowardice.

In its comments, the *CLARION* says: "We find the few white men who reside at Artesia unarmed and having to call upon the Federal troops for protection. Why were they not reinforced the night before by bodies of white men from the country and adjoining towns?"

"If Artesia had been on the line of the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad last Wednesday morning when the five hundred armed negroes were forming solid squares and marching and counter-marching and establishing "dead lines" in an hour or two, Warren and Hinds counties would have put into that quiet little village a body of men, who would have planted that dead line so deep that nothing except Gabriel's trumpet could have moved it. That five hundred armed negroes would have had a corporal's guard left for duty. A body of men who, our word for it, would have made Rome howl. A body of men who have not forgotten the daylight attack on Vicksburg or the Clinton massacre. Men who have been there and who would have known what they went for again."

Why does not the *CLARION* copy an account of this occurrence from the local press!

For correction of the *CLARION'S* comments, we publish, that some of the best men of Lowndes went to

Artesia, not to create, but to prevent a disturbance. That when armed negroes came into town, they were disarmed. Afterwards Lee and Whitfield were direced to go among them and collect them to hear speaking. Troops were not called for. But on the contrary, in reply to a dispatch from the United States Marshall, received some time after order had been restored, said Marshall was telegraphed, all was quiet.

After we had all had a good dinner, and Lee and Grazee had agreed to abandon all their appointments in Lowndes, and everybody was ready to go home, a Federal officer with a squad of soldiers arrived. The officer came to learn the facts to report to Gen. Aager in New Orleans and a posse of citizens. Lowndes does not invest much in demonstrations, but we can claim she has demonstrated her ability to look out for herself. She is not windy in puffing what her people do, but rather prefers to be judged by her achievements.

Feeling that the *CLARION* has no caused to do our people an injustice, we ask it to publish our statement.

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Last updated: 09/29/2008 11:57:18

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