

~~A VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.~~ We are opposed to
"mob law" as is practiced in some of the States,
but have ever, since our residence in this State, ap-
~~proposed a Vigilance Committee,~~
consisting only of respectable citizens, men not li-
able to be led away by excitement, but who could
coolly and dispassionately adjudge the merits of a
question or the guilt or innocence of a prisoner,
outside of a court room. If there ever existed a
necessity for such an association, it is in our coun-
ty, as has been fully shown within the past two
months. A citizen of the county has his dearest
rights trampled on, his sanctuary polluted, he him-
self slain, *basely assassinated*, the wife of his bosom
not satisfied with dishonoring his bed, is proven to
have instigated, encouraged and excited her para-
mour to take his life. The murderer is arrested,
sufficient testimony is elicited to have hung both,
but by an unfortunate omission, the woman is not
indicted. Her testimony though of minor import,
except to prove her complicity in the murder is
used for the State and she unfortunately for jus-
tice occupies a place in the witness, instead of the
criminal box. The facts of the case are clear, the
prisoner is convicted and after sentence makes a
confession which if published in his own language
would not only harrow up the feelings of our read-
ers but disgust them. The answers of the woman
to questions put by the District Attorney were too
obscene and filthy to find a place in any paper.
The prisoner has been allowed to escape and the
woman is at large. So much for justice.
A few weeks ago, an honest and industrious cit-
zen of Weott river was killed by the Indians; one
of the murderers was killed by friendly Indians in
their endeavors to capture him; this week two
others were captured and are now in confinement
at Fort Humboldt awaiting the requisition of the
civil authorities. We would regret to see them
taken by the civil authorities and confined until

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A few weeks ago, an honest and industrious citizen of Weott river was killed by the Indians; one of the murderers was killed by friendly Indians in their endeavors to capture him; this week two others were captured and are now in confinement at Fort Humboldt awaiting the requisition of the civil authorities. We would regret to see them taken by the civil authorities and confined until the April term of the District Court which could only be done at an expense of several thousand dollars, which to our already over-taxed people would be far too onerous, and at the same time if the pleasure of the criminals were consulted they would prefer to be hung up at once. The most important feature of the last murder is that suspicion is fastened upon a white man who if Indian testimony was allowable, would be hung. Collateral circumstances alone are almost sufficient to convict him.

While we can but commend our citizens for their law abiding conduct, we at the same time wish it understood that we are opposed to a resort to such extreme measures as the usurpation of the laws and administering of justice except in extreme cases such as we have had lately. In the absence of a Court house and a secure jail as is the case in this county, there exists a necessity for the organization of a committee of citizens to aid our officers in the arrest and safe-keeping of criminals.

