Benjamin R. Tillman Quotes

- “Lynch law is all we have left.”
- “I believe they are men, but some of them are so near akin to the monkey that scientists are yet looking for the missing link.”
- “I will say to the Senator, that as long as the Negroes continue to ravish white women we will continue to lynch them.”
- “I have three daughters, but, so help me God, I had rather find either one of them killed by a tiger or a bear and gather up her bones and bury them, conscious that she had died in the purity of her maidenhood by a black fiend. The wild beast would only obey the instinct of nature, and we would hunt him down and kill him just as soon as possible. What shall we do with a man who had outbruted the brute and committed an act which is more cruel than death? Try him? Drag the victim into court, for she alone can furnish legal evidence, and make her testify to the fearful ordeal through which she has passed, undergoing a second crucifixion?”

Source: Congressional Record

**Born:** August 11, 1847  
**Nickname:** “Pitchfork Ben”  
**Political Offices:** Governor South Carolina, U.S. Senator from South Carolina  
**Died:** July 3, 1918.