

other means. A strike is a pitched battle which, however it may end, entails loss and suffering on all parties in the strife.

Probably the comparative powerlessness of Trades Unions is largely the result of a want of solidarity among the workers ; but I ask my Trades Unionist friends : "Are you not likely to experience more difficulty in getting your fellows to combine and contribute towards your funds than in getting them to demand a fair day's work and a fair day's wage through the Legislature ? "

And why should they be asked to abstain from seeking the aid of Parliament to better their position ? Does Parliament belong only to the classes ? Should it exist simply for the purpose of extending privileges to private companies of capitalistic exploiters ? for turning out the discontented and impoverished tenants of the Clanricardes and Gladstones ? or for providing policemen to baton the rebellious spirit out of the workless proletarian ? The workers are lectured about relying on the State as if the State were an outside agency which gave them charity. But in reality the working class *is* the State. As Frederic Harrison says, "The working class is the only class which is not a class. It is the nation. It represents, so to speak, the body as a whole, of which the other classes only represent special organs." In using the Legislature to wring better terms from their masters, the workers will simply be using their own to get their own.

An eight hours day, then, would secure more leisure for those in employment, and employment for those who are idle. By providing the unemployed with work and wages it would make them consumers and purchasers, demand would proportionally increase, and production would consequently be stimulated. It would enable all workers to command better wages, and, by lessening the returns to capital, it would hasten the culmination of the economic and social revolution even now in process. The easiest and speediest way of obtaining any such reform is the best.

### HOW TO KEEP IT.

As has been pointed out already, the mere shortening of the working day would, by absorbing that element of weakness, the margin of surplus labour, secure to the workers a large measure of control over the conditions on which they were to work. But it will doubtless occur to some that unless the advantage thus gained at the outset were steadily improved upon it could only be temporary in its duration. It must always be