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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1791.

[Whole No. 249.]

L O N D O N.
JULY 19.

TO put the public in possession of every fact relative to the late riots at Birmingham, we find ourselves under the necessity of giving them that inflammatory and treasonable hand-bill which was circulated by the Presbyterian party on Wednesday last, in the following words:

My Countrymen!
The second year of Gallic Liberty is nearly expired; at the commencement of the third, on the 14th of this month, it is devoutly to be wished that every enemy to civil and religious despotism, would give his sanction to the majestic common cause, by public celebration of the anniversary.

Remember, that on the 14th of July, the Bastille, that high altar and castle of despotism fell!

Remember the enthusiasm, peculiar to the cause of liberty, with which it was attacked!

Remember that generous humanity that taught the oppressed groaning under the weight of insulted rights, to save the lives of the oppressors!

Extinguish the mean prejudices of nations! and let your numbers be collected, and sent as a free-will offering to the National Assembly.

But, is it possible to forget that your parliament is venal; your minister hypocritical; your clergy legal oppressors; the reigning family extravagant; the crown of a great personage too weighty for the head that wears it; too weighty for the people who gave it; your taxes partial and oppressive; your representatives a venal junta upon the sacred rights of property, religion and freedom.

But on the 14th of this month prove to the sycophants of the day, that you reverence the Olive Branch; that you will sacrifice to public tranquillity till the majority shall exclaim—

The peace of slavery is worse than the War of Freedom!—of the day let Tyrants beware!

Can any man of honest principles—can any loyal subject—can even the boldest of our anti-ministerial senators read this without shuddering at the dreadful scene it was meant to realize?—REBELLION is featured on its countenance—and REPUBLICANISM centered in its bosom. He who wishes to defend his property—he who loved the Constitution under which that property flourished—must no doubt have taken the alarm at so daring a libel against all that was dear to Englishmen.

The public however was determined before they proceeded to violence, to have some further proof of the intention of those Commemoration-Men. This hand-bill might be a forgery—or might be an insidious scheme to raise a mob for the purpose of plunder;—they therefore waited till they heard what was said at table—how the political complexion of the company would manifest itself—and whether any thing more than a mere scene of commemoration conviviality was intended.

They had indeed their suspicions, and these suspicions, after the first course, were realized, by the following toast being drank:

“DESTRUCTION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT—AND THE KING’S HEAD UPON A CHARGER.”

The inhabitants, and they were almost to a man respectable house-keepers and manufacturers, who waited outside the Hotel to watch the motions of the revolutionists within, no sooner was this treasonable toast made known to them, than Loyalty swift as lightning shot through their minds, and a kind of electrical patriotism animated them to instant vengeance. They rushed into this conventicle of treason, and before the second course was well laid upon the table, broke the windows and glasses, pelted and insulted these modern reformers, and obliged them to seek for safety in an immediate flight.

By eight o’clock, upwards of two thousand persons were collected; their first act was to break all the windows of the hotel—they then proceeded to Dr. Priestley’s new meeting house, which they shortly consumed—the old meeting house became next the object of their fury, and shared the same fate. Irritated by one another against the Dissenters, they determined (una voce) to destroy Dr. Priestley’s dwelling-house at Fair-hill, one mile from Birmingham. It accordingly was beset about midnight, and before ten o’clock the following morning, was entirely de-

molished. We lament to hear his library and laboratory, with all his philosophical apparatus, were consumed, as well as every other article in the house. The Dr. was apprised of their intentions in time to escape with his family to a house in the neighborhood. On Friday morning nine persons were found dead in the streets, and several others have been dangerously wounded, by the falling of houses, &c. &c.

At York, Manchester, Derby, Bristol, and some other places where the Revolutionists assembled on the 14th inst. the populace shewed strong inclination to rise, but were prevented by the precautions taken by the magistrates.

RIOTS AT BIRMINGHAM.

Friday Evening, July 15.

This day, after the mob had completed the destruction of Dr. Priestley’s house and laboratory, by fire, and also his garden, the Earl of Aylesford, and some other gentlemen, led a great part of the rioters from Sparkbrook to Birmingham, in hopes of dispersing them, but without effect.

A great number, about one o’clock, assembled round the elegant mansion of Mr. John Ryland (formerly the residence of Mr. Baskerville, the celebrated printer) which had lately been enlarged and beautified at great expence. The most soothing means were adopted to make them desist—money was even offered them to induce them to retire, but to no purpose; for, first exhausting the contents of the cellar, they then set fire to the house and furniture. The conflagration was dreadful!

About half past three, the inhabitants were summoned by the bell-man to assemble in the New Church yard; two Magistrates attended in an adjacent room, and swore in several hundred constables, composed of every description of inhabitants, who marched away to disperse the rioters, who were employed in the destruction of Mr. Ryland’s house.

