

WEEK OF MAY 10, 1855

# THE MILTON STAR

NORTH ENGLAND'S JUICIEST SCANDALS, DISHED OUT WEEKLY

**"THEY FOUND LOVE IN A HOPELESS PLACE:"  
EXCLUSIVE INSIDER  
SCOOP ON JOHN  
THORNTON'S MYSTERY  
LOVE AFFAIR**

That's right, ladies, get out the tissue boxes: wealthy Milton industrialist (read: area's most eligible bachelor with \*big\* bucks), John Thornton, seems to have found himself a leading lady.

During a wave of worker protests against Thornton's hiring of Irish hands, a beautiful young woman, cheeks reddened with the intense passion of a devoted lover, protectively threw her arms around Thornton in an act of sacrificial young love.

"Oh, do not use violence! He is but one man, and you are many," the woman cried out beforehand. The spark of secret love electrified the air, louder than any factory worker's cry.

Then, in a shocking turn of events, one protester in the crowd— perhaps an indignant factory worker, perhaps a jealous lover— threw a pebble towards the young woman, causing her to faint on Thornton's shoulder.

"You do well!" an angered Thornton growled at the crowd. "When a woman comes before you, to ask for your own sakes to be reasonable creatures, your cowardly wrath falls upon her! You do well!"

Clearly distressed at the predicament resulting from his young lover's sacrifice, Thornton quivered with rage and placed her gently on the door-step, her head leaning against the frame.



Further investigation revealed Thornton's romantic interest to be former parson's daughter Margaret Hale, a relatively unknown Milton newcomer with a questionable reputation.

"I reckon she's just another one o' those proud, haughty, highborn lasses," a close source confided in *The Milton Star*. "Nothing special."

Though the mutual passion between the two on the day of the protest was clearly palpable, some sources claim that the love is unrequited.

"I dare say, she'd give her eyes if he'd marry her, —which he never will, I can tell her," Thornton's sister, Fanny, reported.

Mrs. Thornton was reached out to for a statement but declined to comment.

One thing's for sure: Margaret Hale is one girl to keep your eyes out for in the weeks to come. We here at *The Milton Star* are keeping our eyes peeled and our mailboxes open for wedding invites.