

**HOMICIDE, NORTH AND SOUTH:
BEING A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF
CRIME AGAINST THE PERSON IN
SEVERAL PARTS OF THE UNITED
STATES**

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Homicide, North and South: being a comparative view of crime against the person in several parts of the United States by H. V. Redfield

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H. V. REDFIELD

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THE UNITED STATES**

HOMICIDE, NORTH AND SOUTH.

BEING A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF CRIME
AGAINST THE PERSON IN SEVERAL
PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY
H. V. REDFIELD.

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PREFACE.

THIS book is not written in a sectional or party spirit. There is no intent upon the part of the writer to influence a political result or extol one section of our common country over another. But in a large experience in nearly all the Southern States I have been impressed with the frequency of homicide,—averaging perhaps a homicide a day in a given State for months at a time, and that, too, where the population was but one-fifth or one-sixth as great as that of Pennsylvania or New York. And, further, that popular attention among those most interested was so little aroused by the frequency of this crime. In those States where the homicidal tendency of the population has such large development, the usual answer to suggestions that man-slaying is very frequent is something like this: "Oh, there are no more murders among us than among other people; there are murders everywhere, always have been and always will be;" or, "Murder is as frequent in the Northern States or in Europe as here;" or, "There

are more murders in New York City or Boston than in our whole State." They regret and deplore crimes of this nature, but accept them as evils that cannot be helped, evils that must be borne, and content themselves with reflections that every civilized country has a murder rate equal to, or even in excess of, that which prevails in most of the Southern States.

The object of this book is to show how very erroneous these conclusions are, and to try and arouse the governing elements in the South to a proper appreciation of the evil that afflicts society, to the end that there may be increased respect for human life and less consideration shown man-slayers in the courts.

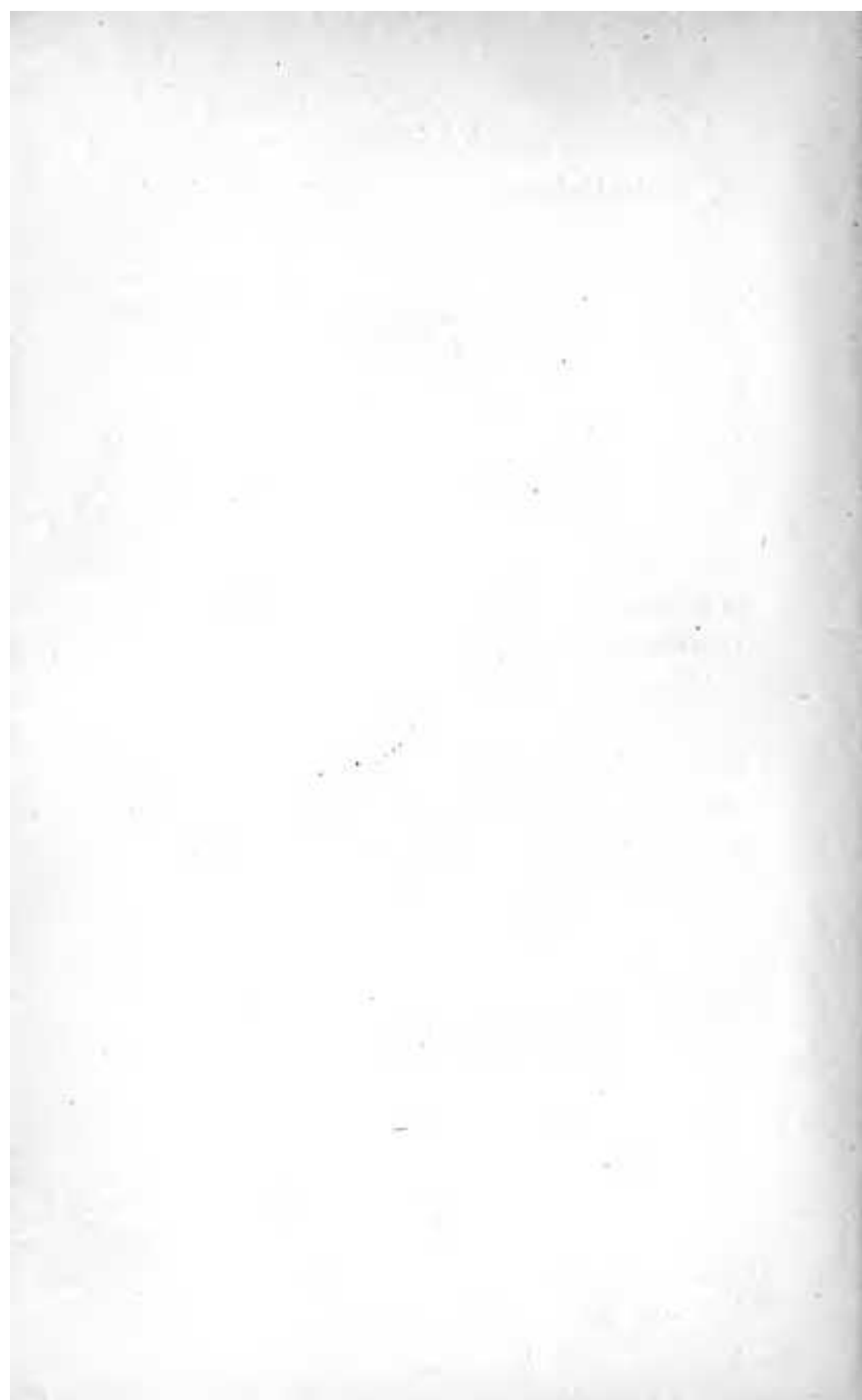
No civilization yet attained has been equal to the entire suppression of murder. It occurs in all countries and among all people. But that it should be from four to fifteen times more frequent in the Southern States of our own country than elsewhere is calculated to arouse the latent forces of society against the continuance permanently of this condition of things.

The writer has spent the greater portion of his life in the Southern States. The friends of his youth are there. In an extended experience as a resident of one of the Southern States, and as correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* visiting them all again

and again, he has experienced nothing but kindness. There is no malice in this book. Were the brighter sides of Southern life only dealt with, the hospitality, the generosity, the courage, and the finer and more lovable qualities of the Southern population set forth, the book to be written would be much larger than this. There is more good than evil in the South; more that is lovable than there is that is reprehensible; more cause for hope than for despondency. In this little work the writer deals with one of the greatest evils that afflict Southern society, with the belief and the hope that it can be remedied.

It is not political. Although there have been many political murders in the Southern States, yet the great majority of homicides, and the class dealt with in this book, have no more connection with politics than has petit larceny in New York.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 1, 1880.



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