On entering the walls which surrounded the house, then all in a blaze, a most dreadful conflict took place, in which it is impossible to ascertain the number of the wounded. The constables were attacked with such a shower of stones and brick bats as it was impossible to resist. The rioters then possessing themselves of some of the bludgeons, the constables were entirely defeated, many of them being much wounded; one person was killed, but of which party it is not yet known.

The mob being now victorious, and heated with liquor, every thing was to be dreaded, they began and soon effected the destruction of Mr. Hutton’s house, in the High-street, plundering it of all its property.

From thence they proceeded to the seat of John Taylor, Esq. banker. There, five hundred pounds were offered them to desist, but to no purpose, for they immediately set fire to that beautiful mansion, which, together with its superb furniture, stables, offices, green-house, hot-house, &c. are reduced to a heap of ruins.

This day the following hand bill was circulated among the people:

BIRMINGHAM, JULY 16, 1791.

Friends and Fellow Countrymen!

It is earnestly requested, that every true friend to the Church of England, and to the Laws of his Country, will reflect how much a continuance of the present proceedings must injure that church and that king they are intended to support; and how highly unlawful it is to destroy the rights and properties of any of our neighbors. And all true friends to the town and trade of Birmingham in particular, are entreated to forbear immediately from all riotous and violent proceedings, dispersing and returning peaceably to their trades and callings, as the only way to do credit to themselves and their cause, and to promote the peace, happiness, and prosperity of this great and flourishing town.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Aylesford | J. Charles |
| E. Finch | R. Spencer |
| Robert Lawley | H. Geswold Lewis |
| Robert Lawley, jun. | Charles Curtis |
| R. Moland | Spencer Madan |
| Edward Carver | W. Villers. |
| John Brooke | |

Twelve o’clock at noon.

The hand-bill has not produced the salutary effects which were wished.

This moment Mr. Hutton’s country-house, about two miles from Birmingham, is on fire.

Eight o’clock in the Evening.

The rioters are now demolishing the beautiful house of Mr. George Humphrey’s, and that of William Ruffel, Esq. a little further on in the Oxford road. The shops are still kept shut up, and no military are yet arrived—dreadful depredations are expected in the course of this night! The remains of several poor wretches who had got drunk, and were burnt to death in Mr. Ryland’s cellar, have been dug out; one so much burnt, that he was recognized only by the buckle in one of his shoes; what could be collected of his remains have been just taken away in a basket. Another has been brought from the ruins of Dr. Priestley’s house, who is supposed to have been killed by a fall of some of the buildings.

The people who demolished Mr. Humphrey’s house, laboured in as cool and orderly a manner as if they had been employed by the owner at so much per day.

Sunday, eleven o’clock in the morning.

No military yet arrived. Last night the people of Birmingham were trembling spectators of the tremendous conflagration of Mosley Hall, the property of John Faylor, Esq. but in the occupation of Lady Carhampton.

About two this morning a most awful scene presented itself! four dreadful fires within a mile of each other! It is certain that the house of William Ruffel, Esq. and that of Mr. Hawks, of Mosley, have shared the fate of Mosley Hall.

The goals have been broke open, and all the prisoners liberated.

Another express arrived in London last night, states, that between Sunday night and Monday morning, a party of the military had arrived; that notwithstanding their exertions to stop the disturbances, the rioters had made a very formidable opposition, and killed many; that numbers having been soldiers, and in the possession of fire-arms, the troops had suffered a repulse; but that having received a considerable reinforcement, they were about to rally and to renew their attacks against the mal-contented, who were actuated by the greatest fury.

JULY 20.

By the Coach of Last Night.

It gives us particular pleasure to announce to the public, that peace is restored to Birmingham, the tumult having subsided on Sunday night in that town, from which the mob had gone in a large body towards Worcestershire early in the morning. It was believed that a party of them was gone in pursuit of Dr. Priestley.

By a private letter from Birmingham, received yesterday morning, we are informed, that Dr. Priestley only saved himself from the fury of the mob by half an hour’s notice. That his plate had been previously sent off to a friend’s house, and that this and a private box of manuscripts are all he has saved of his property.

The Insurgents of Birmingham had made a gridiron of immense size, which they brought to Dr. Priestley’s house, where they said they meant to broil an Anti-constitutional Philosopher by the blaze of his own writings, and light the fire with the *Rights of Man*.—MR. PAINE’S next pamphlet is to be called the *Wrongs of Man*—it is to be an inflammatory composition on the ruin of his friend Priestley.

The French nobility in this country are in high spirits on the return of affairs in France, which they deem favorable to the Royal cause, and they every where express the most certain hopes, that the counter-revolution will be successful.

Eight hundred French officers have offered to enlist as volunteers in the counter-revolution army.

The large purchase of horses for the counter-revolutionists has raised the price of that animal to an excessive degree.

A Jew of the name of Caulla, has contracted to furnish uniforms for 15,000 men, including 3000 hussars.

The King of Spain’s letter to the National Assembly, or rather to the people of France, means much more than “meets the ear.” It is moderate indeed in its selection of words; but it is a moderation with an *If!*