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HENRY HUNT: AND THE MANCHESTER MONUMENT TO PERPETUATE HIS MEMORY.

The accompanying Engraving represents a monument, now in course of erection at Manchester, in Manchester, in the burial ground of the Chapel belonging to the Rev. Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, in Every-street. It is raised, by means of a subscription amongst the working people of England, to perpetuate the name and fame of one of the most bold, most strenuous, most disinterested, and most able advocates of LABOUR'S CAUSE, that that cause ever had to boast of.

He was a LEADER in the worst of times. He was a LEADER before the nails of faction had been pared, or its teeth drawn! when it was rampant, insolent, and biting! The tact he displayed as a "general," and the devotion he evinced to the cause of the people, endeared him to the heart of every son of Labour; while it procured for him the inveterate hatred and bitter scorn of the entire upper and middle classes. With the working people, "HUNT and Liberty" was a watchword. They rallied around his standard—UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE; and, with him, they braved proscription, persecution, imprisonment, transportation, and even death!

HUNT was the first man in England who nailed the colours of UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE to the mast, as a candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. He was the first candidate who stood upon that principle in England! and this he did when he stood as candidate for Westminster, in 1817.

With the events of 1816 and 1817, Mr. HUNT's name was much mixed up. He was called upon to bear his full share of the persecuting power of a "strong" Government. Charges of conspiracy and treason were heaped upon him; and he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. He was, however, a patriot, and his efforts, however, were vain. The pleading of the leading counsel for the defence, Mr. CROSS, sealed the doom of the prisoners! With the best answer to the charge in the world, he admitted their guilt, and began to whimper about their being the dupes of such seditious and treasonable writers as CONNERT and CO. The men were EXECUTED and DEBEHEADED; and Connell CROSS was immediately made a King's Sergeant-at-Law, being presented with a silk gown!

In this case, too, Mr. HUNT did his best to save the martyrs. He collected sums of money for their defence, and attended the trial himself, at great personal risk; for the Power-of-Imprisonment-Law was in full force. His efforts, however, were vain. The pleading of the leading counsel for the defence, Mr. CROSS, sealed the doom of the prisoners! With the best answer to the charge in the world, he admitted their guilt, and began to whimper about their being the dupes of such seditious and treasonable writers as CONNERT and CO. The men were EXECUTED and DEBEHEADED; and Connell CROSS was immediately made a King's Sergeant-at-Law, being presented with a silk gown!

The hanging and beheading of these men did not deter the working people from seeking for Radical Reform—Parliamentary Reform, based on UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, were passed; and similar petitions were agreed to as immense and enthusiastic meetings all over the kingdom. These petitions were signed by more than a Million and a half of men; and were in numbers more than three hundred. Parliament met on the 28th January, 1817; and there were deputations from the working people of all the considerable towns in the North, prepared to go in procession to carry the petitions to the House. Great alarm prevailed amongst the law-eating crew; and it was determined by the Government, not only to listen to the petitions of the people with any degree of attention, but to treat them as applications coming from conspirators, or intended traitors! They commenced this game by making the Prince Regent utter lies and calumnies from the throne; and they followed it up by the appointment of a Committee in each House, to report (after examining evidence) upon the designs of "the disaffected."

The secret committees very speedily reported; and a bill was brought in, Chapter 3, 57th of George the Third, "to empower his Majesty to secure and detain such persons as his Majesty should suspect of conspiring against his person and government;" that is to say, an act to authorize the ministers to take, and to put into prison, any persons whom they chose, in any prison that they chose, for as long a time as they chose, without any cause assigned, without regular commitment, without being confronted with their accusers, without ever being brought to any trial at all, or to have a hearing before any magistrate, and to turn them out of prison when they chose, without any power of obtaining legal redress for the injury!!!

