

It must be confessed that, but for the contradictory "confessions" and inconsistent "statements" of the Talbot brothers, who were hanged at Maryville yesterday for the murder of their father there would be grave reasons to doubt their guilt. The evidence against them presented on their trial was not by any means conclusive. The testimony of the detective Lintonox, was very suspicious, and a rational doubt was thrown upon its truth by the subsequent course of the detective in writing to the governor that he did not desire that the boys should be hanged upon his evidence. WYATT's testimony was just as suspicious, from the fact that the witness himself was charged with complicity in the crime, and had the strongest motives to swear himself clear and place the burden upon the defendants. Some of the other evidence was corroborative in its nature, but, in view of all the circumstances and the bad reputations of the state's witnesses, it cannot be truthfully said that the case, as submitted to the jury, was strong enough to preclude a reasonable doubt of the defendants' guilt. The course of the defendants since their conviction, and the general circumstances of the case, render it extremely probable that they murdered their father, but that was not shown with that degree of certainty which the law contemplates. That the world is better off without them, and that, upon "general principles" they deserved hanging, is doubtless true, but hanging upon "general principles," is dangerous business, and should not be encouraged. But for the course of the boys since their conviction, the public would be far from satisfied that their execution was justifiable, and even as it is, there must be lingering doubts in many minds upon the subject.