

bilt's invocation, "the public be damned," repeatedly refused the demands of the Knights and the offers of the state board of arbitration, to submit the question to the latter body for investigation; and it was only by reason of the tardily exercised powers of the board to peremptorily summon the disputing parties before it and compel them to testify that any investigation was had at all. The evidence there adduced was such as to prove conclusively what was already clearly evident to an impartial observer from the previous correspondence between Mr. Powderly and Mr. Webb, viz.: that there had been a systematic attempt on the part of the N. Y. Central authorities to cripple the order of K. of L. by discharging their prominent members. It was clearly shown that in many cases the foremen or agents immediately discharging the men knew of no reason for so doing, but acted upon the orders of more responsible officials who could know still less of the men's actual qualifications. If anything were needed to fully establish the charge of the Knights I think it could be found in the circular addressed to employing agents of the road by Acting Vice President Webb, after the strike was declared off, in which he informed them that thereafter *no active members of the K. of L. should be employed on the road under any conditions.*

If there was, then, an attempt to gradually displace Knights of Labor in the employ of the Central, the very existence of the order among employes of that road was threatened and nothing could be more manly and honorable in the Knights than to make a resolute stand, by strike or otherwise, for their rights, regardless of consequences,—an effort, at least, to compel a recognition of the fact that they were free men and had as much right to organize as the corporations and millionaires. The failure of the strike and the triumph of the corporation are no reason that we should deprecate their action as ignorant or selfish, and in this case we cannot easily establish the charge of undue haste or rash overconfidence, for from the premises, the failure only caused

most of the men to lose their places a little sooner, but much more honorably, than they otherwise would. C. D. S. again infers the same absurdity that failure makes wrong, and "might makes right," where he "adheres" to the profound and learned "opinion that any movement to become popular must have the approval of the public," and then assumes that the central strikers did not secure the approval of the public, and *therefore* their effort was useless, ignorantly conducted, and altogether a thing to be condemned. As well argue that if the American Revolutionists had failed to arouse sufficient public approval to gain independence, therefore the right and wrong of their effort would have been reversed, and highminded patriotism changed to "gross ignorance."

While showing so little sympathy with the strikers, C. D. S. is quite indignant at the inconvenience caused to the shipping and traveling public by strikes on railroads, and protests that these good people should not be made to suffer for wrongs in which they have had no part. Unfortunately it is generally true that efforts in behalf of the oppressed have always caused more or less suffering to innocent parties together with the guilty, but to show that such strikes may be settled without inconvenience to the public, I will instance Gov. Seymour's method of dealing with one on the same N. Y. Central road in 1862, I believe. As soon as the strike had been ordered and traffic stopped, the Governor summoned the directors and officers of the road and told them that, as the servant of the people of New York State, he had nothing to say about the strike or its settlement, except that the railroads must resume traffic within forty-eight hours, or he would revoke the charter, take possession of the road, and run it in the interest of the people. To emphasize the fact that he meant what he said, he placed them all under arrest, but said he would not enforce the order for twenty-four hours unless he found them trying to escape from the State. It is needless to say the strike was quickly