

## SAYS BOTH SIDES ARE TO BLAME.

### The Rev. Frank M. Bristol Preaches on the Trouble at Homestead.

"Strikes" was the topic of the Rev. Frank M. Bristol's discourse at Trinity M. E. Church last night.

"The law of conspiracy," he said, "should be more justly and evenly applied and then there might be less necessity and occasion for strikes. Wealthy employers, it seems, may combine to regulate prices and it is called business, but when the poor laborers combine it is called conspiracy. When big corporations, formed by swallowing up all the little ones, control the market and crush labor it is a conspiracy and outraging the spirit of the law. Against these trusts the skilled laborer has no chance, and he must work or starve at the dictation of capital. I see no difference in right between a vast trust regulating wages and a number of little concerns lowering wages, except that the former may call themselves a copartnership concern."

As he understood the Homestead tragedy it was a conspiracy to reduce the wages of labor. Whether it is combined capital or combined labor that destroys business and industry it is equally guilty. When these capitalists and laborers trample under foot the Golden Rule the whole decalogue goes with it.

"The first great blunder at Homestead was the recourse to force by both parties. The next great blunder was the failure of the officers of the law to enforce the law. If this had been done there would be no disorder and no bloodshed. The third great blunder was the employment of the un-American system of private soldiery to enforce the law. Had the militia of Pennsylvania been called out instead of private and self-constituted soldiers and detectives I cannot think that they would not be loyally obeyed. To bring hirelings from other States, professional protectors of law, was to invite disorder and lead to murder.

"But labor has gained no victory by its deeds at Homestead and has won no laurels for its brow by bloodshed. For once it forgot the spirit of humanity and the ending was crime. These strikes are bringing into contempt the laws of God and man and making our young men believe that the individual or the mob is superior to the law and its officers and to States and Constitutions. Another evil effect of the Homestead strike is that it is arousing incendiary journalism and partisan bitterness for party profit. To try and make any political party or candidate responsible for it, even though there is a Presidential campaign in sight, is immoral and dangerous journalism when it is plain that capitalists and laborers alone are to blame.

"More of the Golden Rule is wanted in politics and in journalism. The Christ spirit would never have taught the poor man to seize the property of others and the Christ spirit would never prompt the capitalist to grind the laborer by lowering his wages."