

suffering imprisonment in the St. Louis workhouse.

Martyrdom is not always useful. It is an experience to be accepted cheerfully when it cannot be avoided without treason to the right, but it is seldom to be sought for. There are occasions, however, when self-sought martyrdom is one of the most useful contributions a man can make to the progress of his kind. And we believe that Mr. McCann has availed himself of one of these occasions. The martyrdom he is suffering is worth to the best interests of the people now and to come far more than it is costing him.

He has brought to public attention in the most impressive way a fact of the greatest importance—the fact that industry is mercilessly taxed to eke out the public revenues that are shortened by exemptions of monopoly. He has shown that this is no oversight of officials, but that it is deliberately promoted by the law making power. Above all he has at great personal cost bravely asserted the fundamental right to work, at the source of greatest interference—the taxing power.

To resist in this way a tax of \$25 a year is in itself to make much ado about a little matter. So was John Hampden's refusal to pay a trifling ship tax. But Hampden's act stirred English thought and helped set in motion a series of events that culminated in the glorious revolution of 1688 and the firm establishment of the English declaration of rights. It is within the possibilities that a sacrifice such as John J. McCann is now making in St. Louis may promote a greater revolution than this which put to rest in England the blasphemous doctrine of the divine right of kings. It may lead on to the recognition not merely in a small and narrow and selfish and hypocritical way against trades unions, but in a large way against all combinations, including that of the state itself, of the divine right to work.

The notion of selling for certain bits of metal the Iliad of Homer, how much more the land of the World-Creator, is a ridiculous impossibility.—“Past and Present,” by Thomas Carlyle.

NEWS

There is another rift in the cloud that obscures the situation in China. The foreign legations at Peking appear to have been safe as late as July 18, but in imminent danger then of massacre. The authority for this is an official cipher dispatch purporting to come from the American minister, Mr. Conger, which was received by the state department at Washington on the 20th. Minister Conger's dispatch was apparently a reply to one which the state department had requested the Chinese minister to send him. That request grew out of the presentation on the 11th by the Chinese ministers over the world to the foreign offices of the respective powers, of an imperial decree explaining the outbreak in China and the efforts of the Chinese government to suppress it, and giving assurances of the safety of the legations. The decree was mentioned at the time in these columns at page 216. When Minister Wu delivered this decree to Secretary Hay, the latter called Mr. Wu's attention to the evidence which its delivery furnished as to the possibility of communication with Peking, and demanded that the Chinese government put the American government in immediate communication with the American minister. Mr. Wu having expressed his willingness to do his best in the matter, Mr. Hay gave him for transmission a dispatch to Mr. Conger. To assure the genuineness of such reply as might come, Mr. Hay wrote his own dispatch in cipher and asked Mr. Conger to do the same with his. Mr. Wu undertook to forward Mr. Hay's dispatch, and nine days later, on the 20th, he produced what purports to be Mr. Conger's reply. It was in the state department cipher, and when deciphered read as follows:

In British legation under continued shot and shell from Chinese troops. Quick relief only can prevent general massacre.

The dispatch itself was undated, but the Chinese dispatch forwarding it to Minister Wu bore date at Peking July 18.

Accepting the dispatch from Minister Conger as genuine, the American authorities at Washington decided to urge immediate action on the part of the allies in China with a view to relieving the legations. Accordingly, the secretary of the navy telegraphed as follows on the 20th to Admiral

Remey, in command of the Asiatic squadron:

Conger telegraphs that he is under fire in British legation, Peking. Use and urge every means possible for immediate relief.

But the other powers were not so well disposed to accept the Conger dispatch as genuine. They declared with one accord their firm conviction that the foreigners in Peking had been already massacred. It was consequently impossible to secure the necessary cooperation for an immediate relief expedition. In addition to the supposed futility of such an expedition, the European powers set up the folly of attempting a march upon Peking at this time with the inadequate equipment of the allied forces; and on the whole, their replies to the appeal of the United States for a united relief expedition immediately were evasive.

A second dispatch purporting to be from Mr. Conger reached Washington on the 25th. This dispatch, signed “Conger” and bearing date July 4, had been received at Tientsin on the 21st, whence it went to Taku, and was sent from there to Washington on the 23d by the senior officer of the American squadron. It is as follows:

I have been besieged two weeks in British legation. Grave danger of general massacre by Chinese soldiers, who are shelling the legation daily. Relief soon if at all. City without government, except by Chinese army. Determined to massacre all foreigners in Peking. Entry of relief force into city probably will be hotly contested.

Another edict of the Chinese emperor has been brought to the attention of the powers. It is dated the 17th, and has been given out by way of assurance that the Chinese government is affording all possible protection to foreigners and endeavoring in good faith to establish order. This decree attributes the origin of the present conflict to “the long standing antagonism between the people and Christian missions,” and its precipitation to the attack upon the Taku forts. Reference is made to former decrees for the protection of foreign legations and missionaries, and commands are given to subordinates to protect all foreigners. The decree expresses the regret of the emperor at learning of the killing of the chancellor of the Japanese legation and of the German minister, and commands the speedy arrest and punishment of

the murderers. Investigation is ordered into the claims of foreigners who have suffered loss, with a view to ultimate settlement. And directions are prescribed for the punishment of rebellious subjects and the restoration of order.

