

## THE SHAME OF KENTUCKY.

What will strike the average law-abiding citizen as the most peculiar feature of the bloody vendetta just brought to a close in Rowan County, Ky., by the killing of CRAIG TOLLIVER, is the pusillanimous part played by the State authorities in dealing with the ruffians who for nearly three years have terrorized the country immediately surrounding Morehead. In any other State but Kentucky it can be positively asserted that no such a state of affairs as that described in the story of the Martin-Tolliver feud would have been allowed to continue a month. If the county authorities were unable to put down the ruffians State troops would have been sent to the scene of the disturbance, the opposing factions would have been held in check, and the leaders would have been arrested and either hanged for murder or placed in confinement and kept where they would have been powerless to do further harm. It is to the shame of Kentucky that two bloodthirsty mobs were allowed to carry on war to the death for nearly three years before the strong arm of the law was brought to bear to put an end to the bloody strife.

Gov. KNOTT's treatment of the Rowan County ruffians is difficult to understand by anybody not thoroughly imbued with the spirit of "Old Kentuck." Twice he was aroused to the necessity of taking some action to put an end to the terrible vendetta, and twice State troops were sent to the scene of the lawless fights. The first time the Governor treated the ruffians with all the consideration due from one great nation to another. He had ambassadors appointed by each of the contending factions, received them in Louisville, and after two pleasant "conferences" with the murderers induced them to sign a treaty of peace, and sent them home with his thanks. Of course the treaty was broken as soon as CRAIG TOLLIVER thought he had his foes at a disadvantage. The next move of the Governor was to arrest the leaders of both sides, and for a time it really looked as if justice was about to claim her own. But the mistaken tenderness of the Governor again interfered, and upon the promise of CRAIG TOLLIVER and COOK HUMPHREYS to leave the State the indictments against them were quashed. The result, as might have been foreseen, was a renewal of hostilities, culminating in the bloody battle of Tuesday, in which the life which TOLLIVER owed to the hangman was taken away by a shower of bullets.

The policy of Gov. KNOTT is attributable to the same public sentiment, so widespread in Kentucky, which was responsible for the cowhiding of Judge RICHARD REID and his subsequent suicide because a scoundrel imagined that the Judge had wronged him. The Underwood-Holbrook and Martin-Tolliver vendetta were possible in Kentucky because the communities of such regions as Morehead still cling to the barbarous theory that human life may be properly taken to resent an insult or avenge the death of a relative. So long as this sentiment continues to prevail, so long will the State be subject to such wars as that which has just been closed in Rowan County, and so long as Kentucky officials exhibit a sympathy for such a sentiment, so long will the laws of the State be powerless to prevent these murderous feuds. The people of Kentucky need to be educated in the principles of civilized humanity, and only when this is accomplished will the Craig Tollivers of the State disappear from her borders.