

advantage so to do. We look upon the forestallers of wheat, grain and the other provisions contemptuously, sometimes enviously; why then cannot the strikers, who, to obtain the adjustment of their wrongs and the requirements of their needs, demand an advance in the price of their labour? Why cannot they become like monopolists?

The objections generally hurled at strikers are, that production ceases, profits vanish, loss of interest and insurance, alienation of trade, rioting, carousing, wanton disturbances, endangering of public and private property, in many cases the filthy and untenable condition of the strikers, even starvation. All these are objections and objections of a most serious nature. We do not gainsay them; but they are accidents, not wholly unlooked for we admit, yet far from the real object of a strike. The concerted action of a capital against strikes is therefore connived at, while the extreme letter of the law is invoked and its interpretation in many instances stretched in the opposite direction against laborers; and capitalists persist in opposing them aided by the press and sustained by the courts. The object in view when a strike has been declared is perfectly legitimate,—that of combining forces in order to compel an increase, or prevent a reduction of wages. And here it may be wise to say a word concerning men uniting themselves for the purpose of bettering their conditions, to vindicate and justify Trades Unions.

The old proverb, 'A brother that is helped by a brother is like a strong city,' here seems applicable. We have to revert no further than 1825, when we find that the establishing of these Unions was an offence against the law. In the last half century only have they become recognized industrially as well as legally. And rightly so. This combining of men falls nothing short of a natural right, and the State is bound to protect natural rights—not to destroy them. The condition of affairs has become such under unscrupulous, tyrannical, and selfish employers that the State must of necessity recognize the fact that these Unions should exist.

The negative side of the question presents statements giving data of unsuccessful strikes and citing cases where, in those successful, the end obtained was attended by greater evil than was the former condition of