

of settling these troubles between employees and employers save by this old and brutal method. The New Zealand Industrial and Conciliation laws may be open to criticism, still they save us from the unpleasant consequences of labor conflicts, where might is right, and the party which has the greatest staying powers gains a doubtful victory. No wonder that the workers' organs in the United States are holding up our laws for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor to the admiration of the people of that country, and are demanding that similar enactments should be placed on Uncle Sam's statute book. With whichever party rests the victory in an industrial dispute the worker and his wife and family are sure to be the sufferers. It is a time of enforced idleness, when labor and capital are unproductive. The master may not be making money, but this does not interfere with the comfort of his wife and family, but the worker's household must feel the pinch, and many of the necessities of life will have to be done without in these times of trouble. In 14 years, ending 1894, there were 11,300 strikes, involving 3,714,000 operatives, in the United States. These caused a loss of close on £50,000,000. In less than half the strikes the workers succeeded, but at a loss of nearly £10,000,000, the loss of the employers being about half that sum. The loss to each operative on strike was about £10, and each master £140. In 1897 there were 864 strikes in the United Kingdom, affecting nearly a quarter of a million workers, and the loss to labor was enormous. In the middle ages, which are spoken of with such contempt nowadays, strikes were practically unheard of. They are, however, a very ancient method of industrial warfare.

The earliest strike that we have any record of occurred over three and thirty centuries ago. Pharaoh was building a new Temple at Thebes. The masons received very little cash, but a quantity of provisions which the contractor thought sufficient was handed to them on the first of each month. Sufficient or not, they mostly ate it before the time had elapsed. On one occasion many of them had nothing left quite early in the month, so they marched to the contractor's house, before which they squatted and refused to leave until justice was done. The contractor persuaded them to lay their distress before Pharaoh, who was about to visit the works, and he gave them a handsome supply of corn, and so all went on well for that month. But the same state of things recurred by the middle of the next, and for some days the men struck work. Various conferences took place, but the men declined to do a stroke until they were given another supply of food. They declared the clerks cheated them, used false weights, and so forth, familiar enough complaints even in this century, under the truck system. The contractor not complying with their demands, they marched to the governor of the city, to lay their grievances before him, and he tried to get them to return to work by smooth words, but that was no use and they insisted on having food. At last, to get rid of them, he drew up an order for corn on the public granary, and the strike was at an end.

ACCORDING to some authorities the British people have been endowed with many virtues denied to their less fortunate Continental neighbors. It is a good old English maxim that it is not fair to kick a man when he is down. Now and again we drop across exceptions to this rule, and that, too, where we would least expect it. The Fourth Estate of the realm, which prides itself upon being the mentor of the nation in all that is high and noble, sometimes falls below the high standard which it sets itself to teach. And when those in exalted station err, we blame the lowly if they follow the bad example of their betters. When the first batch of Boer prisoners arrived in Colombo the European newspapers let themselves loose in describing their unwelcome visitors. They had a sort of war-dance over the fallen enemy, who were described as 'the scum of the scum of Europe,' 'riff raff,' 'desperadoes,' etc. The occasion certainly was not one in which any man would look at his best, even an editor, after a twelve months' campaign, with few opportunities for attending to his toilet, might be seen at a disadvantage under the circumstances. The epithets used were, to say the least, uncharitable and so contrary to all accepted ideas of the treatment which should be accorded to a fallen foe, that Sir West Ridgeway, the Governor of Ceylon, took occasion at a public gathering a few days later to administer a timely rebuke to the offending journals. The applause with which his Excellency's remarks were received showed that his audience agreed with his sentiments. The British colonists of the land of tea and cinnamon were not prepared to sacrifice all their instincts of chivalry by approving of the conduct of the local Press towards men who were not in a position to defend themselves. After a few introductory remarks regarding the 'very harsh words' which had been applied to the Boer prisoners, his Excellency went on to say: 'They will be treated exactly as our soldiers, and they deserve that treatment because they are soldiers, and brave soldiers, who have fought as they believed for their country, and, therefore, they deserve to be

treated as soldiers. On the whole, they have been generous enemies, and they have treated our prisoners well, and I do not know, I have never heard, that our prisoners endured a word of insult during their incarceration in Pretoria. It is said, of course, I know that these are not all Boers, they comprise Irish-Americans and Europeans, and very harsh words and epithets have been applied to these men. I am not going to discuss the question whether the subjects of a neutral State ought to fight the battles of another nation. Englishmen sometimes do so, but I understand that these men, these Europeans, are all men of respectability who most of them occupied positions and had been employed for some years by the Transvaal Government, and I have the word of the officer associated with them that they are men whose conduct has been irreproachable since they have been under his charge, and no prisoner, no Boer, European—officer or man—has given the slightest trouble through the long and trying voyage to this island. But even if it were not so these men have fallen; they are at our feet, they are at our mercy; and I surely need not appeal to the chivalrous and generous sentiments which ought to animate an enlightened community when I say that we ought to treat at least with silent respect men who are in misfortune, men who are in trouble, in the hour of their defeat, and are separated from mother, wife, home, child, and sweetheart—and refrain from any ungenerous word or thought which would aggravate or add to that trouble or provoke resentment, inflame the aching wound, and, worst of all, retard for one moment the dawn of that bright day which we all hope and pray for when this dreadful war will be at an end, when peace will be proclaimed, and when Boer and Englishman will live, work, and, perhaps, fight side by side under the British flag.'

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

THE following interesting paper, entitled a 'Statistical view of the Catholic Church,' contributed by Mr. M. G. Mulhall, the eminent statistician, was read at the Australasian Catholic Congress:—

The population of the World in 1898 was estimated at 1,450 millions, of whom little more than one-third were Christians, viz:—

	Christians.	Mahomedans.	Jews.	Pagans.
Europe ...	348,500,000	6,000,000	6,500,000	—
America ...	126,400,000	—	—	1,300,000
Asia ...	12,600,000	109,500,000	200,000	667,800,000
Africa ...	4,100,000	36,000,000	400,000	91,000,000
Oceania ...	9,700,000	24,700,000	—	4,400,000
Total ...	501,600,000	176,800,000	7,100,000	764,500,000

We find that more than one-half of mankind is still enveloped in Paganism, and the degraded tenets of Mahomet hold sway among many of the principal States of Asia and Africa. If we proceed to classify all Christians under three heads, they will be found to stand thus:—

	Catholics.	Protestants.	Greeks.	Total.
United Kingdom	5,400,000	34,700,000	—	40,100,000
France ...	37,700,000	700,000	—	38,400,000
Germany ...	18,600,000	32,700,000	—	51,300,000
Russia ...	8,300,000	310,000	73,800,000	85,200,000
Austria-Hungary	33,800,000	410,000	3,300,000	41,200,000
Italy ...	31,100,000	60,000	—	31,160,000
Spain-Portugal	22,700,000	10,000	—	22,710,000
Scandinavia ...	10,000	9,200,000	—	9,300,000
Belgium & Holland	7,930,000	2,710,000	—	10,700,000
Roumania.	—	—	—	—
Greece, etc.	1,900,000	4,130,000	12,400,000	18,430,000
Europe ...	167,500,000	91,500,000	89,500,000	348,500,000

	Catholics.	Protestants.	Greeks.	Total.
Europe ...	167,500,000	91,500,000	89,500,000	348,500,000
United States	9,900,000	62,300,000	—	72,200,000
Canada ...	2,100,000	2,800,000	—	4,900,000
Spanish America	45,600,000	100,000	—	45,700,000
West Indies	2,500,000	1,100,000	—	3,600,000
Australia ...	900,000	2,900,000	—	3,800,000
Philippines, etc.	5,700,000	200,000	—	5,900,000
Asia ...	3,100,000	700,000	8,800,000	12,600,000
Africa ...	2,700,000	1,700,000	—	4,400,000
The World	240,000,000	163,300,000	98,300,000	501,600,000

In the preceding table the term Greek Church is used to signify Russian Greeks, all persons of Greek rite in union with the See of Rome being classified as Roman Catholics. Under the head of Protestants are included more than one hundred different sects, who profess one or other form of Christianity; in a word, all who are not Roman Catholics or Greeks. These sects differ so widely from one another that some can hardly be called Christians; some, for example appear to deny the Divinity of Christ, others to reject the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Meantime, if we assume all classes of Protestants to form one religion, their total number in relation to that of Roman Catholics would be as two to three.

It would be interesting to ascertain, if possible, which phase of Christianity, Catholic or Protestant, increases numerically the faster. There can be no doubt that the principal Protestant nations, such as Great Britain, Germany, and the United States, are advan-