

their position they cannot, or dare not, attempt putting down competition in this way. Their position is that of the responsible few, while that occupied by the operative classes is the position of the comparatively irresponsible many; and, from the little stake which the latter possess in the property of the country individually, and from their conscious power in the mass, they are ever under the temptation of overstretching their proper liberties of combining to carry out their own intentions, into a wild licence, which demands that their neighbours and fellows shall not, either singly or in parties, exercise the liberty of carrying out theirs. There have been several glaring instances of this species of tyranny during even the present strikes; but one instance may serve as a specimen of the class. We quote from the Stockport correspondent of a London paper:—

“ At a large mill not three miles from this, where upwards of a thousand hands are engaged, one of the weavers did not choose to subscribe to the weekly delegate’s tax towards the unfortunate Preston strike. In consequence, one evening this week, when the mill stopped, he was watched in passing through the large gates into the road, was immediately knocked down and blindfolded, his arms pinioned, and his legs tied fast together, and, thus disabled, was carried through the population of the place, mobbed by hundreds upon hundreds, shouting, yelling, and execrating, not a soul daring to interfere, as any resistance to these proceedings would probably have cost the poor fellow his life. I know the man well, as an honest, sober, hard-working operative, and feel grieved that he should be thus persecuted. You may say, Why do not the masters protect such men, and put down such tyranny? Simply because *they dare not*; such interference being sure to be followed by a general turn-out, and, very likely, by destruction of property by fire or otherwise. These are sad realities; and I cannot but conclude that the above outrage has been a natural sequence to the visit of one of the Preston delegates to the heads of that very mill during last week. My own life would not be safe, were it known that I had told this circumstance to one connected with what the delegates call the ‘vile hireling press.’”

It is one of the grand disadvantages of these strikes, that their management and direction are almost always thrown into the hands of a class of men widely different in character