This was the answer which the Parliament gave to the petition for Parliamentary Reform. The Ministers lost no time in availing themselves of the power: they seized upon numerous persons, dragging them, in some cases, two hundred and fifty miles from their homes; imprisoned them in a manner that they could have no communication with wives, parents, or friends; shut many of them up in solitary cells, and forbade them the use of pen, ink, and paper; and never, from first to last, brought any man of them to trial, and never gave any man of them a hearing before any magistrate whatsoever! The law was adopted with a very feeble resistance on the part of the Whigs; a sham resistance; for, while they opposed the measure as unconstitutional, they admitted that the parties against whom it was levied were very wicked men. They abused them in terms still stronger than those made use of by the ministers; and, while they pretended to oppose the measure, this perfidious faction; this base and detestable and cowardly and cruel faction; represented the persons against whom it was directed in such a light, and represented their designs as so full of horrible wickedness, that every one who read their speeches, and who believed what they said, must have regarded the measure as necessary to the safety of the country, though at the expense of the whole of the constitution! This is the uniform practice of this selfish, this greedy, this treacherous, body of men, who have made all the revolutions that England has known for the last two hundred years, and who have fastened on the spoil of every revolution!

To accompany this act, there was another, forbidding the people meeting together to discuss political matters; and authorizing the magistrates so to interfere with publications as to destroy whatever there remained of the liberty of the press; and thus was every vestige of political liberty and of personal security taken away from the people of England. These bills were brought into the House of Lords by HENRY ADDINGTON, called Lord Viscount Sidmouth, who was an Englishman by birth; and into the House of Commons by Sir ROBERT STURTEVANT, called Lord Castlereagh, who was an Irishman, and whom we shall by-and-by see cutting his own throat and killing himself, at North Cray, in Kent. These acts remained in force until 1818, when they were suffered to expire; and on the 17th of March of that year an act was passed to indemnify, or bear harmless, every person, and all persons, who should have violated or gone beyond even these acts. So that, even if they had violated these acts on the persons whom they had seized and imprisoned, whatever they might have done to such imprisoned persons, they were by this act, chapter 6, 51st year of Geo. III., indemnified and borne harmless. Talk not of the cruelties and ferocity of those who destroyed the *notions* of France! After this, talk not of any such things! Talk not of "constitution" and "order" and "the laws"; show anything equal to this, done by any other people in the world, calling themselves a government and legislative assemblies!!!

