

THE KENTUCKY REGULATORS.

CATLETTSBURG, Ky., May 28.—For some time there have been fears of a collision in Carter County between the Militia and the Regulators, and the Governor has, in consequence, ordered troops to be ready to march to assist the officers of the company in enforcing the laws. To-day 200 Regulators gave themselves up and gave the names of 800 of their number, and they will be presented to the Grand Jury for indictment. The troops will not now be needed. The Regulators have had an organization ostensibly for driving dangerous and worthless members of the community out of the country, and have used summary process in many cases.

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desirables in the region. Masked horseback riders whipped many victims and drove them out of the area. The vigilantes also punished many men and women accused of violating the moral standards of the community.

By the spring of 1880, the movement had spread to the neighboring counties of Morgan, Rowan, Carter, Boyd, and Lawrence. On the night of March 17, 1880, the Elliott County organization claimed two more victims during a raid in Carter County. Openly defying the authorities, the Lawrence County **Regulators** forcibly rescued several jailed members in Louisa and Catlettsburg.

Despite frequent death threats, Judge James E. Stewart of the 16th judicial district vowed to uphold the law against the **Regulators** and called on Gov. Luke P. Blackburn (1879-83) for state troops. Stewart's firm stand, the threat of military force, and the promise of executive clemency for **Regulators** who voluntarily surrendered broke the back of the movement. On May 28, 1880, over two hundred Lawrence and Carter County **Regulators** surrendered to Judge Stewart at Louisa. The voluntary disbanding of the Elliott and Morgan County organizations in July marked the end of the uprising, although outbreaks of terrorism in the region continued until 1881. Governor Blackburn subsequently pardoned hundreds of former **Regulators** throughout the region. Nevertheless, isolated acts of vigilantism continued to occur in the area until the early twentieth century.

Remarkable for the numbers involved, the Regulator uprising was defended by many as a necessary evil when the legal system failed to curb lawlessness. But the extreme violence that characterized the movement succeeded only in reinforcing the perception of late nineteenth century **Kentucky** as a lawless, violent society.

JAMES M. PRICHARD

REGULATOR UPRISING. The lawlessness that plagued **Kentucky** after the Civil War led to frequent outbreaks of vigilantism throughout the state. The majority of these organizations described themselves as "**Regulators**"—a term popularized by vigilantes on the southern frontier before the Revolutionary War. Although generally local and sporadic in nature, postwar vigilantism sparked a popular uprising that swept through northeastern **Kentucky** in 1879-81.

The uprising began in Elliott County, where outlaws in 1877 had burned a portion of Sandy Hook, the county seat. In September 1879, following a wave of crime marked by violence against women, the citizens of Elliott banded together and took it into their own hands to enforce the laws. In a proclamation to the people, "Judge Lynch" warned that lawlessness would no longer be tolerated. On the night of October 20, 1879, two hundred armed **Regulators** dragged two alleged outlaws from the Elliott County jail and hanged them on the courthouse grounds. The lynchings inaugurated a reign of terror against all suspected lawbreakers and un-

PLANS OF KENTUCKY REGULATORS.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Nov. 15.—A special dispatch states that Lewis Scoggs has been convicted of the murder of William Waddell, in Elliott County, Ky., and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. Judge Ridder refused a new hearing and the case is to be appealed. The prisoner was removed from the County Jail for fear the regulators would shorten the sentence. The regulators in North-eastern Kentucky have issued a proclamation, fashioned after the Declaration of Independence. It recites that in view of the reign of assassination, robbery, and rapine which has lasted in that region four years, they have had to band together to protect the lives and property of honest and honorable people. They deny that they are a mob, and assert that they are an organized and disciplined set of men, and mean business. They assure good citizens that they have nothing to fear, and warn all barn-burners and murderers to leave the country, and threaten them with lynch law where the State law fails of its duty.

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Speed, Riley Crowder, Eddie Brown, Thomas Beggarly, George Elliott, and several other citizens whose names we do not know, have been driven from their homes.

On the 22d of June the Regulators visited Willisburgh for the purpose of capturing Capt. J. M. Frazier and Col. Hays, Union candidates; but the meeting was postponed, and neither of the gentlemen fell into their hands. Of the political character of the men who have been shot, hung or maltreated, we can only say that, so far as we know, they were all Union men except two, who were bad characters.

