

North and South

Episode 2

Love & Strike



Main themes episode 2

- The strike : masters and servants
- Fears and hunger
- The recruitment of the Irish
- The Union methods
- Being respectable
- Rejection



The Union methods



- Most strikes are undertaken by labor unions during **collective bargaining** .
- The object of collective bargaining is to obtain a contract (an agreement between the union and the company) .
- To make a strike successful, unions helped strikers prolong the protest as much as possible even granting some money to those in need(Boucher).

The strike : masters and servants

- The strike must be seen from the two opposite points of view and needs:
 1. **Workers:** claim a rise in wages as there has not been one in 5 years and prices have increased in time.
 2. **Masters:** claim there has not been actual profit for them, as the price of raw materials (cotton) has increased.



Fears and hunger



- A strike might have serious consequences on both contenders:
 1. **Workers:** long strikes meant shortage of food and starvation. Risk of losing the job.
 2. **Masters:** stopping the production chain meant allowing other manufacturers or foreign countries to take control of the market.

The recruitment of the Irish

- In order to avoid bankrupt, Milton manufacturers decide to hire Irish workers,

WHY?

The story is set around 1850 and Ireland had been stricken by a devastating famine which had brought to death at least 2 million people, while more than one million had emigrated to the States.



Being respectable

- Mr Thorton says he feels «*bound in honour*» to propose to Margaret, but....

WHY?

- Feeling guilty for having exposed Thorton to the rage of the strikers, she rushes in his defence and accidentally hugs him in order to shield him.
- Such behaviour was not considered respectable for a woman of those times.



Rejection

- Thorton proposes , but he is rejected as he, actually, already knew : « *she would never have me*».
- In this scene another famous rejected proposal echoes: Darcy's in *Pride and Prejudice*.
- In both cases, prejudice (social, cultural..) is the greatest barrier to the desirable outcome.





▶ Next Episode



Sorrow and Hope

