

## MARYLAND IS NOT "LAWLESS."

The killing of a negro near Baltimore has been made the text for numerous articles on "lawlessness in Maryland", and "a fresh outbreak of brutality in the South."

These are the plain facts: In a drunken brawl the negro killed a white man; the white man's friends retaliated by killing the negro. It was not the carefully planned attack of an entire community, but a murder committed in revenge by a few men in a drunken frenzy. Both crimes were the crimes of drunken men.

Every person concerned should be punished to the full extent of the law. There is no disposition whatever to condone the crime and there is a general demand that the murderers be ferreted out and made to feel the lash of the law. But Marylanders resent the attempt to condemn a whole State for the fiendish act of a handful of drunken brawlers.

When a neighbor like the Newport News Times-Herald makes the statement that "Maryland is rapidly gaining the reputation of being one of the most lawless States in the Union," it is time to call a halt. Murders as brutal as that at Fairfield take place in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, and are passed over without a word of comment. Would anyone contend that the Richeson case proves that Massachusetts people are murderers and betrayers? Virginia has had more atrocious murders and more lynchings than Maryland, yet our Newport News friend would be the first to resent the idea that it was a "lawless" State.

Marylanders are as peaceable and law-abiding as any people in the Union. Any spasmodic outbreak against law and order is so surprising that it causes a shock to the entire State. The fact that the Fairfield murders occurred at the moment we were celebrating the highest and holiest religious feast of the year enhanced its horror. But the crime was as great a shock and surprise to the good people of Maryland as to those of any part of the Union.