

Vigilante justice was alive

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there are any of Mershon's friends so brave as to try to find out anything about this affair they will soon come to the conclusion that they had better leave the country for the country's good.

"To thieves of all grades: Your cases will not be overlooked. There must and will be change in many things. When murderers, thieves, burglars and house-burners have their own way and get a strong hold

upon the legal profession of the country, and through its trickery goes unpunished, then forbearance ceases to be a virtue and like other counties we have to take the law in our hands and call Judge Lynch to preside. The friends of the above who got their bail and also those that affords them sustenance and maintenance of all kinds, may take warning. We mean business from this time forth and forever. Vengeance is ours."

The departing vigilantes also warned all the witnesses to keep their mouths shut. Anxious to take their advice, Hoosier later couldn't remember much about it. A couple of weeks afterward

he was acquitted of any part in Moore's murder and took up residence elsewhere.

In the aftermath little girls strolling home from school used to run past the empty Merson

house on the northwest corner of Kirkwood and Dunn streets.

The Merson boys' mother, Cynthia, sued the county for \$20,000 for her false arrest, but the case never came to trial.

Ten years later a frustrated Indiana governor was also alarmed at his fellow Hoosiers' kangaroo courts and on-the-spot extra-legal justice. Vigilantes from Bloomington had gone all the way to Vincennes to lynch a black murder suspect who had

J & S on bridge

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replied the Professor. "I didn't really think I was going to make