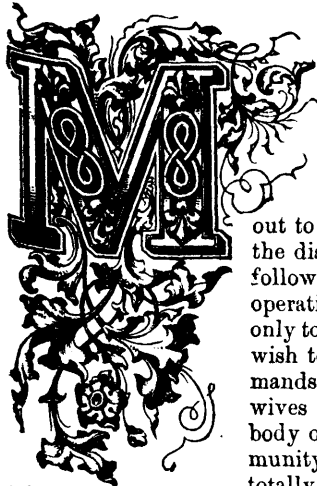


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ON THE DISASTROUS RESULTS OF STRIKES TO THE INDUSTRIES OF A COUNTRY.

ANY months have not elapsed since we pointed out to the mechanics of Canada the disastrous results which ever follow the systematic striking of operatives in all countries; not only to those whom the employees wish to coerce to meet their demands, but to themselves, their wives and children, and a large body of the manufacturing community, and also, to many others totally unconnected with their

grievances, who earn, by equally hard labour, their daily bread, and have greater reason to complain of unremunerative wages than those strikers who, by forming themselves into organized bodies, endeavour to enforce, without reason, or otherwise, their demands for an increase of pay.

In almost every instance has the paralyzing effects of these strikes upon business and capital fallen heavier upon the strikers themselves than upon their Employers, and only a temporary advantage gained thereby; for as sure as by the law of Nature, water will regain its level after it has been disturbed, so by the law of average wages, which, like the tide, has its gradual rise and fall according to the fluctuations of trade, will also return to its mean level, although occasionally its waters may be agitated and rise into foaming waves by the force of over speculation and enterprise; and although its waves may bear many on its crest and onward flow to fortune, will, before they subside, overwhelm thousands in their waters and bear destruction and ruin to many who thought themselves safe and far away from where such a tidal wave could ever reach them. Yet, after the storm has subsided, there is a level to which all things must again come back, and so it is with labor; no matter to what height the speculator may disturb the waters of the industries and commerce of the world, they must ever again

find their level, although, after the storm, a long calm is sure to follow. Even so is it with the state of trade now in the United States and Canada. First, in the States, came the disturbing influences between the North and the South, and the waters of strife rose high and lashed and foamed, and men were borne hither and thither on its waves. Such was the demand for soldiers, for ships, for arms, for clothing, for food, for everything necessary to supply enormous armies and navies with all the requisites of war, that manufactories had to be erected to supply it in every section of the country; the requisitions for labour also become very great, and as a consequence the rate of wages very high. The price of food and every kind of manufactured article was increased nearly four-fold. The thrifty farms of New England became neglected; for the sons of the yeomen of the country left their old homesteads, we may say forever, to fight in that great struggle, or to become merchants, manufacturers or clerks, in cities and towns where the high rate of wages and the enormous and rapid profits realized on business was too great a temptation to resist in embarking. But, from whence came the capital, first of all, to pay these armies and these navies? to pay for their food, their clothing and for all the requisites of war? Did it come from a healthy source, the unemployed capital of the country? No.—To meet these great expenses the Government of the North issued its paper or promissory notes in payment therefore, and the whole country endorsed it. This was the capital which in such times was spent in lavish profusion upon all. For five or six years there was no cessation to its flow; true it was not worth its value in gold, and when landed and household property rose in worth, it had but a fictitious value, which when the disturbed wave on which it floated had again subsided, returned to its normal value level. The circulation, however, of such an immense sum of money gave employment to everyone, thousands of poor foreigners flocked to the States and lived sumptuously even upon the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. The farmers never knew such a time before. Every thing planted paid two hundred fold. The artisans of the country, who lived contentedly and frugally before, now built to themselves fine houses and educated their daughters to a state of refinement which could ill brook to return again to more homely times; their sons im-