

Last week, learning that a meeting was to be held among the weavers of the large manufacturing village of Gala-shiels, for the purpose of outting a man's web from his loom, I apprehended the ringleaders and disconcerted the whole project; but in the course of my inquiries, imagine my surprise at discovering a bundle of letters and printed manifestoes, from which it appeared that the Manchester Weavers' Committee corresponds with every manufacturing town in the south and west of Scotland, and levies a subsidy of 2s. 6d. per man — (an immense sum) — for the ostensible purpose of petitioning Parliament for redress of grievances, but doubtless to sustain them in their revolutionary movements. An energetic administration, which had the confidence of the country, would soon check all this; but it is our misfortune to lose the pilot when the ship is on the breakers. But it is sickening to think of our situation.

I can hardly think there could have been any serious intention of taking the hint of the Review, and yet *liberty* has so often been made the pretext of crushing its own best supporters, that I am always prepared to expect the most tyrannical proceedings from professed demagogues.

I am uncertain whether the Chamberlain will be liable to removal — if not, I should hope you may be pretty sure of your object. Believe me ever yours faithfully,

WALTER SCOTT.

4th June. — What a different birthday from those I have seen! It is likely I shall go to Rokeby for a few days this summer; and if so, I will certainly diverge to spend a day at Keswick.

Mr. Sonthey's application was unsuccessful — the office he wished for having been bestowed, as soon as it fell vacant, on a person certainly of vastly inferior literary pretensions — the late Rev. J. S. Clarke, D. D., private librarian to the Regent.

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