

Shocking as the assassination of Mr. McKinley was to the moral sense of all right-minded men, it is the utter senselessness of the crime that makes it especially striking and deplorable, for this cruel murder cannot of course bring the votaries of social disintegration one step nearer their goal, but must necessarily work in the opposite direction. The slaying of men in sovereign place is no rare thing in history, but until the fell era of anarchism came upon the stage of human action, it was possible to find some motive more or less plausible on the part of the assassin. M. Carnot, the Empress Elizabeth, King Humbert and Mr. McKinley were the victims of ignorant and deluded social theorists, who used as their tools weak-minded men tutored into irresponsibility by the suasions of demagogues who were the real murderers. The end to be aimed at therefore in the direction of repression and suppression should be, as far as may be, to strike at the roots of the evil. Of these there are many.

One of them is the right of free speech: run riot. There must be a curtailment of the license hitherto allowed to anarchist orators and a pestilent press. It should be made a criminal offence to counsel the employment of force to achieve the ends of any social propagandism, or to attempt to bring the institutions of government into contempt and disfavour or to weaken the hands of the government and the machinery at their disposal, whether civil or military, in the suppression of lawlessness. The country should not be obliged to wait until a bomb has been thrown or a murder committed. The proposal for legislation in the curtailment of what has been called the right of free speech will grate upon the ears of many in the United States, but as that country is now entering on the brotherhood of nations in unexpected ways, and to an extent unthought of by its citizens a few years ago, they will find a necessity to do many things which they never expected to do, and at one time said they never would do. They will doubtless see also the necessity for the Federal authority to pass a law punishing with death any attempt upon the life of the chief magistrate of the nation. The constitution of the United States (Art. III., s. 3) provides that "treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them or in adhering to their enemies, giving aid and comfort." It has been supposed by