

treated, Mr. John Hinchliffe stepped up to his assistance, but finding that they were likely to be overpowered, they made off, though not till a pistol had been fired at Mr. Hinchliffe, the ball from which he heard distinctly whizz past his ear. With some difficulty Mr. Tolson was got to Mr. Thomas Atkinson's, the Captain Commandant of the Huddersfield troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, where his wound was dressed, and he was some time afterwards enabled to return home, having suffered much less than might have been expected.

Before midnight the magistrates were all assembled at the George Inn, the cavalry, which consists of one troop of the 4th Dragoon Guards, under Capt. Sibthorp, and the infantry, of three companies of the 85th Regiment of Foot, under Capt. Welling, were called out, while the Yeomanry Cavalry were summoned from their homes at a short notice. Soon after two o'clock, the beacon on the Castle-hill, which seems to have consisted of a quantity of shavings smeared with combustible matter, and hoisted on a pole, was fired. For some time the approach of the insurgents, to take possession of the town, was every moment expected; two or three sky-rockets had been observed to rise before this hour, and frequent reports of fire-arms were heard extending along the banks of the river to a considerable distance; but from some cause, which is not yet fully ascertained, the insurgents began to disperse in every direction, and the meditated attack upon the town was abandoned. This abrupt termination of an enterprise which appeared so menacing has been accounted for in different ways:—according to some, the preparations made by the magistrates and the military had intimidated the insurgents; another supposition is, that the brightness of the moon, which shone with unusual lustre on that night, prevented the signals from being distinctly seen; and another, and perhaps the most probable of all, is, that the leaders of these infatuated men, either from cowardice or treachery, forsook them in the moment of trial. As the morning approached, several parties of horse and foot-soldiers were sent out to reconnoitre the country, and to pick up stragglers, but not a single prisoner was made during the night, and it is a little remarkable that, with the exception of the outrage in Kirklees-lane, and the stealing of arms and other offensive weapons, no excess or depredation whatever was committed in the wide circuit over which this rising extended. The following persons were taken into custody on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday:—

Joseph Barker, of Coln-Bridge, with his two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, who are all blacksmiths, and are charged with the fabrication of pikes, and with joining in the rising.—John Lindley, of Mirfield, nail-maker, on a similar charge.

Thomas Blackburn, of Mirfield.—Nathaniel Buckley, of Ledger Bridge, a journeyman clothier.—Joseph Jessop and Samuel Jessop, of Hollinshall, Kirkheaton; and Joshua Hirst, of Deighton, all of whom are charged with having been in arms on the night of the 31st ult.

A great many persons out of the disturbed villages, have, we understand, absconded, in consequence of the part they have taken in these lawless proceedings, and the extent of the mischief to the distressed families of these infatuated men, is incalculable. The persons already apprehended, will, we understand, be committed to York Castle; but the Magistrates wait a reply from Government before they decide whether to make out the committals for high treason, or simply for a misdemeanor. It is remarkable, that in the populous villages of Honley, Berry-brow, Holmfirth, and along the valley of Skithwaite, where, on former occasions, a good deal of agitation has prevailed, the people do not seem to have made any movement whatever; and some of them, it is said, with a mixture of wisdom and pleasantry, observed to the instigators, that they would wait till the next morning, to see how the new Government went on. We hope, that in future, all their neighbouring villagers will be as wise as themselves, and all wait till the following morning. In the midst of all this external commotion, there does not appear to have been the least symptom of riot or disaffection in the town of Huddersfield itself, during the night of Friday—all was perfectly quiet there, except when the parading of the military broke in upon the general stillness, and apprized the wondering inhabitants of the danger with which they were menaced.

