

“And what are all these difficulties between Nihilistic, Communistic, and labor organizations, on the one hand, and capitalists on the other? The active operations for a struggle among all nations, with frauds in high places everywhere, but developments towards the events described in Dan. xii. 1-3, resulting in ‘a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.’”—*Sol.*

President C. A. Blanchard, of Wheaton College, says :

“Secret societies of various kinds have existed for centuries, but never were they so multiplied, so various, so powerful, or so injurious to society as at present. Religion, Protestantism, Temperance, Insurance, Patriotism, College Friendships, and Labor, all are now harnessed to the car of Secrecy, and altogether are popularizing a principle of organization which among the ancients was the peculiar possession of idolatrous priests, and among moderns used to be the distinguishing mark of bands organized to defy and override civil authority.

“An inspection of the directory in any great city of the United States will show that the lodges now outnumber the churches of Jesus Christ by hundreds. In Chicago, for example, the churches are about three hundred, the lodges almost one thousand. The membership of the lodges is overwhelmingly male, that of the churches largely female, another element which has to be taken into account in any intelligent consideration of this subject. There is a proverb that “Nothing lies like figures.” Yet figures can speak truly if fairly dealt with. Masonic bodies claim about half a million adherents, Oddfellow lodges almost as many. The Knights of Fythias, a new order, already is said to number nearly three hundred thousand members ; while patriotic, temperance, and insurance orders already