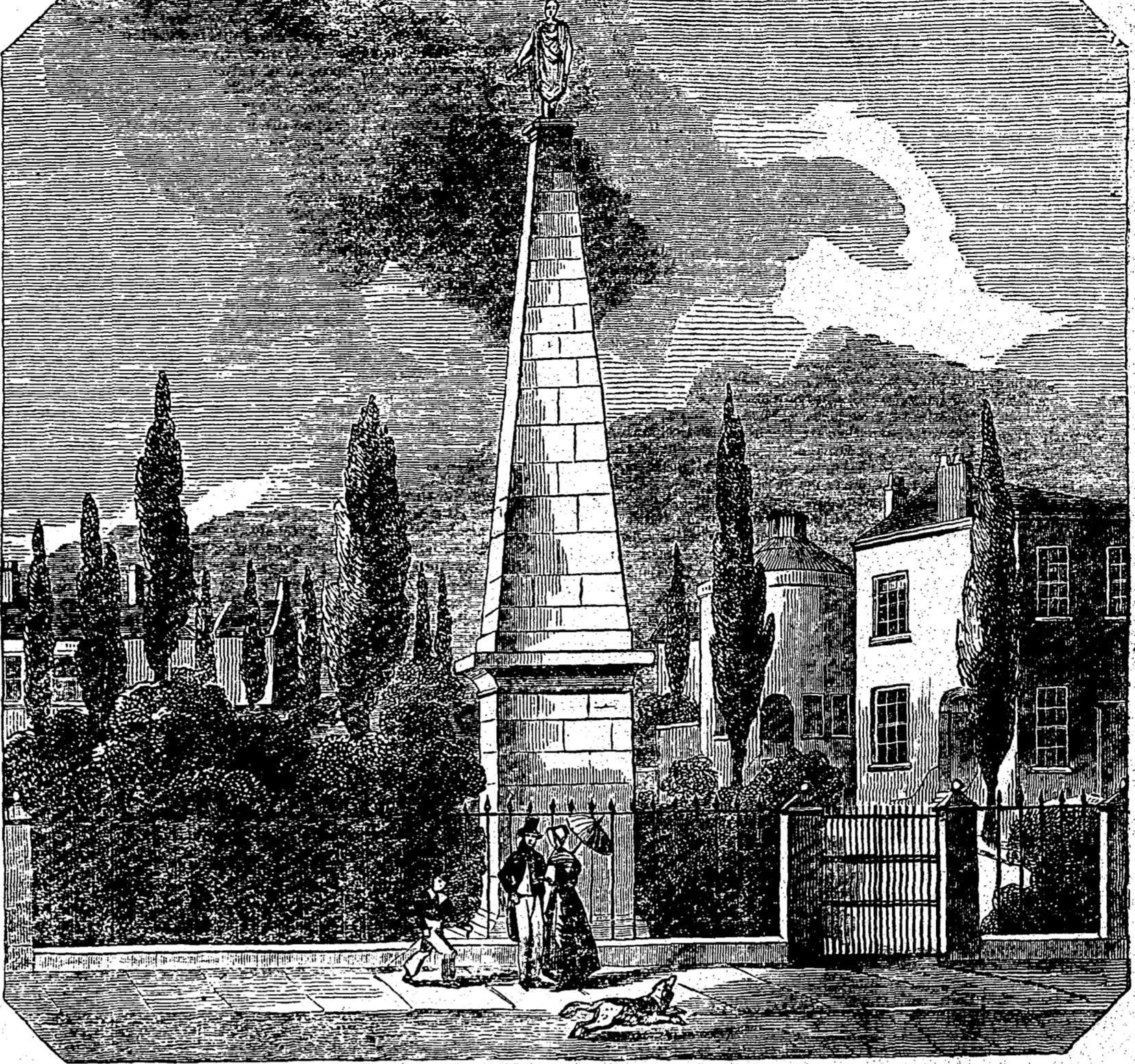
During all this time Mr. HUNT was not idle. He defended the persecuted, and upheld the persecuted. He procured himself to be subpoenaed to the trial of Messrs. WATSON, THURGOOD, FRASER, and HOOPER, who were charged with high treason for countenancing in connection with the "Spa-Field meetings"; and his evidence respecting CASTLES, the main, indeed, the only witness against the prisoners, was so conclusive as to the infamous character of the act, and of his well-deserved attempts to drag him (HUNT) into the mess, that the Jury, after a trial of seven days, acquitted the prisoners!

The persecuting and dangerous of the Reformers, however, did not put down the cry for Radical Reform—break the spirit of the people. On the con-

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MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF HENRY HUNT.



(Erected in the Chapel Yard, Every Street, Manchester, by the Working People.)

trary, they seemed to add to both. And in 1818, the "mild and merciful" Government found itself compelled to hatch plots and conspiracies; to get up "risings" and "riots," to enable it to further coerce the nation. For this purpose they employed a set of atrocious miscreants, of whom ORSKEN was one. Through their instigations, BRANBURN, THOMAS, and LINDAY, of Darby; were induced to take part in a "rising" and a "riot," which put them in the power of the "mild and merciful" administrators of the laws; and they furnished three heads to be added to the long, long list of those which rolled from the scaffold in the reign of GEORGE III.!!!

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into security, the meeting was held. It was attended by 70,000 persons. As soon as the proceedings had commenced, the Manchester and Cheshire Yeomanry Cavalry were let loose upon the assembled thousands, without notice or warning of any kind! Havoc and slaughter was the consequence! The "heroes" had been made drunk, to string them up to the work they had to do; and their sabres were newly-ground to enable them to do more execution! This attack was wholly unprovoked! There was no riot; no violence of any sort; and there had been no riot, and no violence. Yet this multitude, thus peaceably assembled, for a lawful purpose, and that purpose amply made known before hand, was slaughtered without the slightest provocation!!!

