

## THE FREETHOUGHT JOURNAL,

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## TO THE LIBERAL PUBLIC.

Every sect of Christians, no matter how small and insignificant they may be, finds it conducive to their benefit and necessary to their support, and they do support, one or more newspapers to advocate their particular views or interests. By that means their views are disseminated and they grow in numbers and importance. Through influences against which Liberals everywhere have to contend, we have been ignored by the entire press of the Dominion, and the large, intelligent, and cultivated body of independent thinkers are deprived of a medium for the interchange of thought and the advocacy of their views. This JOURNAL will supply such a medium. Its columns will be open for the discussion of all questions relating to philosophy, science, political economy, and theology, but party politics will be rigidly excluded. It will reproduce the latest and best thoughts on all subjects interesting to Freethinkers, and will, each week, devote a portion of its space to some scientific subject, which will be presented in a form as intelligible to the ordinary reader as the more learned. It will be seen, by referring to our list of editorial contributors, that some of the most gifted men on the continent are interested in our success, and will contribute to that end. The aim of its managers will be to place it among the highest and best literary and scientific journals of the day. We send this, our initial number, broadcast, and we ask, not only those who think with us, but also those who wish to see all sides of every question fully and fairly discussed, to come to our support. The hostility of all the religious and most of the secular press we anticipate, but we are sure that, instead of deterring, that fact will make our friends only the more determined to aid us in our present undertaking. We have placed our subscription price at a low figure, within the reach of all, and expect that when our regular issue commences, which will be at an early date, our list of subscribers will at least equal that of most of the religious newspapers of the

Dominion. We ask those of our friends who wish to promote free discussion to aid us by sending in their subscriptions at once, and to induce as many others as they possibly can to imitate their example. Let every Freethinker in the Dominion of Canada feel that he is personally interested in the success of the enterprise.

We especially ask those who attended the late Freethought Convention in this city, and those who would have been present with us had circumstances permitted, to make a personal canvass among friends in their several localities. We have no friendly clergy to herald from the pulpit our advent, except it may be with an anathema, but we are convinced that we have warmer and truer friends than had any religious paper ever launched upon the sea of journalism in Canada.

## LABOR AGAINST CAPITAL.

We have just passed through a most exciting and critical period, and the lesson of the hour should be heeded. We have seen the mass in the wildest riot and the great avenues of traffic closed. We have seen the wheels of railroad commerce blocked, and the police and military of the States defied and powerless. It is the old story, capital against labor, monopoly against the people, money against the masses. There is little excuse for mob law, and less reason in brute force; and it must be for the general good that riot be suppressed, and every violator of the law held strictly accountable.

The strikers, under the yoke of hard times and hard taskmasters, played a bold and terrible game, and lost. They have gained few advantages and lost much. In six months they will have nothing to show for the loss of property entailed and the lives sacrificed. Men who labor, read and think, that you may have your faculties under control and in a legal and honorable way you can force the capitalist to give you your just dues. The remedy for the wants and distress of the laboring classes lies not in mobs and riots, but through the ballot-box. The two chief causes of this state of things is the supreme selfishness of the railroad magnates and the ignorance of the people. It is a sad thing to see in a flourishing city like Philadelphia, out of 150,000 working people 20 per cent. almost paupers, and a further reduction of wages has been followed by strikes, out of which has grown widespread riots almost amounting to civil war. The industries of the Dominion of Canada and the States have been depressed for years, and we are not sure we have yet touched the bottom. Monopoly in years past has filched from the people in all parts of the country from one to three dollars on every ton of coal used. It has charged the people exorbitant prices for transportation. Railroad kings have piled up uncounted millions in comparatively few years, and when the crisis came they stretched by taking food from the bread winners while they rolled in luxury.

While the capitalist and a great portion of mankind viewing things through his spectacles, bemoan the loss of a few thousands in railway property destroyed by unreasonable men seeking their rights in a wrong way, we will look for a short time at war's waste, which is passed by heedlessly; great rascals and great rascalities go unheeded in proportion to their magnitude. According to a little tract recently published by the London Peace Society the armaments of Europe in the present year are: