

twenty years in Great Britain and Ireland there were granted only a few more than 5000 divorces. Divorce is more than thirty times as frequent in the United States as in Great Britain."

### The English Coal Strike.

*I will be a swift witness against . . . those that oppress the hireling in his wages.*—Mal. iii. 5.

*Be content with your wages.*—Luke iii. 14.

ONE of the most disastrous and costly strikes on record came to an end last month. To say that the misery consequent upon it far outbalanced any advantages that may be derived from it is to put the matter very lightly. For sixteen long weeks—more than a third of a year—1,003,250 workers have been without employment, representing various industries brought to a standstill by the refusal of 250,000 English and 100,000 Welsh miners to work, and also representing between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 persons reduced to destitution through their idleness. In the Midland districts the estimated output of coal is usually 2,000,000 tons per week, valued at 7s. 6d. per ton, or £750,000, at the pits, and 12s. 5d. per ton, or £1,250,000, at the dealers'; the advance including transportation rates, cartage, and commission. During the sixteen weeks of the strike the normal output of 63,000,000 tons has fallen to 39,000,000; the normal export of 11,000,000 to 8,750,000; the normal consumption of 40,000,000 to 27,250,000. This falling off in consumption tells the story of the closing of iron and steel works, cotton and woollen mills, and various other manufactures and industries brought to a stand-still. The withdrawal from circulation of the immense sums of money usually distributed among employes in wages and salaries has caused incalculable losses to shop-keepers and trades people of every description. The estimated loss to mine-owners, ironmasters, railways, etc., is £13,255,615, or

not far from \$65,000,000. The reduced production caused an advance in prices to the amount of £1,767,000. Miners, iron-workers, and other artisans lost £18,208,000. The total general loss is placed at £33,231,215, or in the neighborhood of \$165,000,000. There have been riots also which the military were called upon to suppress, and which they did suppress at the cost of life.

It is needless to ask, Did it pay? The Church of Christ can do but one thing in the presence of such gigantic evils, and that is, preach Christ by word and deed as the true solution of the problems of which these evils are the false solution. Christ in the employer and Christ in the employed will make forever impossible such a condition of things as that which we have described above. When employers have His spirit abiding in them they will without hesitation give to those who labor for them "that which is just and equal." When employes have His spirit abiding in them they will render their service "in singleness of heart, fearing God;" will do their work faithfully and well "as unto Christ." Love, born of the love of the indwelling Christ, will always inspire right treatment of the neighbor. Whittier's words are worthy of constant reiteration:

"Not without envy Wealth at times must look  
On their brown strength who wield the reaping-hook

And scythe, or at the forge-fire shape the plough  
Or the steel harness of the steeds of steam;  
All who, by skill and patience, anyhow  
Make service noble, and the earth redeem  
From savageness. By kingly accolade  
Than theirs was never worthier knighthood made.

Well for them if, while demagogues their vain  
And evil counsels proffer, they maintain  
Their honest manhood unseduced, and wage  
No war with Labor's right to Labor's gain  
Of sweet home-comfort, rest of hand and brain,  
And softer pillow for the head of Age.

"And well for Gain if it ungrudging yields  
Labor its just demand; and well for Ease  
If in the uses of its own, it sees  
No wrong to him who tills its pleasant fields  
And spreads the table of its luxuries,  
The interests of the rich man and the poor  
Are one and same, inseparable evermore;