

North and South

Episode 1



Main themes episode one

- The railway system
- The South
- The North
- The Mill
- A matter of conscience
- The school system
- The Unions
- Mr Thorton is not a gentleman!



The Railway system

- The first (and the last) shots of this series focus on the railway, which symbolically connects the North to the South, thus narrowing distances of any kind.
- **The first** purpose built passenger **railway**, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, was **authorised by Act of Parliament in 1826**.
- The South Eastern Railway Act was passed just ten years later.



- The road transport could not compete with railways. Taking as example a journey from Manchester to Liverpool:
1. **By road**, the journey took four hours and cost 10 shillings inside the coach and 5 shillings outside.
 2. **By train**, the same journey took one and three-quarter hours, and cost 5 shillings inside and 3 shillings 6 pence outside.
 3. **By canal** 20 hours .





- Between 1826 and 1836, 378 miles of track had opened.
- By 1844, 2210 miles of line had been opened, making travel around the country:
 1. faster,
 2. more comfortable
 3. less expensive.
- As railways allowed people to travel further, more quickly, this allowed:
 1. leisure travel,
 2. the growth of seaside resorts.
 3. people to live further from their places of work (commuting)
 4. the growth of cities, by allowing the cheap transport of food, as well as bricks, slate and other building materials.
- They also gave a great stimulus to industry by reducing
 1. the freight costs of heavy materials such as coal and minerals,
 2. costs of transporting finished goods around the country.





The South



- The South is represented as an idyllic heaven-like place. In the movie this is emphasized by the brilliant colours and slightly blurred dream-like images of Helstone.
- The South is mostly aristocratic and people are represented as:
 1. Educated
 2. Tasteful
 3. Good-mannered
 4. Polite



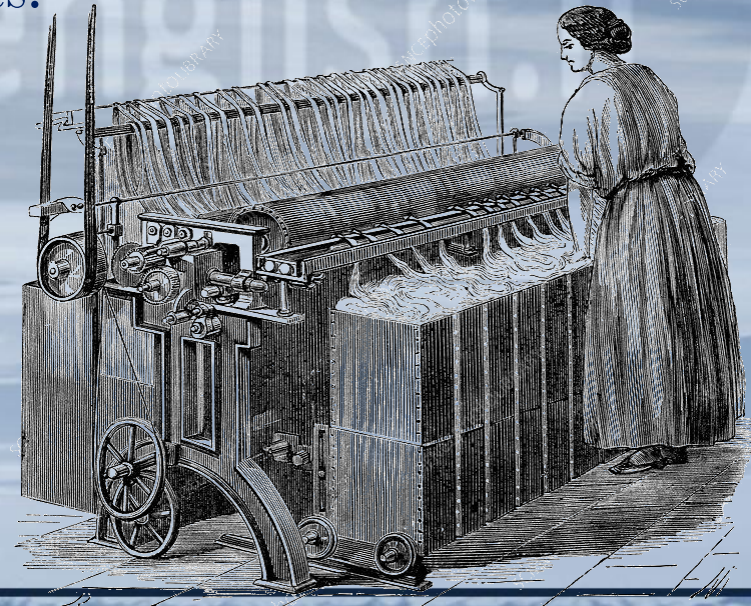
The North

- As soon as the Hales arrive at Milton station , there is a change of scenario.
- The brilliant colours of the South turn into a suffocating gray. There is no sun and the air is filthy.
- For a Southern girl Milton is just like hell as it is perceived as:
 1. Harsh
 2. Injust
 3. Dirty
 4. Tasteless
 5. Crowded
 6. Soulless



The Mills

- (textile) Mills had:
 1. poor building structures,
 2. dangerous machinery,
 3. crowded boarding houses.
- Despite few Acts had already passed to reorganize labour:
 1. Accidents were frequent,
 2. Women and children worked long shifts.
- Employees usually worked:
 1. with no ventilation,
 2. breathing in toxic substances,
 3. inhaling fiber dust or blasted sand.



- Mill workers could more frequently develop asbestos-related diseases:

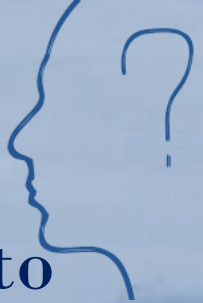
1. mesothelioma,
2. lung cancer,
3. ovarian cancer and asbestosis

HENCE

Accidents, fires, injuries, and disease were very frequent occurrences on textile production sites.



A Matter of conscience



- Mr. Hale's crisis of faith serves as a catalyst to move the family to the industrialized town of Milton-Northern.
- Nicholas Higgins is portrayed as the lead character in this theme of religious doubt, taking Mr. Hale's doubt to a deeper level.
- In such reality of life's hardships is there room for religion still?
- However his decision is a statement about the change taking place in England and of the novel's characters who are a living part of that change.



The school system



- Study was **for around 50 days less**, with lessons commonly starting at 9 a.m. and finishing in the afternoon.
- This type of arrangement was needed because students may have had to work .
- During the late 18th century, Sunday schools held at church or chapel became widely popular, receiving much charitable backing from the middle classes.
- They provided children from poor families with another opportunity to receive some basic learning, usually the ability to read.

Trade Unions



- During the 1830s labour unrest and trade union activity reached new levels.
- For the first time men began to organise trade associations with nationwide aims, such as **Robert Owen's** short-lived Grand National Consolidated Trades Union, formed in February 1834.
- Factory owners tried to prevent unions from forming:
 1. paying off union leaders so they would stay away.
 2. hiring workers who promised they would not join a union.
 3. using force to end union activities

The first such union was **the General Union of Trades**, also known as the Philanthropic Society, founded in 1818 in Manchester. The latter name was to hide the organization's real purpose in a time when trade unions were still illegal.

Unions were **legalised** in 1871 with the adoption of the Trade Union Act 1871.



Mr Thornton is not a gentleman

- According a prejudiced Margaret, Mr Thornton is not a gentleman as:
 1. he is violent (at least the first time she met him, he seems so),
 2. he had exposed his turbulent past to Margaret and her mother, which should have been kept secret.
 3. he must work to live (detail of his dirty nails)
 4. Unrefined.
 5. Uneducated.



▶ Next Episode



Love and strike

