

pinafors covering them from neck to heels. Each brought the "piece" he had woven in his cottage during the week, and received the yarn necessary for the next week's labour. But every man's yarn was to weigh, and every man's work to measure; and this was not done without frequent disputes, and oftentimes very hard words. On Saturday nights lately, when Jonathan thought over his day's work and worry, and contrasted it with the method and gain of the new system of mills and machinery, he was more and more impatient of his poverty, and more and more anxious to rid himself of the personal annoyances of hand-labour; of its small gains and its large demands on the sympathies and temper.

As yet, however, he had said nothing to any one; for the Yeavons of Yeadon had found bread for nearly two hundred families for many a generation; and perhaps the most prominent of all Jonathan's feelings was an intense love of popular favour. He wished all men to speak well of him. For this sole reason he had, four years ago refused the offer of the rich Timothy Thoresby to find capital for a fine mill and machinery if Yeadon of Yeadon would run it. But at that time trade was good, and he was making sufficient to satisfy him.

But it was different when he barely made expenses, when he began to lose, when it cost him to go around the country-side and collect the yarn spun by the cottage-women on the old one-thread wheel more than double what it cost the mill-owners to spin it with their new jennies on their own premises. He was no longer finding work for his hands, he was feeding them out of his estate.

This Saturday, many things conspired to provoke him; webs rather shorter than usual, and the men insisted that the fault was in the yarn. Jonathan came home much fretted; and when he found Ben still absent he was seriously annoyed.

If it had not been so near the Sabbath he would have saddled his nag and would have ridden over to Leeds, to see what kept the lad; but he was a conscientious man, and he could not make himself believe that his duty toward Ben was greater than his duty toward the Sabbath, toward the men and women whom he was to lead in class, toward the Sunday-school which he ought to superintend, and the important duties of the love-feast and the communion that would follow.

However, to-night he opened his mind to Mark, and told him that he knew that Ben was dissatisfied, and he was afraid he had found company none too good for him. He had made a friend of an old soldier that now attended Ackroyd's horses, and had become excited with the idea of seeing strange countries, making a great fortune, and restoring the glory and prosperity of Yeadon Hall.