

called forth applause from 10,000 church goers by saying in his sermon:

I wish the police at Buffalo who arrested the scoundrel who shot our adored president had taken the butt of the weapon and dashed the man's brains out on the spot.

From Washington on the 8th, Walter Wellman reported that the president's cabinet had agreed upon decisive action, which contemplates the drafting of a bill by the attorney general for submission to congress next winter making assaults upon the president as near like the monarchical crime of "lese majesty" as our constitution and form of government will permit. Congressman Schirm, of Maryland, proposes a constitutional amendment including conspiracies against the life of a president in the category of treason; and in this revolutionary proposal he is seconded by Senator Scott, of West Virginia, Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, of California, and other prominent men besides many newspapers.

The steel strike has been overshadowed this week by the attempted assassination of President McKinley. There appears, however, to be no important change in the situation. At the time of our last week's report it was understood that the National Civic Federation, assisted by Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders, was trying to effect a settlement. These efforts seem to have brought about a session of the general executive board of the Amalgamated association. It met at Pittsburg on the 6th. But it adjourned on the 9th without having come to an agreement with the steel trust. Though its proceedings are not formally disclosed, a statement is published that it directed President Shaffer, with the aid of his immediate advisers, to secure the best possible settlement in the least possible time. But that statement is denied by Mr. Shaffer, who gave out the following interview on the 10th:

There has been no settlement of the strike. That report was evidently started in Wall street for the purpose of boosting stock, and it succeeded. The strike cannot be settled without the Amalgamated association being a party to the settlement. The matter of making a settlement was presented to us, but we could not accept the terms offered with honor to ourselves. The strike now is in the same shape that it was a

week ago, so far as a settlement is concerned.

Mr. Shaffer added a denial that either he or his immediate advisers had been directed or ordered by the national executive board to settle the strike.

Affairs in South America are growing more serious. On the 7th, Dr. Becerra, a former Colombian minister to the United States, telegraphed to the Colombian legation in this country that a Venezuelan fleet was then bombarding La Hacha, a town on the north coast of Colombia not far from the Venezuelan frontier. This is the first open act of war on the part of the Venezuelan government, if the report be true; but later reports attribute the bombardment to Colombian rebels. Nevertheless Venezuela is evidently making preparations for war; and it seems probable, even if the attack upon La Hacha was made by Colombian rebels, that they were landed from Venezuelan vessels. Concurrently with these reports are further reports (see pp. 312, 330) of an invasion of Colombia by troops from Ecuador. Regarding the offer of President McKinley of the kindly offices of this country to adjust the differences between Colombia and Venezuela, noted last week, it is announced that the Colombian government accepts them, but that the Venezuelan government inferentially declines, merely acknowledging the courtesy of the offer.

From the seat of war in South Africa come reports of a British victory. It consists in the capture of an entire Boer command, Lotter's, after a sharp fight south of Petersburg, in the Middleburg region. The Boers lost 19 killed and 52 wounded; and 62 (besides the wounded) were taken prisoners. The British loss was ten killed and eight wounded. Two or three other small conflicts are reported.

The principles involved in this war almost gave rise to a controversy on the 5th in the ecumenical Methodist conference, in session at London. A delegate from Cape Colony spoke approvingly of the British cause. Bishop Hartzell followed him more vigorously in the same strain. A New York delegate thanked God for what Great Britain is doing in Africa. A delegate from Canada capped this climax with an ardent pro-British

speech. He was frequently interrupted by British delegates, one of whom gave warning that if he proceeded he would have to be answered in controversial strain, as he was voicing sentiments by no means shared by many present. At this point the chairman ruled the Canadian delegate out of order. But the matter intruded itself again on the 6th, when a well-known British jingo made a strong speech on the evils of war and the Christian idea of peace. As the applause it called out subsided, a Liverpool radical arose and asked, apropos of this plea for peace, if the Americans present had heard the voice of Christ in the Philippines or if the English had heard it in South Africa. An acrimonious discussion followed, which was terminated by a decision of the chair ruling references to the South African situation out of order.

The conference refused to receive a communication from the archbishop of Canterbury, expressing a hope that some day the Methodists will be united with the Episcopalians. The reason assigned was that the communication had been addressed to a religious paper, and not directly to the conference.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The Universal Peace conference opened its sessions at Glasgow on the 10th.

—H. O. Armour, the last of the original Armour brothers, died at Saratoga on the 8th, of apoplexy, at the age of 64.

—The Socialist party of Iowa met in convention at Des Moines on the 5th, and nominated James Baxter, of Hiteman, for governor.

—Ruskin colony, of Georgia, the remnant of the original Ruskin colony of Tennessee, was sold out at sheriff's sale on the 7th.

—Dr. Philip Rice, of Milwaukee, returning to that city after residing four years in the Hawaiian islands, claims to have discovered a cure for leprosy.

—Dr. Johannes von Miquel, former Prussian minister of finance, was found dead in his bed at Frankfort-on-the-Main on the 8th. He was 72 years old.

—The national encampment of the G. A. R. is being held in Cleveland. On the 10th the eighty-seventh anniversary of Perry's victory on Lake Erie was celebrated there with a spectacular street demonstration and lake display.

—The chairman of the Democratic