

that under the existing condition the managers, with their extensive experience with workmen, could have hoped, even much less have expected, to succeed in their design without precipitating a struggle. They understood well the rule that high prices for coal brought high wages, and before their eyes was the disastrous experience of the Lehigh Company. Yet apparently they jeopardized deliberately the prosperity of their company, and of infinitely greater importance, the rights and happiness of thousands of homes.

Incredible as it may seem, the conclusion seems forced upon us that they foresaw the result from the beginning and intended to make it the pretext to combine with the other anthracite coal companies to arbitrarily fix and control the wages throughout the coal regions, just as they have hitherto combined to arbitrarily fix the selling price of coal. This view is strengthened by the refusal of the managers to accept *arbitration*, which was urged by the miners, as an equitable means of speedy adjustment.

Mr. Corbin, the President of the company, is regarded as an able railroad man, as having energy, pluck and backbone. He has lifted more than one road out of serious trouble, and it was hoped that he might resuscitate the Reading. But however Mr. Corbin's stock and bondholders may regard his present course, there is one thing as sure as "God's Providence,"--every such struggle between the property interests of corporations and the rights and happiness of fifty thousand men, women and children will hasten the day when a chrystalized public sentiment will demand that the principle of *equitable arbitration* shall govern the settlement of all such controversies. Men in power naturally tend to harden into despots and cannot be trusted with unrestricted control over their fellows. The rights of humanity must be respected and revered above the rights of property, although the latter claim the sanction of constitution, law and precedent.

### CHIP BASKET.

Please do not think it rude,  
If we should chance intrude,  
In matters that should concern us all,  
For where there is wrong and right,  
Right should always be made might,  
For evil some day must surely fall.

We are glad to learn that some of the ladies of P. S. C. are taking advantage of the privileges of Leap Year and are endeavoring to "warm up" the cold feeling manifested between the ladies and gentlemen. Our literary societies are doing practically nothing towards cultivating a social feeling among the students. One may acquire all the wisdom of a socrates and yet be placed at a disadvantage by not possessing a graceful and polite demeanor. Judging from the stoical looks of some of the societies' members, one would think they are followers of Zeno of Citium.

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There is a lack of interest shown, on the part of the students and alumni of this institution, toward contributing articles to the "Free Lance." This may be, so far as the students are concerned, because the editor in charge of the Literary Department does not personally request each student to do so. Notwithstanding the fact that there is a printed request in the paper for contributors, the editor makes this appeal to the students, to manifest more interest in this direction in order that the paper may be indeed "a publication by the students of P. S. C." We have respect for your "opinions," and "suggestions," but please do not delay too long in putting them into effect.

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The military department of P. S. C. is in a very good condition, and is also becoming more prominent each year. The gift of over three hundred dollars donated by Captain Roberts to that department, to be distributed as prizes to the most efficient cadets in drill, has incited many to better work. There was certainly a marked