

from the country's more solid and respectable mechanics. We had to record in one brief paragraph, a few numbers since, the flight of two delegates of the Preston movement,—the one with twenty-five pounds of the defence-fund in his possession,—the other with one hundred and sixty. And such are too generally the sort of men that force themselves into prominence in these movements. Inferior often as workmen, low in the moral sense, fluent as talkers, but very unwise as counsellors, they rarely fail to land in ruin the men who, smit by their stump oratory, make choice of them as their directors and guides. Too little wise to see that the most formidable opponent which any party can arouse is the moral sense of a community, violence and coercion form invariably the clumsy expedients of their policy. And so, for the success which a well-timed strike, founded on just principles, would be almost always certain to secure, they succeed in but achieving from their unfortunate constituencies discomfiture either immediate or ultimate. It is really the least mischievous of these strike-leaders that, like the Preston delegates, run away with the funds. We find in strikes, as they ordinarily occur, the disastrous working of exactly the same principle which has rendered the revolutions of the Continent such unhappy abortions. Who can doubt that the revolutions, like some of the strikes, had their basis of real grievances? But their leaders lacked sense and virtue; their wild licence became more intolerable than the torpid despotism which it had supplanted; and in the re-action that ensued, the sober citizen, the quiet mechanic, the industrious tiller of the soil, all the representatives of very influential classes, found it better, on the whole, again to submit themselves to the old tyranny, than to prostrate themselves before the new.—*January 21, 1854.*