

MOB VIOLENCE.

Mob violence can no longer be looked upon in this country with complaisance. It has become threatening to our institutions. The awful tragedy of Princess Anne last week must necessarily impress this forcibly upon us all. The excuses usually made for defying the law in this manner were all absent. In the first place the action of the Court was speedy, decisive, and satisfactory; this removes one of the reasons usually given as an excuse. The other reason given for mob violence is that it prevents ladies from being compelled to narrate in public the most harrowing experience that could possibly come to them. This cannot be offered as an excuse in the Princess Anne tragedy, for the lady was present and was compelled to testify in the presence of the mob as well as the Court. The ordeal was a trying one no doubt, but was no relief to the lady who had gone through with it to know that those who heard the testimony were brutal enough to committ such a heinous offence against both the moral and civil law as was enacted fifteen minutes later in the streets below.

The treatment that the culprit received is a matter of small importance compared to the shock given civilized government. It is reported, and upon the best authority, that the deed was not committed by people of Somerset county but by *Strangers*,—men who were anxious "to go to a hog killing." Such acts are not in the interest of social order but a serious menace to all order, social and governmental. It is a form of violence that the government must meet sooner or later.