

out the vagaries of an irresponsible multitude—that such things have come to pass should indeed make every thoughtful man ask whither are we drifting?

It matters little how high or how low is the qualification of the voter, or what the form of government is, if such an irresponsible body as a combination of trades unions can at any time by the threat of paralyzing the industries of the country, which practically means starvation of poor and rich alike, compel the authorities, whoever they may be, to grant any demand which, in the opinion of the trades unions, may seem likely to serve their interests. For a long time trade unions were content to devote themselves to questions of economy, and to a great extent the sympathy of the public was with them. But now the Socialistic element, which has been struggling for a long time to gain the supremacy in the unions, has been gaining ground, and, as in the case in Belgium, has succeeded in bringing the powers of the unions to carry out their own projects, social and political. That they will be satisfied with the success they have so easily gained is not to be expected. Appetite grows with what it feeds upon, and it will not be long before the next victim will have a warning to prepare for demolition. What has been done in Belgium may be done, or at least attempted, elsewhere, so let not those who are concerned—and who are not?—be surprised if they find themselves the object of similar attacks.

The Belgic constitution thus rudely assailed is of a peculiar character, having no counterpart in any of those which have sprung from the parent British ideas. It is based upon the common sense principle that while all should have a voice who are capable of expressing it, those should rule who are capable of ruling, and who must, of course, prove their capacity by their actions. We copy from the *Times* a brief account of this remarkable franchise:—

“Under the constitution of 1831 it was confined to taxpayers, but in 1893-4, after a threatened general strike, it was extended to all males twenty-five years of age resident for one year in the same constituency. With this extension, however,