

JOHN ABELL.

(THE sketch having reference to the life of Mr. John Abell, whose portrait appears among our "Captains" is unavoidably omitted from this issue, but will appear in our next.)

"IN GOOD STANDING."

A FEW months ago allusion was made in these pages to the forlorn condition of a poor woman in Hamilton named Mrs. Farr. On the strength of reports in the Hamilton papers we stated that the husband of this woman had been prevented from working because he was a non-union man. Perceiving no good reason why Mrs. Farr, with a broken arm and a family of small children around her, should be allowed to starve because of the non-unionism of her husband, we ventured to direct the attention of Mrs. L. M. Barry, Organizer of Women's Work in the Knights of Labor, who was then in Toronto on a lecturing tour, to Mrs. Farr's pitiable condition. The lady announced that she would personally investigate the matter, but if she has ever done so we are not aware of it, and we don't think she has, because she said that when the investigation was made this journal would hear from her; and this journal has not yet heard.

Just at that time some of the worthy members of the Hamilton Bricklayers' Union rushed themselves into print with the declaration that Mr. Farr was a member in good standing of the aforesaid Hamilton Bricklayers' Union, and had been for years. Of course we accepted the statement, and are perfectly willing that Mr. Farr should enjoy all the honors and emoluments appertaining to his union, though the fact that he was a member in good standing in it does not explain why, when work was plentiful and good bricklayers in request, Mr. Farr should be out of a job and his wife compelled to support the family by scrubbing offices; nor why the family should have been in such sore distress when the poor

woman had the misfortune to break her arm by falling on a slippery sidewalk. The conclusion forces itself that Mr. Farr placed himself *hors du combat* by his own voluntary action; and that there was no one but himself to blame for his being out of work and requiring his old wife to support him in idleness and to also provide food, raiment, and fuel for the hungry and shivering little ones. It does not appear that the union of which Mr. Farr was an honored and honorable member ever contributed as much as a farthing to the necessities of this wretched family.

Some of Mrs. Barry's foolish friends professed to think that that good lady had been insulted when we requested her to visit Hamilton and investigate the case of Mrs. Farr, our offence seeming to rest in the fact that Mrs. Barry was a representative of the Knights of Labor, while Mr. Farr, as subsequent developments showed, was a trades-unionist. One might naturally enquire whether the "ethics" of organized labor, say of such trades' unions as exist in Hamilton, allow of enquiry into the moral character of their members. Our desire in the first place was to discover if these ethics countenanced the enforced starvation of a woman and her children merely because her husband was a non-union man who could not obtain work on that account; but the question seemed to be exhausted on that side when the answer was made that the man was a member of the union, and in good standing, too, although he was allowing his wife and children to suffer while he made no efforts for their relief. We are not surprised that Mrs. Barry never made her promised investigation in Hamilton; it should have been made.

Another matter recently occurring in Hamilton which tends strongly to remove us from the region of astonishment, is that wherein Michael Dwyer, a member "in good standing" of the Hamilton Iron Moulders Union, collected money from Mrs. Elleber, a poor widow, whose husband had been a member of that union—fraudulently it was claimed by the woman when she caused the arrest of Dwyer. It does not signify that only



HOW THE N. P. CAKE IS DIVIDED.

Information from different sections of Canada is to the effect that unusually heavy crops are being harvested; and that the manufacturers of harvesting machinery have had their stocks of implements completely exhausted, for which this year they have been paid largely in cash, instead of all credit as in former years.