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The Trip Hammer.

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THE STRIKE.

THE Massey Manufacturing Company have been accustomed to congratulate themselves that while the men of other establishments might "strike" their men never would. For forty years, we understand, the business has been carried on, and until the other day they have never known what it was to have their workmen lay aside their tools and march out, because certain things were done, or not done as the case might be. They may lay that flattering unction to their souls no longer. Now they "know how it is themselves"; they "have been there." After so long a period of mutual good will and friendly consideration between employers and employed it must of course have been a very serious matter which caused some four hundred men to throw aside their means of subsistence, and the means of subsistence of their wives and families, and go out on the street on "strike" until the matter in dispute was arranged satisfactorily to both parties.

Was it so serious? The TRIP HAMMER is not in the confidence of either party. We have not tried to reach the bottom of the trouble, because we have found a sort of reticence on both sides which did not invite inquiry, but entrenched itself behind the old proverb that it were best to "let sleeping dogs lie." We have gathered however, whether truly or not we do not know, that the whole thing arose out of a misunderstanding and that if the explanations which were made *after* the strike had been made *before* there would have been no strike at all. This being the case, of what use is it to waste words, so with respect to this particular strike we stop, as the *News* would say, "right here."

And yet the TRIP HAMMER has opinions on the subject of strikes. Crude opinions very likely; not formed by experience in the workshop nor through having been participants in the, doubtless, many grievances and ills to which the workshop is subject. But crude and theoretical though they may be we think the present an appropriate time to advance them. The motto of the TRIP HAMMER is "Labor and Knowledge," and it would be unpardonably false to its professed object if its sympathies did not strongly run with those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. We believe that labor, honestly united, organized labor, is every day advancing to the position it ought to occupy as a power in the world. We believe that it is not only the right but the duty of working-men, as of all men, to unite together for mutual protection and mutual assistance on the path of progress; and so long as such union restricts itself within its proper boundary, so long as it keeps itself honestly and faithfully within its own right and does not attempt to infringe the rights of others, so long is it entitled to the respect and good will of the community. But the moment the Divine command "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" is forgotten or overridden in the pursuit of an object, no matter how seemingly worthy that object may be, that moment the all powerful lever of Right is deprived of its virtue and its strength and has to be cast aside. And with it