Steam boilers discharge into it their seething contents, and drains and sewers their fetid impurities; till at length it rolls on—here between tall dingy walls, there under precipices of red sandstone—considerably less a river than a flood of liquid manure.

- Hugh Miller,
  *The Old Red Sandstone* (1841)

1. How were rivers polluted during this period?

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2. Imagine that you are a Briton reading this in 1841. How might you react? Explain.

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