

Scarcely had he shut the door, when a human form crawled from among the plants and herbs that grew beside the lake, and wearily dragged itself, like a wounded snake, up the burning sandy hill. This man appeared to be attracted by some strong power, to reach the Atalaya, even though his life-blood were spent in the effort.

At length he gained the ravine, and crossing it, ventured to the door to listen, but no sound reached his ear. Then he looked despairingly on the thick walls, but perceiving at length the palm tree that rose before the only window that was not blocked up, he clambered to the top, though with much pain and suffering, and, hidden amid its branches, was enabled, unperceived, to witness all that passed in that miserable chamber.

This spy was the leper, Esau Manasses. He had taken refuge with Aixa in a ruined shepherd's hut, on the borders of the Huerta, where his companion, stung by rage, shame, and envy, had not ceased to stimulate his hatred and revenge against Rachel.

Esau had watched the house of the Late Comer for hours, in hopes to catch a glimpse of the poor girl, but at length he discovered that she had been removed to some secure retreat, and he then dogged the steps of Burdett, but in vain, for the latter did not go out of Seville.

At last his perseverance was rewarded; for that afternoon, as he was watching at the Carmena Gate, he saw a horseman pass, whom he quickly recognised as the former captain of freebooters. Esau sprang on his track, certain that Burdett could have no other errand in that sad solitude than to visit Rachel. Thus was Esau guided to her prison.

From the top of his palm tree he perceived her wretched room, the walls of which were black, damp, and bare. A bed of dry leaves heaped in a corner, two rickety stools, and a cracked cedar table, composed the furniture.

Rachel sat on the bed, her eyes filled with tears, a deadly pallor overspread her countenance; her lips, that formerly vied with the carnation, now cold and colorless as wax; her whole appearance so forlorn, so languid, so motionless, that Esau's heart sank as he recognised her.

Burdett had just entered, but Rachel did not move; he spoke to her, but she did not answer.

Alarmed at her silence, he approached and took her hand, saying, "Are you not glad to see me again, madam?"

She raised her eyes and said feebly, "When you slant me up here, sir, did you not assure me that I should see you no more? Are you afraid that I shall be too long dying?"

"No, Rachel," he replied, "I see by your pallid looks that the marshy vapours already begin to curdle your blood, and I commiserate you, madam. There is yet time for escape; why have you so obstinately refused to acknowledge before the Black Prince that you were shut up with Don Pedro in the Morabethin?"

"Because my confession would have endangered his crown," she answered, "and I value my life as nothing to his interest."

"You then acknowledge your offence!" exclaimed the Late Comer, transporting with rage.

"Yes; why should I not acknowledge it before you, sir? It is the remembrance of that hour of joy which gives me the courage to die. The king urged me to quit you, to seek in his Alcazar an asylum against your insults and cruelty; but, though I love him as much as I deserve you, I banished my love to the bottom of my heart, so that I might remain faithful not to you, sir, but to my duty and my vows. Therefore, do your worst, I am resigned to die."

"I can easily conceive that you are willing to die, since you are for ever separated from him you love," said Burdett. "But when I have avenged myself on you, madam, it will be his turn, for even now he has just disgraced me; not because I allowed Don Enrique to flee, not because Edward of Wales liberated Duguesclin, but because I would not make a traffic of my honors, as he doubtless expected."

"Duguesclin free?" murmured Rachel, shuddering, apparently more moved at this news than at all his threats concerning herself. "Oh, may Heaven preserve the throne from so formidable an enemy!"

This proof of her devoted passion rendered Burdett furious, and with threats and curses he turned away, as if about to quit her, hoping that fear would induce her to recall him; but she remained calm and silent, and apparently forgetful of his presence.

Esau meantime had lost not a word or look of the passing scene. The mist with which Aixa had blinded his senses, cleared away; he saw that Rachel had never changed, and the rage with which he had sought her was turned into adoration.

Burdett, however, had not lost sight of his purpose in visiting Rachel; returning, therefore, slowly towards her, he endeavored to awaken her interest by depicting the splendid and happy lot she might enjoy if she were free.

