

corporation with its employees on account of this experiment. Thus far the experiment has been successful beyond expectation. During the lowest ebb the profit-sharing corporation paid its stockholders regularly 12 per cent per annum, besides distributing to its employees semi-annually over 3 per cent upon their wages. Nothing succeeds like success."

A riot consequent on the arrival of "blacklegs," but which has evidently been much exaggerated by report, took place at Broken Hill on the night of September 9—or rather the early morning of September 10—for it was between 1 and 2 a.m. that the train on which the attack was made came in. The "blacklegs" had been interviewed at an outlying station by delegates of the Defence Committee, by whom they were discerned to be professional hands—ready to be bought off, but demanding too high a price. A crowd had collected to receive the train, and a good deal of stone-throwing took place. It is, however, doubtful as to whether revolvers were brought into use, or, in fact, were in the possession of any of the strikers present. Two or three of the "blacklegs" were slightly hurt, and eight of the policemen suffered more or less—one only being seriously injured. The crowd had no ill feeling towards the police. It watched for an hour or two for the "blacklegs" to come out—but they were conveyed secretly from the back of the Town Hall, where they had been taken for shelter, to the mine—and, finding this to be the case, the strikers dispersed.

In a labour demonstration held at Sydney on the night of the 20th inst., the Socialists were much in evidence, and their red flags were very prominent. Certainly these gentry will make hay when the sun shines. Fostering beams must necessarily exist for them when there is a disposition shown to bring force into play in dealing with a labour question, rather than to exercise wisdom, moderation, and justice. The Ministry of New South Wales seem now more bent on gaining a Parliamentary victory over the representatives of labour than on attending to the interests of the country. Such victories may eventually prove in some degree Pyrrhic.

The *Irish World* in an article on the settlement of labour disputes by arbitration, points out that where a willingness to arbitrate exists on both sides there is rarely much difficulty in arriving at an agreement:—"It is where such a willingness to arbitrate does not exist," he says,—"employer and employee meet as antagonists in a struggle for supremacy rather than as equals in a business transaction—where candour and courtesy are absent; where the public interests are ignored and only selfish interests considered. This is where there is imminent danger of the State being compelled to interfere for the restoration of order after blood has been shed and lifelong enmities have been called into being. The question for the people to consider at this time is whether it be for the public good, which should be the supreme law, that the interference be postponed until after the mischief had been done, the blood spilled, and those lasting enmities aroused. It is no step toward the ultimate solution of this grave problem, though it may be entirely necessary for the vindication of existing law, for the contestants in those troubles to lodge charges and counter-charges of murder and riot against each other, and to order judicial inquiry to find out who first appealed to armed force, by what right they did so, who fired the first shots, whether such shots were fired in aggression or self-defence, etc. Those issues must be fought out in the courts by the contestants. What is needed in the way of prevention of such disasters in the future is a calm and earnest discussion by the people as to the proper moment and method of the State's interference. Shall it be after the mischief has been done or before? Shall it be with armies, Gatling guns, and cannon, or with a just, impartial, and peaceful civil tribunal invested with adequate authority to interpose between excited disputants where the public peace is threatened and point out the way to reconciliation and harmony."

Mr J. D. Fitzgerald, a leading member of the labour party of New South Wales has recently returned from a visit to England. In an interview with a representative of the *Adelaide Register*, he expressed himself as follows regarding the late elections and the prospects of labour at Home:—"I assisted five labour candidates in their attempts to gain seats, and of these three were successful. The three who were returned were Mr John Burns, one of the labour leaders, Mr Keir Hardie, and Mr J. H. Wilson, the sailors' friend. Ex-Commissioner Frank Smith and Mr Ben Tillet were not returned. Then I also supported the candidature of Professor Bryce, of Aberdeen, who is now a member of the Government. One of our opponents was Mr H. H. Champion." Mr Fitzgerald said that the struggle just passed was "a mere writing on the wall." He looks forward with hope to the next elections, as he predicts that the labour party in England will then score a tremendous victory, because they will force the hands of the Liberal party. In many cases labour had to fight both Liberals and Conservatives, and it is on this account that he considers that Mr Wilson's victory was a splendid one. 'I addressed six meetings on his behalf, and urged the constituents to

select him before they did so.' Mr Fitzgerald does not consider that the labour party is very strongly organised, though steps will no doubt be taken in that direction. They have always looked to the Liberals, but he thinks that the construction of the Gladstone Ministry will show that there is no hope from them."