The arms hitherto captured by the military, amount only, we believe, to three pike-heads, a few side arms and fire arms, and several pike handles, with two or three scythe blades, fastened into shafts. The pikes are about nine inches long, resembling the head of a halbert, with a screw at the end, to fasten into an iron socket, which is rivetted at the top of the pike-handle, and the handles are from six to eight feet in length, some of them formed of a-h plants, and others of deal, rather thicker than the handle of a hay-fork. None of the pikes which have been found, are formed to cut a horse's bridle; but we have reason to suppose that there are some such instruments, as an attempt, apparently by the way of experiment, was made with one of them to cut a gentleman's bridle, who was last Sunday night riding between Thornhill and Kirkheaton, but which, missing the rein, caught the gentleman's pantaloons, and tore it from the knee to the ankle.

There is some reason to suppose that arms have been clandestinely introduced into the neighbourhood of Huddersfield for some time past, but to what amount is not known. On the day preceding that on which the villagers assembled in hostile array, a parcel came to Huddersfield by the Regulator Coach, addressed to "John Payne, Castlegate, Huddersfield." Owing to a defect in the package, the end of a bayonet jutted out of the paper; this circumstance arrested the attention of Mr. Whitehead, the Deputy Constable, who waited at the coach-office till it was called for by one Gill, the servant of Payne, who is a hawker, when it was opened in his presence, and found to contain two brace of pistols, three bayonets, two bullet moulds, one for musket and the other for pistol balls, and two gun locks. There was also an invoice inclosed, from which it appeared that these articles were charged at about one-half the usual price. In consequence of this discovery, Gill underwent an examination before the Magistrates, and was held to bail.

Since Friday night there have been no symptoms of disturbance in the town or neighbourhood of Huddersfield, with the exception of some expression of popular disfavour towards the Yeomanry, who were assailed on Tuesday last with loud hisses in the street, in consequence of which the town for some time wore an alarming appearance, but this appears to have been a mere ebullition, and the public peace was almost instantly restored. A person from Honley, who was said to have distinguished himself in raising the clamour, was pursued by a mounted Yeoman into a tobacconist's shop, and being apprehended, was held to bail.

On Wednesday night last, at seven o'clock, the Magistrates of Huddersfield, Joseph Haigh, Benjamin Haigh Allen, and John Horsfall, Esqs. convened a meeting of the inhabitants, at the George Inn, intimating that they had a communication to make to them of considerable importance. At this meeting, about 100 of the principal inhabitants and tradespeople of the town attended, and Mr. Haigh having taken the chair, he proceeded to state—That the town and neighbourhood of Huddersfield were in a state so alarming as to call for the greatest vigilance on the part of the respectable inhabitants. It appeared, he said, not from vague rumour, but from depositions taken before the Magistrates, that a simultaneous rising was to take place throughout all the manufacturing districts of the kingdom, extending even to Scotland, and that the signal for that rising was to have been the capture of Huddersfield and the stoppage of the coaches. The Magistrates, he said, had certain information that there on Friday night last from 1,600 to 2,000 persons in arms in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, whose object it was, to change by force the existing order of society, and to rob and plunder the respectable part of the community. A delegate, whom they well knew, and on whom they had kept an eye, had come over from Nottingham to that place, on Thursday, the 30th ult. and had convened a meeting of delegates, at which twenty were present. On the meeting being dissolved, these men were despatched into various parts of the country, and each of them had a ticket given to him, on which was written a significant word (which the Chairman mentioned, but which it may perhaps not be advisable to state in a public newspaper,) and these cards when cut in two, were to form a sign and counter-sign by which the leaders were to be known. From causes which could not at present be explained, the wicked designs of the lawless had been hitherto frustrated, but there was no reason to suppose that their intentions had been altered. In this alarming state of things it became the duty of the inhabitants to unite for the preservation of their laws, their persons, and their property, and this meeting was called to obtain the sanction of the inhabitants to an application to be made by the Magistrates to the Lord-lieutenant, for powers to bring into operation, if it should be found necessary, and certainly not otherwise, the watch and ward act, in this district. He was persuaded that no other arguments would be required to obtain the consent of the inhabitants to this measure, than the mere statement, that had it not been for the timely discovery of the plot of Friday night, such were the diabolical designs of the conspirators, that it was probable that not one of the persons present at this meeting would, at this time, have had a house to go into. This was the substance of the communication; and it is scarcely necessary to add, that the meeting instantly gave them their sanction to the application to the Lord-lieutenant. In the course of the communication the Chairman very candidly admitted, that he did not believe that the reformers, as a body, had any thing to do with the conspiracy, which had spread such very general and well-founded alarm through the neighbourhood—the conspirators were the mere dregs of society.

