

MURDERS AND LYNCHING.

According to the newspapers, both of the negro murderers on the Eastern Shore were drunk at the time they committed their crimes.

They were drunk and crazed on bootleg liquor.

What should be done by the authorities is to find out who supplied them with the liquor. It may very well have been a white man. Any one that sells intoxicants to a half-crazy savage is not a safe person to have around. He should be put away where he can do no further harm.

The murders were horrible and the barbarous lynching that followed one of them was sad evidence that human beings, even in the "Free State", are still, on occasions, no better than the most barbarous Indians, who used to tie their victims to the stake and dance around with fiendish glee while the flames slowly consumed them. The Indians, too, felt that they had a grievance.

Legal executions, for their deliberate cold-bloodness, are almost as horrible as lynchings. In the death cell of the state penitentiary there is a youth now who has been condemned to hang. This youth has been declared to be medically insane. He is said to be not responsible for what he does under the pressure of his emotions. Unless his sentence is changed, this youth will die upon the gallows, on some dark night, when the clock is striking twelve. And every person in the state of Maryland will wake from a cold nightmare and shudder with horror as the dread hour strikes.

Christmas and Christians! The season of carols and goodwill, when children's minds are filled with visions of Santa Claus and the Christmas tree. And yet it is under this kind of heavy cloud that we must try to be "Merry."