

THE FREE LANCE.

"His good blade carves the casques of men, for the Free Lance thrusteth sure."

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CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Valedictory.

THE attention which the labor question has received at the hands of our most profound thinkers, and the volumes which have been written on this subject, indicate to some degree its importance as a factor in the industrial progress of the world. Viewed from the standpoint of the economist, it is a struggle for supremacy between two great forces both of which have for their ultimate object the production of wealth, but viewed from the standpoint of humanity, it presents the laboring class struggling for liberty against the tyranny, the oppression, and the degradation to which it has been subjected by the employing class.

Economically considered, only the most peaceful relations should exist between capital and labor, for wealth has its origin in the toil of man, and both capital and labor aim at the same results, but the relations which in reality do exist are those of hostility rather than peace, of discord rather than harmony. Lack of sympathy between the two classes soon develops into an antagonism which becomes more and more aggressive until it terminates in struggle so intense and violent, that the whole industrial structure is shaken to its foundations.