

to influence the decision or disturb the proceedings of a court during a trial may be so punished is true. They ought to be. It is upon this principle that some newspaper comments upon an unfinished trial are properly so dealt with. But to allow punishment for contempt upon the basis of scurrilous publications regarding a judge personally, not calculated to affect a lawsuit before him, is to give to judges special personal protection. It is to enable them to try their libelers without indictment or jury, and to punish them at their own discretion. The legal remedy for libel is well understood. It is available to judges as well as to other people; and since there is no other remedy for other people there should be none other for judges.

The Chicago Inter Ocean has unearthed a neat bit of public plundering at Evanston, of which the corporation of the Northwestern university, as a large owner of vacant lots, is the chief beneficiary. It seems that the municipal waterworks at Evanston is a highly profitable institution. But instead of cutting down water rates, the local authorities manage to apply the surplus income from them to general revenue purposes. The effect is well described by the Inter Ocean when it says that in this way—

consumers of water are compelled to bear not only their share of the general taxation, but all deficits arising from the unequal and unjust assessment of taxation against owners of unimproved property. The system in vogue at Evanston, it seems, is one which aims to cut down the taxes of owners of unimproved property and non-consumers of water to the very lowest possible notch, and to make owners of improved property and consumers of water meet all deficiencies in the municipal revenue.

#### THE HONOR OF THE NATION.

"We do not enter upon a war with Spain for conquest. We do not seek aggrandizement by territorial acquisition."

That, in substance, was the disclaimer published to the world by this na-

tion, speaking through its chief executive and congress, just before and just after the beginning of the Spanish-American war.

What, then, was the avowed purpose of that war?

In the name and for the sake of humanity, to liberate Cuba and the Cubans from the devastating tyranny of Spain; and to establish the Cuban republic by giving to the Cubans their independence and permitting them to erect and maintain their own government.

What is the sequel?

The Cubans have not their independence, but are subjected to military rule of the United States. The secretary of war says that this rule will continue indefinitely.

Further. In lieu of the nation living up to its righteous disclaimer, by the acts of the administration a deliberate purpose to secure self-aggrandizement by territorial acquisition is being carried out, even to the extreme of subjugating by armed might the Filipinos, and confiscating by official acts of perfidy Puerto Rico and its resources of material wealth.

And, in the face of all this, it is stoutly maintained in many quarters that the sovereign people of this republic will, at the ballot box next November, ratify what has been done.

One who is an American from and for principle, and not from and for expediency, may be pardoned for believing and saying that this is a calumny.

The American conscience is not so seared over by the withering heat of greed that all sense of honor has become deadened. This great people will not deliberately put upon their national escutcheon the shameful and shaming word "Hypocrite!"

As a nation, we erect our head among the peoples of earth, and upon our fore front is the mystic word "Christian." Shall that be blotted out by the blood of our fellows slain to appease the insatiate mandate of the tyrant Greed? And shall there be inscribed in its stead in letters black as the vault of Erebus that other word, "Hypocrite"?

No, never!

We are too great, too proud a people to bring upon ourselves the opprobrium, the contumely and the scorn

which are merited by such a characterization.

Wherefore, it is only reasonable to say, that, far from ratifying, this great honor-loving, justice-loving people will put their stamp of disapproval upon the acts of the administration in so overwhelming and pronounced a manner as to convince the world that we as a nation are yet honest, yet truthful, aye, if you please, yet Christian.

JOHN AUBREY JONES.  
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## NEWS

In closing our last report of the war in South Africa we were able to tell of the withdrawal of the Boers from Dewetsdorp followed by their abandonment of the investment of Wedener, and that they were retreating over the Ladybrand road along the Basuto border. That brought the news down to the 26th. It is now conclusively reported that they have escaped the net spread for them by Lord Roberts and have carried away with them an abundance of grain. On the 27th a large British force concentrated at Thaba N'Chu, which was along the line of the Boer retreat. A detachment of Boers guarding the general retreat then held the eastern outlet of the town. It was immediately attacked by the British and fighting was still in progress there on the 28th. After that authentic news ceased for three days. Rumors were current on the 30th of several sharp engagements in the neighborhood of the town since the 27th, but it was not until the 2d that Gen. Roberts was heard from. Even then his dispatches, dated the 30th and the 1st, gave but little information. The London correspondents inferred from them that heavy fighting was going on somewhat to the north of Thaba N'Chu, and that the Boers were there putting the British upon the defensive.

The Boer report of last week that Lord Methuen had retreated to Kimberley from Boshoff proves to have been untrue. He is still at Boshoff. But it is a fact that the Boers are extraordinarily active in this western region. They were reported on the 1st as being in strong force between Kimberley and Fourteen Streams, which is north of Kimberley, and the communications of the British force at Warrenton were said to be in dan-