It is said that the men who hung the negroes at Nicholasville, and who resisted the United States troops and shot Col. Rice, belonged to the same band, and that eleven members of it live in Lexington, Ky.

We have endeavored to give a faithful account of one of the bands of Regulators now infesting Kentucky, and have only to add that several civil officers are known to be members of the band. Little or no information can be got from the citizens as to who the lawless men are or what they do, for to inform is to incur the displeasure of the mob and jeopardize life and property.

Major CARPENTER, who, a few days ago, was attacked by three men in Lancaster, Ky., is reported to have been killed on Friday night, but we cannot trace the report to any reliable source, and it is hoped to be false. A few days ago both BRIDGEWATER and CARPENTER were in this city and said they expected to be killed. One is already dead, and if the other is not yet killed it is likely he will be unless he seeks safety in flight from his home and family.

KENTUCKY REGULATORS.

How Major Bridgewater was Killed— Thirty Men Murdered and Outraged —Reported Death of Major Carpenter.

Correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Monday, July 22, 1867.

A gentleman who witnessed the killing of Major BRIDGEWATER, gives this account of the affair: The Major had been assisting his brother to move and was returning home when he stopped in Stanford and sat down to play a game of checkers with a friend. While the game was progressing and Major BRIDGEWATER sitting in a store with his back to the door, a number of mounted men entered the town and approached the store. Six of the Regulators dismounted, and running up to the door fired upon BRIDGEWATER, killing him instantly. The first shot, it is said, was fired by a man named SANDERS, who is Captain of the band, and as BRIDGEWATER discharged up in his chair the rest of the assassins discharged their revolvers. Some thirty shots in all were fired, eight entering his head and ten passing through his body. One of the balls fired by the regulators hit a man in the leg who was standing behind the counter in the store, and another ball wounded a gentleman in the arm. Immediately after firing the party mounted their horses and rode out of Stanford at full speed. There were eleven of them in all, and no resistance was offered or attempt made to arrest them. They are reported to have come from Crab Orchard, and had evidently been watching BRIDGEWATER, whom they attacked some three weeks ago when he, with a party of friends, drove them off, wounding two of their number. Major BRIDGEWATER leaves a wife and several small children to mourn his loss. He was personally one of the bravest men in the State, and had they given him a fair fight more than one Regulator would have bit the dust; but he was shot in the back by a pack of cowards who did not dare meet him face to face.

Some idea of the lawless condition of affairs in parts of Kentucky may be inferred from the fact that this one band has whipped or hung over thirty men.

Some of the most noticeable of their acts are the following: Hanging of JOHN TAYLOR until he was almost dead; hanging of WILLIAM TAYLOR, his brother, until he was dead; attack on the negro population of Lebanon, gutting stores and shooting at the terror-stricken and fleeing citizens; hanging of WILLIAM GOODE, CLEM CROWDUS and TOM STEVENS; hanging, in a graveyard, of a negro named AL. McROBERTS; attempt to capture EDWARD BROWN, the Regulators being driven off, one of their number killed and two wounded; the next night they burned BROWN'S house; in April last they hung JERRY TROWBRIDGE, at Danville, and ALFRED JENNINGS, in Washington County; THOMAS CARRIEB was taken from the jail and hung in Danville, and an attempt made to hang LEWIS HALLIGAN, but he escaped. The same night the Regulators fired on a negro, but he got away, and they then took out THOMAS CARRIEB, mentioned above, and hung him in sight of his agonized family. They next attempted to hang WILLIAM BENNINGTON, near Perryville, but he hid away. On May 7 they took THOMAS GABEHEART from the jail at Campbellsville and hung him. On the 3d of June they captured JOHN DEVINE, who, in attempting to escape, was shot in the back and then hung to a tree. Capt. WILLIAM SHIVELY, for speaking against the mob, was shot at, but escaped. The same mob drove from their homes Gen. FRY, Capt. GOODLOE and Hon. JOHN HARLAN, and hung two negroes in Jessamine County. Attempts were made to seize DAVIS and WHITE, citizens of Mercer County, and J. D. HALE was compelled to flee for his life. David Warren, a colored man, was killed, and Thomas Beggarly, John Crowder, William Rinehart (white,) and three negroes whipped. Mr. Goode and family, Henry Crowder, William Wilson, Crosby Elliott, James Crowder, J. J. Nash, Hutchison

REGULATORS IN KENTUCKY.