"Why do you come to torment me with the image of happiness that is for ever denied me?" said she, sadly. "Yes, such a life would have been delightful."

"That dream of love may yet become a reality," said the Late Comer, coolly.

"I do not understand you, sir," said Rachel amazed.

"You will understand me when I tell you

Rachel, that the obstacles which separate you from Don Pedro may be removed without sin," he replied, "I will make a proposal to you; if you refuse it, you shall stay here and die."

Involuntarily agitated by a vague hope, Rachel, with a painful effort, raised her head, and fixed an astonished look on her tormentor.

"You can assist me to gain a much larger fortune than that of which your royal lover has deprived me. On this condition, I will restore you to life and liberty, and I will have our marriage cancelled by the Holy Father."

"Shall I see Don Pedro again?" cried she, feebly; "but, alas, sir, it is too late! I have counted the long hours during which I have inhaled the deadly vapors of the Huerta."

"Oh, woe to thee, Aixa!" exclaimed Esau; "woe to thee who hast deceived me!"

"Who knows," said Burdett to Rachel, "your youth may overcome the effects of this poisonous air."

"But what is the proposal you speak of? some shameful proposition, doubtless, which conceals a snare," she asked.

"No," he replied; "you know that your father holds the famous golden table as a pledge for my ransom, which he advanced for me from the Alcazar."

"The golden table you stole from Don Pedro," said Rachel, "I remember it well, sir."

"I gained it in open warfare," retorted he quickly. "Well, I now want to redeem that royal treasure, and if Samuel will return it to me, I will restore his daughter to him in exchange."

(To be continued.)

ASSOCIATED CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF SCOTLAND.

The eleventh annual report of the Associated Carpenters and Joiners of Scotland, for the year ending Oct. 31st, 1872, has just been issued. From the remarks of the General Secretary prefixed to the report, we take the following:—

The past year has been very remarkable for the great number of movements made by workmen. While in a great many cases the question of wages was involved in some of the strikes, still it is very satisfactory to notice that in almost all cases shorter hours were the main grounds of dispute between employers and employed. While some employers could not see the propriety of conceding shorter hours or higher wages to their workmen without resorting to disputes, there were many who, with a good grace, granted that which those who refused had ultimately to grant. During the past year our trade societies have been assisted in trade movements by what may be called an exceptional good state of trade, which has induced many trades to move that have lain dormant for years. While admitting this favorable circumstance, comparison is courted between the progress made by trades with a good society and those having none at all, or one of no great consequence. Turning to our own trade, we have not been idle; and while our strikes during the year have been trifling, our progress has been marked. While we had not the great movements some trades had, there is an amount of satisfaction in the thought that they were only moving on to the vantage ground so long held by the building trades, and which the building trades were so desirous to see occupied by their brethren of other trades, that they might then direct their attention to an eight hours day. In many of our branches of labor the hours have been reduced from fifty-six to fifty-one per week, while in almost all the branches an advance of wages has been obtained.

There is, however, a great and unaccountable difference in the rates of wages paid in different towns in Scotland. A joiner in Wick works fifty-seven hours for 15s, while one in Dunoon gets 33s 3d for the same hours. The difference cannot be attributed to the higher cost of living in Dunoon as compared with Wick. Allowing that a portion of the difference arises in the way, the only explanation that can be given for the remainder is, that the one place has been under the influence of our association for years, while the other has only become connected with it during the past year. The members will soon have to consider the propriety of securing the amendment of some of the worst and most obnoxious of the clauses of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. It has been said that this Act refers to all persons, and not particularly to trade unionists. While admitting this much, it may be answered that it is of no moment, although it does not specify that trades unionists are the special objects of its penalties. Its aims are trades unionists and their punishment, and the penalties have, in numerous cases, been awarded in court, although in nearly all cases the decision of the inferior courts have been reversed by the superior court. It is a hardship and injustice that men should have to fight through such an expensive course of defence in two courts, because the interpretation of an unjust and class law is not understood by those who have the duty of prosecuting assigned to them. The receipts for the year amount to £5,087 5s. 4d, being nearly £900 in excess of those of last year. There has been paid £1,282 19s 4d as sick allowance, £300 as funeral allowance, £266 0s 3d as tools' compensation, £61 14s 6d as strike allowance, £2 12s as victimized allowance, and £350 as bonuses to seven disabled members. There is a balance placed to the credit of the associa-