In a paper read by the Rev Father Smith at a Conference of the Catholic Young Men's Societies of Great Britain lately held in Edinburgh, the following passages, as reported by the *Glasgow Observer*, occurred:—"Men are being constantly noderbid in their work by others more necessitous than themselves, and seeing their wages in constant danger of being reduced, club together in self-defence and form unions, which, as is now generally admitted, are perfectly justifiable. These unions have only one effective weapon—the strike. This was the only means at the disposal of the men for the achievement of the purpose they desire, seeing that there is no authorised tribunal to which they can have recourse, and seeing that strikes are profitable it is always, of course, with the understanding that the demands of the men are just and reasonable. Violent strikes are always to be condemned, both as being wrong in themselves and as injuring the cause they are intended to benefit. Violence towards what we call blacklegs is to be condemned. Parliamentary reports show that the greater number of strikes were unsuccessful. Yet it had to be considered as a whole they have been beneficial to the working classes, and have permanently raised their wages and bettered their condition. If it hadn't been for strikes and the fear of strikes working men would be worse off still. They are great evils. War might be unavoidable and beneficial, but it was an evil still. On the side of the masters it had to be stated that strikes have had the effect of destroying trade altogether. Mr Davitt, in the *Labour World*, had given it as his opinion that they were being overdone. Regarding boards of conciliation, the great question was that of remuneration. On this point the principle must be adopted that every man has the right to such a wage as will enable him to live decently. The encyclical of the Holy Father having been quoted, the paper went on to state that capital at present received the lion's share of the spoil, and labour the bare pickings. Labour might justly ask fairer division, but until something was done to lessen the evils arising from free competition in its tendency to lower the rate of wages they could not hope for freedom from strikes."

W E L L I N G T O N .

(From our own Correspondent.)

September 19.

THE devotion of the forty hours' adoration began at St Mary's Cathedral yesterday with solemn Pontifical Mass, of which his Grace the Archbishop was celebrant; Rev Father Sullivan, deacon; Rev Father Lewis, sub-deacon; and Rev Father Dawson, master of ceremonies—the Very Rev Dr Waters and the Rev Father Power being also in the sanctuary. The musical portion of the Mass (Mozart's eleventh) was splendidly rendered by a numerous choir, assisted by a strong orchestra under the direction of Mr E. Cohen. The principal soloists were Miss McClean, Miss Gibbs, Mrs Swett, Mr La'shley, and Mr Loughnan. As an Offertory piece Miss McClean sang "Ecce Paupis," in her accustomed finished style. At the conclusion of the Mass there was a procession of the most Blessed Sacrament around the interior of the Cathedral, during which "Moliques March," from the oratorio of Abraham, was played. Mr S. Cimino, conductor, and Miss Kelly presided at the organ. The sanctuary was tastefully decorated for the occasion, being hung with crimson cloth, and the high altar was very prettily ornamented with white and red camellias and white lilies, and pot plants. In the afternoon there were special devotions for the children, and in the evening solemn Vespers were sung, when the Rev Father Dawson preached a very impressive sermon on the Blessed Sacrament. This morning at 9 o'clock a "Missa pro pace" was sung, and this evening there will be solemn Vespers, at which his Grace the Archbishop will preach. The devotions will conclude to-morrow with the Mass of the Deposition. In the meantime arrangements have been made by the confraternities of the parish to keep up the continual adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The quiet of the city was rudely broken whilst the people were at divine service yesterday morning by a most foul murder, and an attempt at another, which happily failed. The whole affair seems to have arisen, in a great measure, out of drink, or, rather, the effects of it. It appears that a party of sailors and mates from the vessels (American), the *Doris Eckhoff* and *Flint*, were up town on Saturday night drinking, and that a row occurred. On Sunday morning the mate of the *Flint* (Seel) and the mate of the *Doris Eckhoff* (Finley) were proceeding along Waterloo Quay about 11 p.m., when they met half a dozen sailors whom they recognised as being their assailants the previous night. Some words passed between them, blows were struck, and eventually Finley pulled out his revolver and fired at two of the men, killing one dead on the spot, and wounding the other