CLEARING THE COUNTRY OF THIEVES AND SCOUNDRELS.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 8.—The organization known as the Regulators, numbering several hundred men, in Eastern Kentucky, is pursuing its work of punishing law-breakers with energy. Information just received says that on Saturday night 306 Regulators, mounted on horseback, appeared in the Little Clifty Creek settlement, and secured Farris and Leander McFarland and James and John Marlow, all of whom were suspected of extensive petty thieving and incendiarism on a smaller scale than the Crackers Neck robber band, two of whom were hanged six weeks ago. One of the outrages of the Clifty thieves was the burning of the house and stable of George Gilbert and the robbing of W. Green's mill. Farris and McFarland was severely whipped, but refused to give the names of his accomplices. He was then swung up a tree, and just when he apparently gave his last kick the Regulators lowered him, and then he made an extensive confession. Leander McFarland, showing fight, was seriously wounded by a shot in his left side, from which it is thought that he will recover. James and John Marlow were unmercifully whipped, and all four received strict orders forthwith to leave the county. The Regulators are determined to rid their part of the country of the thieves and cut-throats who have so long held undisputed sway, and in this crusade they have the support of the better classes of the population.

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GENERAL TELEGRAPH NEWS

THE KENTUCKY REGULATORS.

LYNCH LAW THREATENED IN BATH AND ELLIOTT COUNTIES—WARNINGS TO THE COURTS.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 8.—Advices received here from Grayson, Ky., report great excitement at Weitesburg, Letcher County, over the shooting of Town Marshal Love by William Vermillion last Sunday, reported as a cold-blooded affair. Love was standing in front of his house, and was shot at a distance of 100 yards. Vermillion is now awaiting trial.

In Crompton, Wolfe County, Crockett H. McGuire was invited to the house of Daniel Cobb. Cobb and his wife visited the house of a neighbor, and remained all night. During their absence Cobb's house was burned and McGuire in it. There are doubts as to whether he was murdered or suffocated. Since the hanging of Kendall and McMillan, at Martinsburg, Elliott County, the Regulators are extending their organization through Northeast Kentucky, and are reported to have enrolled 3,000 of the better citizens of that region. A large party visited Morehead, Rowan County, recently to hang James Rabourn for the murder of his father-in-law a few weeks ago, but Rabourn was in the Bath County Jail. They posted the following notice on the Court-house door:

"Notice! To any court that may try Rabourn for the murder of Hyatt: If you fail to give him justice you will be as guilty as he. Also, any attorney that may raise any technicality in his defense will be sent on a visit to Kendall and McMillan without fail. Any person destroying this notice will be dealt with according to the law of Judge Lynch. Signed, Deadwood City."

In Elliott County the Regulators are moving, and have sent the following notice to the Judge of the Circuit Court:

To the Court now in Session:

Behold, we come again, not with fire and blood in our tracks, but we come to this court as suppliants at the throne of mercy, begging and pleading that they will not continue any of the cases of felony that are on the docket, or that may come to it during this term, on mere legal technicalities, but give them what the law provides for, viz., speedy trial. Bear this in mind; the country, justice, and God demand it, and we as a band of over 2,000, in three counties, say that we will give it to them in three days after this court adjourns if you don't. We don't want to threaten this court, or any part of it, because they are perfectly safe so far as we are concerned; but we want thieves, robbers, house-burners, men who slay their wives, and are so handy with pistols, to distinctly understand that we mean business. We don't like this; it is no pleasure to us; but a stern and hard duty, that we can perform if necessary; and all such men aforesaid had better be tried here, for if we have to call a special term of our court, woe be unto you, for death is your portion, and remember the walnut. So govern yourselves accordingly.

JUDGE LYNCH.

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officers who had proved unworthy and incapable. And if such a violent resort to mob law administered with due decorum was ever justifiable, it was justifiable in the new, remote, and isolated community in which all this happened.