Two days after the date of the foregoing decree, the emperor addressed the president of the United States, referring to the increasing seriousness of the situation and expressing gratification at the assurances of friendly relations through the Chinese minister at Washington. The explicit purpose of the communication was to invite the president to "devise measures and take the initiative in bringing about a concert of the powers for the restoration of order and peace." To this request the president replied on the 23d. He expressed his inference that the disturbers in China had received no encouragement from the government but are actually in rebellion, and proposed, upon that assumption, that the Chinese government (1) give public assurance whether the foreign ministers are alive and if so in what condition; (2) put the diplomatic representatives of the powers in immediate and full communication with their respective governments; and (3) place the imperial authorities of China in communication with the relief expedition, "so that cooperation may be secured between them for the liberation of the legationers, the protection of foreigners and the restoration of order." A similar imperial message to that received by the president of the United States appears to have been sent at the same time to the president of France. The French minister of foreign affairs informed the Chinese minister in acknowledgment that the reply would be addressed to the French legation at Peking, but would not be sent until assurances of the safety of the French minister at Peking had been received. Another was sent to Germany, which also returned a curt reply.

The attack by the Chinese upon Russian territory on the Amur river, of which we told last week, is reported from Moscow as having been completely repulsed; and the report of last week that the Russian government had in consequence of the attack dismissed the Chinese envoy at St. Petersburg is confirmed.

A provisional government has been

established at Tientsin by the allies, and they have issued a proclamation saying they are engaged in suppressing rebellion and are not making war upon China. As commander in chief of all the allied forces it is announced from St. Petersburg that Russia has, with the consent of the other powers, appointed Gen. Dragomiroff. But in Washington it is asserted that the supreme command has not yet been decided upon. Russia figures suspiciously in another way. She is said in a dispatch from Tientsin to have assumed control of the railway line between Taku and Peking, and to have announced that she will retain control until the conclusion of hostilities and then restore the line to the Chinese. The number of foreign troops now actually mobilized on Chinese soil is estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000.

Next in point of interest to the war-like situation in China is the war in South Africa. When Lord Roberts took possession of Pretoria it was confidently predicted by the British that the war would not last into July. And more than a month ago (see page 185) Lord Roberts was preparing an enveloping movement with the intention of crushing the Boer army in the Orange Free State. Of that movement nothing encouraging has since been heard. But attacks upon Roberts by Boers from all directions in the region of Pretoria have been reported from week to week. This week's budget of news yields reports of similar operations. Among them are accounts of the cutting of Lord Roberts' communications twice, with the capture of 100 Highlanders on the first occasion and 200 Welsh fusileers on the second. The cut communications have since been restored. From London it was given out on the 25th that Lord Roberts had on the 24th begun a general advance from Pretoria, but no details were mentioned. The advance appears to be in a southwesterly direction, instead of in the easterly and northeasterly directions of his previous maneuvers. Regarding the number of troops in South Africa it was stated in the house of commons last week that 12,000 had been sent out from England since the capture of Preoria; and the Spanish military attache, Maj. Esteban, just arrived in London from the seat of war in South Africa, publicly states that "at no time have" the Boers "had in the field more than 25,000 fighting men."

From the Philippines the only news of the week giving accounts of hostilities is contained in an Associated Press dispatch of the 22d from Manila. This dispatch tells of continued guerilla fighting throughout the islands, in which more than 200 Filipinos were killed and wounded, with an American loss of 12 killed and 11 wounded. There is no other news except that the peace resolutions adopted at the meeting of prominent Filipinos held in Manila June 21, of which we gave an account together with Gen. MacArthur's reply on page 186, have been forwarded to Aguinaldo from whom an answer is soon expected.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to July 25, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900.	41
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900	193
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Total deaths since July 1, 1898...	2,081
Wounded	2,199
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Total casualties since July 1, 1898.	4,280
Total casualties reported last week	4,269
Total deaths reported last week.	2,074

In American politics the most important news of the week is the call in behalf of the anti-imperialist leaguers for "a national liberty congress," to meet at Indianapolis on the 15th of August. The call is very brief. After naming time and place and specifying the purpose to be "to deliberate and act with reference to the coming campaign," it proceeds:

This congress is to be composed only of those who deny the power of congress and the president to rule vast territories and millions of men outside and in disregard of the constitution.

The remainder of the call relates to credentials. It is signed by ex-Gov. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, as chairman of the executive committee of the National Anti-Imperialist league and by William J. Mize, of Illinois, as secretary.

The national committee of the gold democratic party met on the 25th at Indianapolis. At the same time and place representatives of the New York meeting of anti-McKinley and anti-Bryan men, reported last week on