tion of £883 7s 2½d, which increases our reserve fund to £7,133 3s 11½d. Of this sum £6,552 17s 1½d belongs to the trade section, and £580 6s 10d to the sick section. There is a balance of £199 6s 6d placed to the credit of the sick section for the year, but this in a great measure may be attributed to the increase of members. There is an increase of 1,108 clear members during the year, also an increase of twenty-five branches. This result is doubtless in a great measure due to the efforts of the delegates, or mission, ordered by the branches last spring.

The gross receipts in the trade section amounted to £2,706 6s 1½d; sick and funeral section, £2,024 8s 3d; common to both sections, £894 1s 0½d; loss by common, £90 16s—total receipts, £5,714 11s 5d. The gross payments in the trade section were £379 0s 2d; sick and funeral section, £1,020 5s 4d; common to both sections, £1,084 17s 0½c; balance, trade section, £2,326 5s 11½d; do., sick and funeral section, £404 2s 11d; total payments, £5,714 11s 5d.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT AN IRON-WORKS.

An extraordinary accident took place recently at the Bolton Iron and Steel Works, shortly after six o'clock, involving loss of life and immense damage to property. The accident occurred to that portion of the works devoted to the manufacture of rails, where some twenty persons are employed day and night, the night hands commencing at six o'clock. The engine tender for the night was Joseph Foster, a youth nineteen years of age. After the engine was started, it is said, the strap came off the governing shaft, which caused the engine to run at a greatly accelerated speed, and the consequence was that the fly-wheel, twenty-six feet in diameter, and weighing sixty tons, flew asunder with a loud report, and the segments, eight in number, were projected, with destructive effects, into the works. One fragment was hurled through the roof a distance of about sixty yards, and fell upon the end of a waggon on the London and North-Western Railway, completely destroying the waggon, and embedding itself three feet in the earth. Another arm of the wheel knocked down a couple of stacks of chimneys, after which it fell on the railway, a distance of forty yards. The other segments were projected against the iron principals supporting the roof, bringing down the roof for some forty yards in length and thirty feet in width. Others fell on the engine-house, which was entirely destroyed, and it is feared that Joseph Foster, the engine tender, is killed, as he is missed, and his body has not been recovered. The boilers, rolling mills, and other machinery were also greatly damaged by the fall of the roof. Some five hundred men are employed at the works, and with the exception of about a dozen employed in the rolling-mill department, they escaped uninjured. Of the rolling-men John Mully, John Robinson, Jackson, Hayes, Ellis, Clarke, Michael Brown and son, and Patrick Walsh are the most severely injured, and they were conveyed to the infirmary, the two latter having sustained spinal injuries. The concussion, as well as the rush caused by the breaking of the pipe supplying the engine, was heard a distance of 400 yards. The damage is estimated to be several thousand pounds.

THE IMPRISONED GAS STOKERS.

The Committee acting in aid of the imprisoned gas stokers held a special meeting on Tuesday, at Bolt court, Fleet street, for the purpose of considering the reply of Mr. Bruce to the request that he would receive a deputation from the Committee. Mr. George Potter occupied the chair. Mr. Broadhurst, secretary, read a large number of letters from all parts of the country, promising moral and pecuniary support to the objects of the Committee. Subscriptions to the amount of £20 had been received on Monday. The wives of the imprisoned men with families were placed at an allowance of 15s per week, and those without families 10s per week.

The Chairman said the immediate object of the meeting was to hear the letter read which had been received from the Home Office on Monday morning, and to decide upon the best course to be pursued in the interest of the men and their families. He then read the letter, which was as follows:—

"WHITEHALL, Jan. 4, 1873.
"SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bruce to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., requesting him to receive a deputation on behalf of the imprisoned gas-stokers. In reply, I am to acquaint you, with regard to the question of the mitigation of the sentence passed on the gas-stokers by Mr. Justice Brett, that it is Mr. Bruce's invariable practice to decline to receive deputations for the purpose of inducing him to alter sentences imposed in the course of law. If, however, a memorial setting forth grounds for mitigating the sentence on the gas-stokers were sent to Mr. Bruce, it would receive his most careful consideration.