It not unlikely that the citizens of north-eastern Kentucky have pursued the same course as that which finally led the people of San Francisco to substitute Lynch law for the processes of the courts. In the case of the Californians, a population intent on money-making and mad with the prevalent excitement of the golden era, had neglected the machinery by which offices were filled. The courts and all the channels of justice were left to care for themselves. The people woke up, one day, to find that crime was common and unpunished. It is not possible that a similar exigency should happen in Kentucky, unless preceded by a similar neglect of duty by the citizens. It is a question as to which is the more deplorable, the existence of unchecked crime or the punishment of the criminal by mob law. The former begets contempt for regularly-constituted authority. The latter temporarily removes the safeguards of society. If the Kentucky Regulators could be trusted to punish only the guilty, their responsibility would not be so great as it is. But the danger is that any irregular administration of abstract justice may finally be turned against the innocent, or, at least, against those in whose favor the possibilities of innocence have not been fairly weighed. It may be said to the credit of the San Francisco Vigilantes that they punished no person who was not notoriously guilty of the crimes imputed to him, and that they dissolved their organization when their work was done. This cannot be truly said of any similar association for the unlawful suppression of crime. In Kentucky, the people have begun at the wrong end. They should have seen to it that the officers of the law were honest and competent men. They would not now be taking the law into their own hands.

A RESORT TO MOB LAW.

Certain "law-abiding" citizens of north-eastern Kentucky have organized an association for the suppression of crime. This organization is not in the least like any municipal society—such as we have in New-York and other large cities. In an address to the people, which is said to resemble the immortal Declaration of Independence, they recite the facts which have led to the organization of their association, assure peaceful and law-abiding citizens that they have nothing to fear, and announce their intention to punish thieves, incendiaries, and murderers in their own way. From this we infer that there has been a failure of justice in north-eastern Kentucky, and that the people of the region have been obliged to resort to the irregular proceedings of Judge Lynch. And yet they have taken upon themselves the title of "Regulators." This name seems to be attractive to irregular associations for the suppression of crime and violence. It has been adopted before now in various parts of the country, the State of North Carolina having been specially prominent in the history of irregular jurisprudence by reason of its so-called Regulators.

The attempt to take from lawfully-constituted tribunals the right to try men for alleged offenses, and to execute infamous criminals, has been made many times in American history. Of late years, these demonstrations of popular indignation have been confined to the very new settlements of the far West. The most remarkable of any of these, because of its outward observance of forms of law, was the uprising in San Francisco in 1851, which gave birth to the Vigilance Committee. The constitution of that association, like the address of the Regulators of north-eastern Kentucky, appealed to society to sustain the course of irregular justice then contemplated, saying, "Whereas, It has become apparent to the citizens of San Francisco that there is no security for life and property, either under the regulations of society as it at present exists, or under the law as now administered, therefore" the members of the organization band themselves together to maintain law and order. And, like the newer association in Kentucky, the San Francisco Regulators proclaimed that they were "determined that no thief, burglar, incendiary, or assassin should escape punishment, either by the quibbles of the law, the insecurity of prisons, the carelessness or corruption of the police, or the laxity of those who pretend to 'administer justice.'" The Vigilance Committee of 1851 conformed to every external observance of a lawfully-constituted authority. They had officers, judges, juries, and an imitation of all the forms of law. There was no single executioner, the members of the organization (and volunteers) taking hold of the fatal rope in a body, so that it could not be said that any one man, or even any ten or twenty men, hanged the victims. The responsibility for this act must be divided among a vast assemblage. The Vigilance Committee of 1851 hanged four men. The Vigilance Committee of 1856 hanged four, and exiled many more.

It has been said that the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco "made mob law respectable." But, disguise these extrajudicial proceedings as we may, they are nothing but the unlawful doings of a mob. Public opinion in San Francisco, at that time, was so overwhelmingly on the side of the so-called Vigilantes that an attempt to organize a "Law and Order Party," as it was called, ignominiously failed, and the only journal which upheld it was ruined in a week by the withdrawal of the patronage of the citizens. That singular episode in the history of the new Commonwealth of the Pacific furnished the most striking instance ever known of a seizure by the people

conferred upon