

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.
San Francisco, Cal.

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-

ger. Word comes out of Mafeking from time to time, indicating the stress of the beleaguered inhabitants and garrison. But they were still holding out on the 2d. Lord Roberts has urged them to hold out until May 18. He makes no explanation, but probably alludes to the success by that date of a new relief expedition now organizing in the south to cooperate with the expedition through the Portuguese territory mentioned last week.

A sensational incident in connection with the war is the destruction of the Begbie ironworks at Johannesburg, used by the Boers for an arsenal. They were destroyed by an explosion in a building in which dynamite was stored. Over 65 persons were killed and many wounded. Among the latter was the manager of the works, who charges that the catastrophe was caused by a conspiracy. The building where the explosion occurred had been undermined, he says, and the cases of dynamite stored there were fired by means of electric wires connected with the lighting system of the town. Several arrests have been made, and on the 30th the Boer government ordered all British subjects, with few exceptions, to leave the republic within 48 hours. This order was made after an inquiry into the cause of the explosion, which indicated that it had been deliberately planned and excited a suspicion that British sympathy had prompted the act.

Philippine news is scanty. Such as has come relates chiefly, with two exceptions, to the fighting in the northern part of Luzon about the middle of April, to which the reports of last week referred as some of the bloodiest of the war. The native mayors of four towns in that region having been detected in giving aid and comfort to the Filipino forces were imprisoned by the Americans, who burned the town hall of one of the places by way of punishing the inhabitants.

One of the exceptions referred to above is the issuing by Gen. Otis on the 1st of an order for the purpose of restricting Chinese immigration, and another making changes in the Spanish criminal procedure still in vogue. The latter order gives an accused person the rights of habeas corpus, of being confronted with witnesses against him, an open trial, and of exemp-

tion from testifying against himself. It also establishes the American system of bail and pleading, and abolishes the priests' exemption from trial by secular courts for crimes.

The second exception is startling. It relates to nothing less than the destruction of an American garrison at Catubig, in the northern part of the island of Samar. This island lies south of and next to the island of Luzon. The American garrison at Catubig consisted of 30 men quartered in a church. It was surrounded by a Filipino force and after two days' fighting the church was set on fire. The garrison refused to surrender, managing to shelter themselves behind the charred walls of the church, and the fighting continued three days longer, when the garrison was relieved by reinforcements. There were only 10 survivors then, and they were physically exhausted.

American casualties in the Philippines since August 6, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out at Washington to May 2, 1900, are as follows:

Killed	475
Died of wounds, disease and accidents	1,244

Total deaths	1,719
Wounded	2,103

Total loss	3,822
Total loss reported last week . . .	3,790
Total deaths reported last week .	1,698

Several state conventions have been held during the week to choose delegates to national conventions. The Alabama democratic convention on the 26th instructed for Bryan. The convention of the same party in Michigan, which met on the 1st, also instructed for Bryan. It recommended Charles A. Towne, the famous silver republican, for vice president. The New Hampshire democrats met on the 2nd and elected a delegation to the national convention, instructing them unreservedly for Bryan. Two republican conventions are reported — that of Indiana, which was in session and partly reported in these columns last week, and that of Massachusetts. The latter recommends Secretary Long for vice president. The Nebraska republicans held their convention on the 2nd and in their platform indorsed the administration and the financial legislation of congress. They opposed imperialism of

the European type, but approved the Philippine policy. The regular populists of Illinois instructed for Bryan for president and Howard S. Taylor, of Chicago, for vice president.

Mr. Bryan is credited this week with a notable interview on the trust question. While in Chicago on the 29th he was questioned about the recent action of the steel trust, and this was his answer:

It has emphasized three facts about trusts. First, how they can lessen the demand for any article by abnormally raising the price of the same; second, how helpless employes are in the hands of trusts; and, third, how consumers are plundered by private monopolies. While I do not know anything regarding the details of this deal save what I have heard of and read, I should say the recent transaction shows that stockholders are to be duped the same as others.

In a minor way, though by no means without its political significance, the trust question has brought on a ye and nay vote in the senate. It was in connection with the army appropriation bill. Senator Berry, of Arkansas, moved the following amendment to that bill:

The quartermaster's department, in making contracts and purchases of articles and supplies for the military service, shall give preference, all other things, including price and quality, being equal, to articles of the growth, production and manufacture of the United States; and, as between the producers, manufacturers, merchants and dealers of the United States preference shall be given, all other things, including price and quality, being equal, to those producers, manufacturers, merchants and dealers who are not members of or in any way connected with any trust or combine formed to produce, manufacture or sell the articles which are being contracted for and purchased by the quartermaster's department for the military service.

The question came to a vote on the 1st, and the amendment was lost by 18 to 29. Those who voted for the amendment were Pettus, Berry, Jones of Arkansas, Kenney, Taliaferro, Bacon, Clay, McEnery, Money, Bate, Turner (democrats), Teller (independent), Heitfeld, Harris, Butler (populists), Wellington, Davis and Pettigrew (republicans). The negative vote was cast by Aldrich, Bard, Carter, Chandler, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Frye, Gallinger, Hawley, Hoar, Kean, Lodge, McBride, Mc-