

WHERE ARE THE PATRIOTS?

There are in Chicago busybodies who are affected with spasms when insult is offered to the flag or refusal made to shout peans for the glorious country owned by monopolists. If a chief of police disturb a lawful gathering because Ben Butler's bunting factory has not been sufficiently patronized these unco guid mistake an ebullition of partisan rancor for heart-beats and believe themselves patriots because they call earnestly for the hangman.

Of late another sort of insult has been offered to the community. The author of "A Fool's Errand"—himself the probable and likely hero of his own literary effort—rushes to the fore as champion of a class refusing to sing the national hymn because republican promises of "forty acres of land and a mule" had not materialized. Demagogues inciting colored citizens to threats against law and order are cheered by another demagogue paraded as the very apostle of republicanism. Judge Tourgee comes to Chicago and defends threats of violence and more bitter denunciation of law and order than has been heard at an anarchistic gathering for half a decade. But Judge Tourgee is a republican. His malice has made it possible for the party to hold colored voters in a leash while plundering them through the sniveling hypocrisy of a brother patriot. Therefore this incitement to lawlessness fails of rebuke from republicans who have frothed with anger because other citizens had less faith than they in taxed bunting.

Let these guardians of the nation's honor read two sentences uttered by the blatant prophet of disaster and compare them with words for which others have been hanged in this city: "We have reached a point where you are free to walk and starve and pray." "If a man has any rights he is free to express himself in words." THE TIMES would not deny even Judge Tourgee full right to these expressions. It believes a liberty that does not include full right to criticise every act of government not worth preserving. But let this disturber beware how he thus incites his proteges. They suffer no more and no less than their white brethren from a system of spoliation devised by the party to which Tourgee devotes his efforts. Some day there may come a reckoning that will make the Maysville shouter realize the meaning of the term "A fool's errand."