"Mr. Bruce must also decline to receive a deputation for the purpose of having his attention called to the following questions contained in your letter:—

"Is it the opinion of the Government that Mr. Justice Brett's summing up is a correct exposition of the common law of conspiracy?"

"What was the intention of the Government in inserting the clauses and provisions respecting conspiracy contained in the Trades

Union Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act?"

"The Secretary of State is not a court of appeal from the decisions of Her Majesty's Judges on questions of law, and has no authority to overrule them. The Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved is the proper tribunal to decide such questions, and if the correctness of the law laid down by the Judge at the trial has been doubted, it was open to the counsel engaged to ask to have a case reserved for the opinion of that Court; but such a course was not adopted by them. The Secretary of State must, therefore, decline to have any such questions raised before him, or to give any opinion upon it.

"Mr. Bruce must also decline to receive a deputation for the purpose of discussing the intentions of the Government in having passed an Act, or part of an Act of Parliament. The Government is responsible to Parliament, and Parliament having sanctioned the Act in question, it is in Parliament alone that Mr. Bruce would be prepared to answer any questions as to the ground upon which the Government considers it advisable that any part of such Act should be retained or repealed.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Mr. G. Potter." "A. F. O. LIDDELL.

Considerable discussion followed the reading of the letter. Mr. Robertson moved—"That the memorial, as drafted by the sub-Committee, be at once forwarded to the Home Secretary." Mr. E. Jenkins seconded the resolution, which was agreed to with two dissentients. Upon the motion of the Rev. Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Face, it was resolved to remit the legal question to the forthcoming Trades' Congress.

The Secretary then read the memorial. After recapitulating the facts connected with the trial of the prisoners at the Central Criminal Court, it complains of the refusal of the Judge to allow a postponement of the trial in order that the counsel, hastily engaged for the defence, might have a reasonable time to look into all the facts connected with the case; and it further complains of the Judge having ignored the recommendation to mercy made by the jury. The memorial then points out that the men were not cross-charged with having committed any act of violence against person or property, and goes on to say: "That even if the law as laid down by Mr. Justice Brett, was sound, and the charges against the men were proven, yet the sentence was excessive, and altogether disproportioned to the offence with which they were charged." The memorial concludes as follows:—

"We pray, therefore, that the Government will advise Her Majesty either to grant a free pardon to those men, or a remission of the heavy sentence as inflicted by the Judge, who, totally disregarding their previous good character and the unanimous recommendation to mercy by the jury who tried them, and who found them guilty on one count only of the heavy indictment under which they were prosecuted, nevertheless stretched the law to the utmost for the purpose of inflicting a most severe punishment on those hapless men."

The memorial, as read, was unanimously approved.

STRIKES AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the present-time, when the cry is being frequently raised that we must, for the public safety, restrict the liberty of workmen in the matter of strikes, it is perhaps not wholly unnecessary that we should look at the argument upon which this proposal is based. Those who argue that because public and private interests are made to suffer by the policy of the strike this policy should be rendered next to impossible of adoption by repressive legislation, forget the essential conditions upon which the labor of the workman is obtained. They say that in regard to public companies who obtain special privileges or monopolies, such companies are bound by severe penalties to constant and regular accommodation of the public. That railway companies, for example, are bound to run a certain number of trains at certain definite rates, under such penalties as are sufficient to compel compliance, and that since they are so bound it is no more than bare justice that the servants of such companies should be similarly held liable to give constant service. Such parties argue that since the companies are bound to the service of the public, in this it is forgotten that public servants ought to be to that of the whatever privileges the companies may have received under their various Acts of Parliament, the servants of such companies have received none. While the railway shareholders have been allowed to monopolize the traffic of a district to their own profit, their servants have received no other privilege than that of being engaged to work at the lowest possible rate of wages. To propose, therefore, that the servants of public companies should be held in leash by Act of Parliament, in the same way the companies themselves are, is to propose what must turn out a piece of gross injustice. Before the workmen of any public company can be justly bound to the service of their many masters, their interests must have been secured in a like manner. It may be true that the public interest is made

