

### THAT WONDERFUL RIVER.

It is with an increasing sense of awe and wonder that the Chicago public will learn of the latest casualty in proof of the dread fatality which hangs over the Chicago river. Recent events in its history have tended to lift that classic stream far above the level of the ordinary rivers of commerce and give it a new and individual character. Only a few days ago it startled its admirers by the melodramatic feat of catching fire and very nearly burning up. Monday it still further distinguished itself by being struck by lightning, the shock causing it to writhe and tremble on its oozy bed. With only these instances in the public mind, to say nothing of the various collisions which the stream sometimes experiences with toppling bridges or falling trolley cars, it is impossible to say what extraordinary developments may not be forthcoming in future. It will not be at all astonishing to hear that the surprising stream has been held up by highwaymen or looted by porch-climbers, or that it has been carried off bodily by a cyclone. It may be dynamited or it may collapse and fall in upon itself. It is liable to get shot or tangled up in a coal-hole accident or be crushed in a grandstand disaster or a falling-elevator horror.

Evidently there is no sure way of securing protection for it against the fantastic caprices of its destiny. The only thing is to fit it up properly with fire-escapes, lightning rods, cork life-preservers and safety cogs, plaster it over with accident policies and wait in suspense for the next thrilling developments.—The Chicago Record.

### ANTI-IMPERIALIST ECHOES FROM ENGLAND.

Letters published in London Morning Leader of Mar. 15.

#### A PRO-BOER.

Sir:—Your readers may be interested in this conversation:

First Speaker—Well, and what may be your opinion of this war?

Second Speaker—All I say about the war is this: God defend the right.

First Speaker—Ah! I see. You are a pro-Boer.

Yours, etc.,

NEW LEADERITE.

New Southgate.

#### IMPERIALISM.

Sir:—May I report two current aspects of imperialism? First, the raw material, popularly voiced:

There ain't another nation as can

touch us! France couldn't come nigh us; let her try, she'd get one! Nor Germany neither; we'd give Germany something if she interfered. And as for the Boers, look how cruel they've been to a lot of our poor fellows. But there won't be one of them left soon, I tell ye!

The polished version taught by the lady mother to her child:

And so, darling, one nation after another becomes English in order that they may enjoy the blessings of our civilization and religion. Even the Boers, who are so very cruel to the natives, will be good and happy when they are properly ruled by us.—Yes, mother, we shall make them Christians if we fight long enough!

Both these are from the life.—Yours, etc.,

C. E. PLAYNE.

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#### MOB LAW.

Sir: In view of the promise made by Mr. Balfour, of consultation with the home secretary concerning the reign of mob law in England, it might be of interest to your readers if you were to print the following brief statement as to the nature and extent of the outrages against liberty which have been committed in England and Scotland in the last few weeks.

Paddington.—Attack on Liberal club, where peace meeting was being held. Windows wrecked.

Sheffield.—Private meeting abandoned owing to newspaper incitements to violence.

York.—Meeting abandoned owing to threats of violence.

West Bromwich.—Meeting broken up by rowdy mob.

\*Canterbury.—Smashing of a Northgate tradesman's windows.

\*Ramsgate.—Smashing of a local tradesman's windows.

Exeter Hall.—Abortive attempt to break up ticket meeting. Stewards assaulted.

\*Midhurst.—Attacks on houses of local residents. Windows broken.

Gloucester.—Lecture in Cooperative hall. Promoters of meeting assaulted. Windows of two houses smashed.

Gloucester.—Member of "Stop the War" committee mobbed. Windows of house in which he took refuge broken.

\*Weston-super-Mare.—Attacks on houses of alleged pro-Boers. Windows smashed.

Alveston.—Meeting of conciliation committee abandoned owing to disturbance in hall.

Highbury.—Open-air meeting broken up and dispersed by police.

Northampton.—Meeting at town hall prevented by violence. Speakers assaulted.

New-Cross.—Lecture by Dr. Clark abandoned owing to threatened rowdyism.

\*Peterhead.—Attacks on houses of two residents; windows broken.

\*Stratford-on-Avon.—Windows of two anti-war tradesmen smashed, and other damage done.

\*Redruth.—A prominent opponent of the war tarred in the public street.

Leicester.—Ticket meeting broken up owing to violence of mob, who obtained admittance by forged tickets.

\*Brierley Hill.—House of local preacher broken into.

Dundee.—Meeting at Gilfillan hall broken up by mob. Attack on house of Rev. W. Walsh; windows broken.

Edinburgh.—Ticket meeting broken up and speakers brutally assaulted.

Glasgow.—Organized attempt to break up a public meeting foiled by physical force of stewards. Windows of "Labor Leader" afterwards smashed by mob.

Gateshead.—Ticket meeting abandoned by advice of police, who had to protect Dr. Watson's house from violence.

Derby.—Conference abandoned owing to printed incitements to violence.

\*Norwich.—Firing into house of local resident.

Scarborough.—Private meeting in cafe attacked. Rowntree's cafe wrecked. Other premises smashed, soldiers called out. Ticket meeting abandoned.

Reading.—Ticket meeting abandoned under threat of violence.

At those places marked with an asterisk the attacks on person and property were not provoked by any meeting, public or private.

From this list it will be seen that the organized outrages upon the members of the minority have not been provoked by any attempt to challenge public opinion, with one exception; and at Glasgow, which was an open meeting, thanks to the precautions taken by the stewards, the efforts of the mob were futile, notwithstanding the strange inaction of the police. In all the other cases the meetings were either ticket meetings or private assemblies.

If this is persisted in, it will inevitably result in civil war. Englishmen, although in a minority, will not long submit to the rabbling of their premises and the suppression of the right of free speech without making resistance, which in the first case will take the form of free fights, rapidly developing into bloody riot. Yours, etc,

W. T. STEAD.

### THE FILIPINO ASPIRATIONS.

Extracts from an article in the February North American Review, on "Our Rule in the Philippines," by Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Anderson, U. S. A., late major general, U. S. V., in command of the first expeditionary land force from the United States to the Philippine Islands.

On the 1st of July, 1898, I called on Aguinaldo with Admiral Dewey. He asked me at once whether "the United States of the north" either had recognized or would recognize his government. I am not quite sure as to the form of his question, whether it was "had" or "would." In either form it was embarrassing. My orders were, in