

ployee. And besides, these miners, confiding in their union, were getting to be altogether too arrogant and exacting in their demands. Why not to be paid in cash, indeed! Just as if the orders on the company's stores which they received instead were not as good as cash. Complaining too, that these stores charged them twice as much for their goods, as other places did. A selfish lot, these miners, begrudging a few honest tradesmen their legitimate profit, of which they were even so generous as to give a liberal share to the company. They must be taught, at all costs, that the company did not intend to be dictated to by its workmen regarding its conduct towards them. At all events, the strike would not last longer than a month, and meanwhile, they would have made up for the small profits of late by the sale of the coal at hand, at greatly advanced prices. Would Mr. Atkins undertake this task of—"he hesitated for a moment well, we might as well be plain—of forcing the miners to strike". The superintendent needed no second offer. His eyes had begun to glisten at the mention of the large sum to be earned by so little work. He did not doubt for the moment his ability to convince the men, as he told his worthy employer, with a grim smile, that now was the favorable time to strike. So these two honorable business men parted, mutually satisfied with each other.

Mr. Atkins was making his way towards the mine, his head already full of plans to accomplish the dastardly plot which would bring suffering to so many innocent persons. Suddenly the sound of angry voices struck upon his ear and caused him to enter quickly the building from which it proceeded. He found that the disputants were his own brother-in-law and Mr. Armstrong with several other miners. Armstrong was an officer in the local union and generally prominent in union circles. This fact did not raise him one whit in the esteem of his superiors and he had suffered many affronts and injuries at their hands. Atkins was especially active in this petty persecution, for he bore Armstrong a personal grudge, for having been the chief instrument in his own condemnation and dismissal from the union during the last strike. He had tried hard to find a plausible reason for dis-