

they have broken their words; they have brought dishonor upon themselves; they may have seriously injured their employer, by rendering him unable to fulfil his contracts with others to supply the goods the strikers agreed to produce for him; they are themselves in wilful idleness, and the families of great numbers of them are in sore distress. And is this justice? Is this the justification our opponents have endeavored to uphold? If there be justice in all other features of the strike, surely there is *no* justice on the side of the man or the body of men, who, openly and often with little or no good cause, trample under foot their manliness and honor by the breach of a lawful agreement.

To show that a strike is unjust, viewed from its practical and substantial aspect, I shall take as a fair illustration, the great steel strike of '92, popularly known as the 'Homestead Strike.' It was made by the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers of United States, by order of its president, Mr. Shaffer, against the United States Steel Corporation, which had existed for twenty-six years under the personal management of Mr. Carnegie, without a single example of a strike or lockout. But now the leaders of this association decided there should be a strike, and the workmen, whether they saw a cause or not, were obliged to break their agreements with their employers and quit work. It was neither a strike for higher wages nor for shorter hours, but apparently one for business control, and moreover it was aimed directly at a right which was most naturally the lawful property of the employer, viz.—the privilege of employing either union or non-union labor, as best suited his interests.

To accomplish their unjust end the strike was continued throughout the various steel works for nearly five months, but the result was not as anticipated. Mr. Carnegie gave his men every opportunity to reconsider their act and return to work, but their leaders would not consent. He then filled their places with non-union men and the works were re-opened. This was followed by war and bloodshed and the infuriated strikers were only subdued to peace by recourse to 6000 of the militia. The disgraceful and uncivilized acts which took place during the period of actual strike I need not rehearse, but let it