to suffer, and that many private persons experience loss of goods, time, and money by the sudden cessation of labor in a whole department; but the public ought to remember that the interests—the goods, time, and money—of the necessary workers was wholly neglected in framing the bill by which the company had a being; and that therefore it is too much to expect—on the part of the servant—unlimited devotion to the interests of those who have never considered his own. Of course it will be said that the workman incurred no responsibility, and therefore stands on a footing entirely distinct from that of the shareholder who sunk his capital in the undertaking. This is a perfectly correct view of the actual difference between a shareholder and a servant in any of the public companies; and we desire no more than to see this view and its consequences frankly applied to the question at issue. If the workman under a public company has no other advantages than those to be had with a private firm, it is not to be expected he will submit to more disabling conditions in the one case than in the other. He will retain his rights in the one case with as firm a grasp as in the other—he will not accept lower wages nor longer periods of work or warning—if he can help it. If the wages are no greater, the work day must not be longer. If the guarantee of employment be no more secure, the hold on the servant will not, and cannot be either more lasting or firm. If the servants of public companies are to be tied to the service of their employers by Act of Parliament, it can only be by offering—in the shape of unchallengeable guarantees, more money or less work—such inducements as will draw and keep together, without the necessity of trade societies, a sufficiently numerous and capable body of workers. It is too late now to speak of individual class legislation such as this. Public opinion will not tolerate such a proposal; and we hope that working men will be watchful and resolute enough to prevent, in the event of such a measure being introduced, its passage into a temporary law.—Reformer.

THE "TIMES" ON UNION.

We intended last week if time had permitted, to call the attention of working men generally to a leading article which appeared on the 15th in the Times, on the strike in South Wales. We have no desire to refute any statement made by the writer, though there is much of what it is his object to prove, more than open to question. What he seeks to establish we shall, at the present pass over to point out and remark on certain of the facts he has introduced to assist in the proof of his case, as it is to these more especially we intend to direct the attention of our readers.

He first alludes to the magnitude of the strike, and remarks that of the large number of people interested to it, only a small proportion are desirous that it should go on. Of the 50,000 ironworkers we are assured that only 5 per cent. of them are in union. So far as these are concerned the fight would soon be at an end, according to the Times. "If men strike without a Union at their back," the writer remarks, "how are they to find the means to live through the struggle?" This question is put very seriously, and this is a question which every man in England who lives by his labor should at once put to himself. Those who have always been the consistent enemies of trades associations, and no doubt very conscientiously so, ask this question now, knowing that it only admits of one answer, and that answer the Times very frankly furnishes. "The miners," it says, "will at once resolve a weekly allowance, and the 5 per cent. of ironworkers who belong to the Union will obtain similar assistance. But what is to become of the vast majority?" It is for this reason that the writer pronounces the 10,000 colliers in Union to be the powers which the employers have to dread. "The Colliers' Union," the writer observes, "therefore, is master of the position, and on these we say can only depend the issue of this struggle."

We repeat that we do not desire to refute the statements of the Times. In this matter it is as correct as in most matters connected with the movements of trades societies—it is wrong. Such an admission as this made unconsciously in the interest of Unionism is invaluable. It is a voucher for the strength given by Union to working men. It is the plainest possible admission, that in Union they are masters of the situation. With a disunited crowd of workers, even counted by hundreds of thousands, the employers could act as they thought proper. They could take from them any portion of their wages for the purpose of swelling their own profits; but, in the present attempt, luckily, out of the 70,000 workers 10,000 were in Union. They had submitted to discipline, appointed leaders in whom they could trust, and laid up provisions to sustain themselves when the day of trial came. And these ten thousand, standing firmly with their faces to the foe, hold the enemy in check, and fight with resolution and hope, because they know they have a common interest, and can depend on each other with the confidence of brothers.—See Hive.