

nouncing their own lack of knowledge of the unseen, but proceed to deny its possession by others. They not only speak of deity as "the unknown," but describe Him as "the unknowable."

It is difficult to occupy an inactive or merely negative position. The human mind is constituted so as to believe or repudiate. There is no standing still in the universe. "I don't know" announces a temporary condition of very brief continuance. "I believe," or "I disbelieve," must express the eventual mental state on every subject of human contemplation.

Cardinal Manning, in a pastoral issued on a different matter, makes use of the following remarks in reference incidentally to the agnostic position:

"The knowledge of God in the old world was not a discovery, but an inheritance. It was not a demonstration, but a consciousness which, from the revelation of God himself in creation, pervaded the human race of man with the life which is the light of men. \* \* \* Is it not, then, a sign of these last days that in the full revelation of God, in the face of Jesus Christ, in the light and the glory of God in unity and trinity, there should be not only those who deny the Lord that bought them, but those also who will not trouble themselves so far as to believe or disbelieve his existence? The passive unbelief of the ignorant or the gross-minded is as abnormal as the privation of sight or speech; but the supercilious indifference of those who will not make up their mind whether there is a God or no, or who affect to doubt the evidence which has convinced the human race, is not enough for their scientific precision. This state is not passive and indifferent; it is a positive and mental habit. It is also always intolerant and sarcastic. None are so excited against those who believe in God as those who profess to be neither cold nor hot—believers nor unbelievers. It were better to be cold or hot. 'He that is not with me is against me.'"

#### SOCIAL COMMOTIONS.

We are in the midst of an era of social commotions, that burst out among the people like storms at sea.

The strike among railroad men in South Wales has no parallel in the history of Great Britain. While the lockout proper does not include a great body of people, it indirectly involves a tremendous mass of those who have no immediate connection with the movement. The entire number thus thrown out of employment by the blocking of the avenues of transportation is appalling, being numerically sufficient to constitute an immense army.

A railroad strike in the Mother Country is, in some of its features, much more hurtful than one in the United States, because of the utter-

ly helpless character of the people in some districts regarding the means of subsistence, as practically nothing is produced from the soil in that line. Such, for instance, is the condition of the inhabitants of Rhonda, whose inhabitants, numbering over 100,000, are entirely dependent for the introduction of supplies upon the Taff railroad system, the traffic on which has been suspended by the strike.

It will be observed from this very situation how easily a movement of the character now in operation, a dispute between one class of workmen alone and capital, a famine could be precipitated in large districts of Great Britain within a few days. This suggests the terrible thought that though London is the most populous and in some respects the grandest and most powerful city in the world, it is in one regard the weakest on the globe. If transportation to it from other parts—including the scores of miles of freight trains that enter it daily with provisions for its population—were suspended for a week, a terrible condition would ensue. The people would be driven to starvation and in all probability the extremity would result in uprisings, rapine and bloodshed. Who knows that in these turbulent times such a catastrophe is outside the region of probability, seeing that the contentions between the two great social divisions—labor and capital—are becoming more and more embittered?

It is to be hoped for the sake of poor, suffering humanity, that the Welsh railroad strike will soon reach a peaceful termination.

The strike on the Vanderbilt system and New York Central railroads in our own country, begun August 8, is of no mean pretensions, and threatens to widen. So far as relates to some parts of the country, it practically isolates Gotham in a business sense. Outbreaks of violence are feared, the first symptom in that line having already appeared. To guard against the destruction of life and property, the State militia has been called out. It will be a matter of congratulation if they shall have no occasion for active interference.

News from the respective seats of difficulty will be looked for with keen expectation.

WARREN, Pa., Aug. 18.—Rockwell and Company's tannery, at North Clarendon, was partly burned last night. Loss \$100,000.

#### REFLECT ON WHAT YOU READ.

"Who so readeth, let him understand." This was the Savior's instructions to those who "search the scriptures." It is good counsel for all readers. Of what use is it to devour literature, as many people do, just to pass away the time? That is *wasting* time. Some of our young people's associations pride themselves on the number of chapters read in the Bible or some other good book. This conveys little valuable information. It is not the quantity of food devoured that is beneficial to the system but that which is assimilated.

On this subject we find the following commendable remarks in a religious publication called *The Ram's Horn*:

"The way to get good out of the Bible is not to endeavor to see how many chapters you can read in a week, or a month, or a year, but how much you can understand; how much good can you bring to the surface and get into your life. Our Savior's instructions were to search the scriptures—to dig, to seek, to ransack, like a man hunting for a buried treasure in a field he had just bought. Gold is never scattered about on the top of the ground, but is hidden where we are obliged to dig for it, and it is so with the treasures of God's word. They are not for the thoughtless and the idle and the indifferent, but for those who will seek for them with all the heart. We must look below the surface, and read between the lines."

#### SPRENGER'S WAY.

Mr. Sprenger is engaged in Marshal Parson's office as a deputy. He has been engaged in several peculiar cases. One of these was an effort to arrest a small boy, and when the boy outran him, he fired at him. But, luckily for the lad, Sprenger was no better a marksman than he is an officer.

Friday, Aug. 8, this deputy was engaged in another affair. Some time ago Mr. Paul Hammer was arrested on a charge of unlawful cohabitation. He was taken before Commissioner Greenman, where he admitted that he had two wives, and had lived with them. The Commissioner fixed his bail at \$1000, and this was given, the condition being that Mr. Hammer would hold himself in readiness to await the grand jury's action. Since that time he has never, prior to last night, been notified or called for to appear in court. This fact is of importance in the case. But the deputy got an idea, or says he had it, that Mr. Hammer was going to jump his bonds, and he wanted to take him in again. Just where this would be of benefit is beyond mortal ken. Mr. Hammer's bond on the indictment found against him was \$1000, precisely the same as the commissioner had fixed it, so it made not a cent difference so far as the forfeiture of bail goes. But Mr. Hammer's intention