Though we have already bestowed upon this subject more room than we can well afford, yet we cannot quit it without a few observations. In instituting the inquiry which we have thought it our duty to make, we found no difficulty in collecting the details of the transactions which have taken place; but when we came to the inquiry,—How has this plot originated—who are its authors,—and what are its objects? the clue failed

us, and our inquiries came to a stand. It is clear, indeed, that there is a great deal of distress in the country,—we may say, extreme and unprecedented distress, and that in such a state of things, it is easy to find men, who, adopting the desperate reasoning, that it is as well to die on the gallows or by the point of the sword, as to be starved to death for want, are ready to give in to any project, however atrocious; but then there must be some head, some projectors, some instigators,—and the question is, who are they? This mystery we hope the magistrates, who seem to have displayed great zeal and intelligence, will endeavour fearlessly to unravel, and let the guilt rest wherever it may happen to fall. It is in vain to punish a few poor, ignorant, half-starved dupes. The terrors of their own minds, and the distresses of their families will teach them, it is to be hoped, never again to embark in such mad and wicked projects, but if some of the heads can be laid hold of, and exposed or brought to justice, an essential benefit will be rendered to society. It would be uncandid to deny that there is a great degree of disaffection in the country; and it would be equally uncandid to conceal, that the main cause of this disaffection is the extent of the public distress. Something must be done to restore the national prosperity, and to revive our almost extinct trade and manufactures. The public debt is a millstone so heavy, that if not diminished, it will sink the country. Mr. Ricardo's plan, or some other plan of a similar nature, must sooner or later be adopted; and we do beseech the Legislators of the country to save us from anarchy on the one hand, or from military rule on the other, by turning their undivided attention instantly to this topic, and by making it one of the first subjects of their deliberations on the meeting of the new Parliament.

HUDDERSFIELD, APRIL 7.

The town of Huddersfield and its neighbourhood have been suddenly thrown into a state of considerable agitation and alarm. The civil authorities, and the military power, have been kept upon the alert day and night ever since Friday last, and the peaceable and well disposed inhabitants are preparing to co-operate with them, either as special constables, or under the establishment of the watch and ward act, for the security of their lives and property, and the maintenance of the public peace. For three weeks past the Magistrates have had information, that a simultaneous rising was intended in the manufacturing districts of the kingdom; and in the course of last week it came to our knowledge, that emissaries were going about the country exciting the people to arm, and preparing them for some desperate enterprise. We lost no time in apprising the readers of this journal of the approaching mischief, and in putting the unwary upon their guard against the instigators; but this caution, as far as respected a very populous part of this district, was too late; for, on the night preceding our last day of publication, the insurgents had assembled in arms, and were preparing to strike a blow, at the contemplation of which the mind recoils with horror. In a matter of this magnitude, we could not satisfy ourselves with intelligence derived through the ordinary channels, but we determined to investigate the business in person upon the spot, and the following is the result of our information, collected from the most authentic sources:—

A very unusual sensation was observed in many of the villages in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, towards the evening of Friday, the 31st ult. The women were seen passing about to each other's houses, many of them in tears, and several of the men appeared unsettled, and as if meditating some daring enterprise. The Magistrates of Huddersfield, without knowing the precise time when, or the place where, the blow was to be struck, were informed of these indications by their agents, male and female; and the military, throughout the whole of the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, were, we believe, that night under arms. About ten o'clock at night, the general muster commenced, and the initiated, in a great number of the populous villages, by which the town of Huddersfield is surrounded, began to assemble, many of them armed with pikes, some of them with fire-arms, and others with scythes and pitch-forks, purloined from the neighbouring farm-yards and out-buildings. In some districts the bugle was heard to sound through the vallies, as the signal for muster, but the more general practice was to go to the houses of those who were known, or supposed to be favourable to the design, and to press into the service the head of the family. In some instances force, and in many others threats were used, to swell the ranks of the disaffected; and not a few of the persons called upon escaped out of their windows, in the rear of their houses, and relieved themselves from further importunity by finding concealment in the adjoining woods.

