

*The Riot at Springfield* . . . If the accounts telegraphed from Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday last give an accurate account of the rioting of the previous night, the outbreak was one of the most violent in this country, North or South, for many years. The inciting cause was an attack by a negro upon a white woman. An attempt to lynch the offender was baffled by the police, who tricked the mob and took the prisoner to Peoria. Enraged at this, the mob lynched another negro, a prisoner in jail; and then the passion of the rioters broke into unrestrained frenzy, and a general attack followed on "Bad Lands," the negro quarter of Springfield. The despatches state that thirty-five houses were burned down, and that the rabble swept through the streets attacking every negro it met; that negro resorts were looted and wrecked, and that at least three negroes were killed and many severely injured, while one report adds that at least two white men were shot. The Assistant County Treasurer, Mr. W. K. Bove, was fatally shot by negroes, and robbed of a considerable sum of money. The negroes were desperate, and fought viciously and aggressively. It is said that in all seventy-five persons were injured. It quickly became evident that only the strongest measures could repress the lynching, arson, and rioting. Several companies of troops were called out from neighboring towns, and others were held in reserve. The police and firemen had already tried to disperse the mob, but ineffectively, and the Springfield militia also seemed powerless until the arrival of outside help. Even then it was necessary actually to fire at the rioters, and volleys aimed low wounded a number in the legs and drove back the others. A singular and deplorable incident was the wounding of the Prohibition candidate for the Presidency, Mr. Eugene W. Chafin. A negro pursued by the mob fled to a stand from which Mr. Chafin was making a campaign address. The speaker

threatened to shoot anyone who attacked the negro, although he does not seem actually to have had a pistol with him, and was struck and severely hurt by a brick thrown by one of the pursuers. In every detail, and equally in the extent and fury of the mob, this outbreak is a dreadful proof of the contagious violence of vicious and lawless passion. To meet crime with crime is to multiply crime.