

Springfield. The disgrace which has fallen on Illinois and its capital city, makes every loyal citizen of the commonwealth sick at heart. In the very city where Lincoln lived and where his ashes rest, the race that he emancipated, that he wrought for, and that he fought for, has been made the object of a wicked frenzy of hate and riot. White men with no incentive or pretense for the evil work that should deceive the most credulous or justify the slightest attempt at extenuation or apology, became murderers, thieves and incendiaries. Their crimes are all the more odious for having been perpetrated on the poor, the weak and the defenceless. And this in the State of Lincoln and of Trumbull, in the very city of their homes, famed above others for the birth and growth of anti-slavery sentiment! It was from another State that the murderers of Lovejoy came to Illinois, but this last disgrace Illinois must bear alone. We are reaping the result of that indifference to justice and to human rights which we manifested when there were similar horrors in the South, when Americans murdered Filipino women and children, and when we shrank from formally protesting against the atrocities of Kishineff, lest we might offend "a friendly nation."

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Illinois must attempt to redeem her good name. In the orderly course of the law, but promptly and inexorably, condign punishment should be meted out to the criminals who killed and burned and stole—masking their wholly evil intents with pretenses that they were aiding "justice." The pecuniary losses of the victims must be made good by civil process against the City of Springfield. But when all this is done, the disgrace will remain. "The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on!"

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Bismarck on the Future of the American Democracy.

In the August McClure's is to be found an exceedingly interesting instalment of Carl Schurz's reminiscences, entitled, "Talks with Bismarck." The conversations between Schurz and the then Count Bismarck took place at the end of December, 1867, or very early in 1868, and touched upon many things regarding which Bismarck's commanding genius in statesmanship and his clear insight into political matters were made very apparent. He avowed himself to be by birth and training an aristocrat; yet evidently he and the avowed democrat, Carl Schurz, got on well together and became very friendly. A passage in

Schurz's article runs as follows: "He [Bismarck] saw that with such views I was an incurable democrat; but would not, he asked, the real test of our democratic institutions come when, after the disappearance of the exceptional opportunities springing from our wonderful natural resources which were in a certain sense common property, our political struggles became, as they surely would become, struggles between the poor and the rich, between the few who have and the many who want? Here we entered upon a wide field of conjecture."

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Schurz leaves us in the dark as to what was his own answer to Bismarck's question, but by this question, put to Schurz about eleven years before "Progress and Poverty" was written, and three years before "Our Land and Land Policy" appeared, Bismarck showed his keen insight into the problems of government, and his full appreciation of the fact that the most severe tests of the permanency of governments are met in maintaining a system under which the masses are robbed of their birthright, and made to depend upon the few for the right to live and to use the surface of the earth in living. It is extremely doubtful if any real republic can live and permanently maintain any such system. Either the republic must become monarchical, or it must secure for all its citizens equality of natural rights. The present campaign is one of the contests of which there may be many before it is finally decided which course will be followed here in these United States. Probably Bismarck's only idea would have been to strengthen and fortify the government to enable it to withstand the pressure of social injustice; but, thank Heaven, since his time there are many more who see clearly enough that the first and most important thing to do is to secure justice; and that when justice is secured and maintained, there need be no fear as to the security of government.

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Lining Up for the Struggle.

Collier's Weekly of the 15th quotes gloomy prophecies for democracies from a letter written by Lord Macaulay to an American friend forty-one years ago. And as an example of the dangerous demagoguery of democracies Collier's cites the speech of Raymond Robins at the Democratic Convention at Denver. That democracies will destroy liberty, or civilization, or both, may have been Macaulay's fear at some time when he had been eating the equivalent, in his day, of Ameri-