other quantifiable topics favored by the "new local history"; nor, except for concentrating on the Bluegrass in his discussion of court-day practices, does he analyze regional variations in the character and activities of county government. The most serious defect of the book is that is has no map.

It is clear from Ireland's discussion that the period under study was one of transition for Kentucky's counties and that neither popular sovereignty nor the Civil War nor the coming of the railroads shook up these little kingdoms to the degree one would have thought possible. It is also clear, however, that as the nineteenth century drew to a close, county governments were on the threshold of momentous changes. It is to be hoped that Ireland will pursue his research and report on those changes in a third volume.

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Kentucky: Decades of Discord, 1865-1900. By Hambleton Tapp and James C. Klotter. (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1977. Pp. xvi, 552. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, notes, bibliographical essay, index. $17.50.)

On a sunny January morning in 1900 a rifle shot cracked across Kentucky's old capitol grounds, and Governor William Goebel slumped dying to the pavement. His assassination culminated thirty-five years of political discord, most of which is ably presented in this well-written and aptly named book. Indeed, the old capitol building now houses the state historical society, and the authors of this volume work there—Hambleton Tapp as state historian and James C. Klotter as editor of the society's *Register*.

Kentucky's history during the post-Civil War decades has a fictional quality about it that makes one wonder why it took so long to develop fully such interesting material. The authors, however, identify these decades as an "historical void," and their purpose in writing this volume is to present the "first full treatment of the 1865-1900 period" (p. xiii). In their book, the second of a four-volume series, they have achieved their purpose.

What is to be thought of a state which remained in the Union yet "joined" the Confederacy after the war was over, thus missing the fruits of victory; the mountaineers of which fought such savage feuds that a civil war nearly resulted with neighboring West Virginia; that watched legislature after legis-

lature serve vested interests and seldom aim toward any but short term goals; which had a treasurer—"Honest Dick Tate"—who successfully absconded with the state's funds in 1888; and finally, which was periodically disrupted by Regulators, the Ku Klux Klan, nightriders, and the bloody duels of prominent citizens? It is a sad story, yet perversely interesting in its violence and exposition of human frailties.

Some Kentucky leaders sensed the state's plight, but none were able to remedy it. Governor Luke Blackburn stated in 1883 that Kentucky had resources that "no other State in the Union has, and yet we find her lingering behind every other State . . ." (p. 215). A major reason for this lack of development (if one first discounts politics as *the* major reason) was the inept educational system. Although similar to Indiana in population, Kentucky during the last half of the nineteenth century spent about $2,300,000 annually for schools as compared to Indiana's $9,008,000. A Hoosier illiteracy rate of 7.5 percent, contrasted to 30 percent in the Bluegrass State, stands as proof of what money can buy in education (p. 197). Significantly, the authors reveal that Kentucky was "the leader among the border states in its violent opposition to the Freedmen's Bureau schools. In a two-year period to 1868 ten schools were burned and another blown up" (p. 204). Emancipation had unleashed racial fears and may also be held responsible for the state's political capture by ex-Confederate politicians.

Over seventy pictures and maps embellish the book, but color should have been used in some of them, especially the paintings of Frank Duveneck and Paul Sawyier. The colorful jacket heralds the subject perfectly. The authors can take pride in each of the eighteen chapters, nor will another comprehensive study of this era be needed. Almost any reader will find much of interest here, but the volume is particularly recommended to readers and libraries in Kentucky, Indiana, and other Ohio Valley states.

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Tennessee at the Crossroads: The State Debt Controversy, 1870-1883. By Robert B. Jones. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1977. Pp. xii, 192. Table, maps, notes, works cited, index. $10.95.)

Writing in 1951, C. Vann Woodward, in his *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913,* called attention to the importance of southern state debts to the political and economic origins of the