The plan of operations was, it seems, to approach the town in four divisions. The Kirkheaton, Skelmanthorpe, Grange-Moor, and Kirkburton sections, which may be called the South division, were to assemble at Almondbury-Bank, within a mile of the centre of the town. The Mirfield, Harthead, High-Town, & Coln-Bridge sections, forming the East division, were to rendezvous in Kirklees-Lane, adjoining to the park of Sir George Armitage, B... which is three miles from Huddersfield. The Thornhill, Dalton, Kirkheaton, Raistrick, and Brighouse sections, forming the North division, were to assemble in Fixby-Park, nearly two miles from that place; and the West division, which was the most numerous, and consisted of the Lindley, Quarby, Out-Lane, Ripponden, and Burksland sections, were to assemble on Lindley-Moor, about the same distance from Huddersfield, and all of them having in view the Castle-Hill, on which a beacon was to be lighted as the signal for the commencement of the march upon the town. Having thus surrounded the town, all the parties were to advance at the same moment, and while one division captured the horse barracks, and secured the cavalry, another was to take possession of the barracks occupied by the infantry, who were also to be secured; the civil authorities were at the same moment to be made prisoners, and the principal inhabitants of the town confined to their dwellings by the new provisional government. This desperate project, wicked and visionary as it may appear, was undoubtedly formed, and the capture of Huddersfield, with the stoppage of the coaches usually passing through that place, were to form the signals for the general rising!

About 11 o'clock at night, all the divisions were in motion; the northern division, some of the sections of which had roused the peaceable inhabitants from their beds, and collected arms from them in their route, assembled in Fixby-Park, to the number, probably, of 200 or 300; the southern division had approached, but never, it appears, reached Almondbury-bank. The advanced-guard of the western division had, before 12 o'clock, taken their station at Greenhead, on the height which commands Huddersfield, and is within half a mile of the town; while the main body of that division was stationed on Lindley-Moor. In speaking of numbers it is extremely difficult to attain to any thing like precision, but it is confidently asserted, that there could not be fewer than five or six hundred men in the whole of this division. To the east the numbers were less formidable, and perhaps would not exceed from one to two hundred. When they had mustered at their rendezvous, near the Obelisk, on the Leeds and Huddersfield road, at the entrance to the Clifton-road by the way of Kirklees, they were passed by five persons in the neighbourhood, who had been at Middlestown on business, and were on their return home about half-past 11 o'clock at night. The attention of these gentlemen was first excited by seeing several persons standing in the road, apparently in consultation, but none of them with arms in their hands. In turning up the lane towards Brighouse, two of the gentlemen, of the names of Smith and Brearley, observed a number of men sitting under the walls, and at the same time saw, by the light of the moon, a glittering of spears. So unusual a sight, at this late hour of the night, induced them to stop, and Mr. Smith put out his hand towards one of the pikes, to ascertain what it was, on which he received a violent blow with the sharp edge of the pike, which cut his hand desperately, and induced him, and his companion to hurry off, crying out "Help." This cry brought back the three other gentlemen, who were proceeding forward towards Cooper-Bridge, and on coming near to the Park-wall, one of them, Mr. Robert Tolson, a master-manufacturer at Dalton, put his foot upon a bundle of pikes, and inquired what was there. The reply was given by a violent stroke, several times repeated, with one of the pike-handles, and at length a fellow, more desperate than the rest, made a thrust at him with a pike, which, taking a slanting direction, inflicted upon him a wound about the middle of the back, at the left side, about two inches in length and half an inch deep. On seeing his friend so ill