The following are details connected with this atrocious and horrible outrage. They are not culled from Radical or Chartist publications, but they are extracted from the Leeds Mercury newspaper, of August 24th, 1819. They are copied from the Messrs. BAINES's own office-files, which they have been kind enough to lend us for this purpose; and whose courtesy in so doing, we thus publicly acknowledge. The facts, as narrated, were witnessed by Mr. EDWARD BAINES, jun. He was on the hustings at the time the charge was made; and it is his account that the reader is now presented with—

"MANCHESTER REFORM MEETING. "DISPERSION OF BY AN ARMED FORCE. "MONDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 1819.

Before we proceed to detail the occurrences of this fatal day, it may be proper to premise that this meeting was intended to have been held on Monday, the 9th instant; but that the magistrates having denounced that meeting as illegal, on the ground of one of the objects stated in the requisition, convening it, being to elect a person to represent that town in Parliament, it was considered, after taking Counsel's opinion, expedient to postpone the meeting to afford time to call another, to which no such objection could apply. The object of this second meeting was stated in the notice to be "for the purpose of taking into consideration the most effectual legal means of obtaining a R-form in the Representation of the House of Commons." To this meeting, publicly announced through the medium of the newspapers and placards, no official objection was made by the magistracy on the ground of its illegality; though the B-nobressee and Constables of Manchester and Salford, expressing in oblique terms their dislike of the proposed meeting, published a notice, which was couched in the following terms:—

"The Boroughreeves and Constables of Manchester and Salford, most earnestly recommend the peaceable and well-disposed inhabitants of those towns as much as possible to remain in their own houses, during the whole of this day (Monday, Aug. 16), and to keep their children and servants within doors."

"At ten o'clock on Monday morning, the magistracy who, probably at that time, had not determined upon adopting any measure either to prevent or disperse the meeting, assembled a considerable number of special constables in the vicinity of the place of meeting, which was fixed upon to be in a large open space of ground near St. Peter's Church; and the different military corps were resting on their arms, prepared to act at a moment's notice if their services should be deemed necessary."

"The Reformers, who seemed determined to make this a splendid day, were equally on the alert, not indeed in preparing arms, for of those they were totally destitute, but in preparing flags and small bands of music, and in arranging matters for the approaching meeting. It is evident, however, from the great number of females and even children, who formed part of the procession that nothing was anticipated that could involve them in the least degree of peril; and an immense multitude gathered together, relying with confidence on each other's peaceable intentions, and certainly not expecting, that the persecutions taken by the magistracy to preserve the peace, would be employed to destroy it and convert a peaceful assembly into a scene of terror and alarm, danger, and death."

"Mr. Hunt left the residence of Mr. Johnson, at Smedley-Cottage, about twelve o'clock, in an open carriage, in which were also seated Mr. Johnson, Mr. Keble, and Mr. Currie, and on the box with the coachman, was a female of the name of Waterworth, wearing a white flag. The procession, which consisted of many thousands, passed through Shude Hill, Hanging Ditch, Old Mill-Gate, Market-Place, St. Mary's Gate, Dan's-Gate, and St. Peter's-street, to the area appointed for the place of meeting. Some idea may be formed of the immense numbers that attended this meeting, when we state, that Newton-Lane, which is not less than thirty yards wide, was literally choked up for above a mile with the divisions from Saddle-Orthum, Ryton, and Faisworth. Each division had its respective flags, music, &c. All the divisions were interspersed in each company, with children of both sexes. Mr. Hunt reached the ground a little after one o'clock, and was received with repeated cheers from the innumerable thousands that were assembled."

"It may be proper here to state, that the magistracy had assembled about twelve o'clock, at the house of Mr. Buxton, probably about one hundred and fifty yards from the hustings, and from which they commanded a view of the whole field. In a line from this house to the hustings, were arranged a strong body of special constables armed with staffs, the insignia of their office, and the Manchester yeomanry and Cheshire cavalry in the commission then presented himself; Mr. Hunt acknowledged his authority, and surrendered himself; most of the other persons on the hustings, including Mr. Johnson, Mr. Tye, a reporter from the office of the Times newspaper, Mr. Smith, Mr. Saxon, Robert White, Thomas Taylor, and three females, were carried off the field under an escort to the New Bailey prison. Mr. Hunt was taken to the residence of the magistracy, at this moment the Manchester yeomanry were joined by the 18th Hussars, by the 31st, and 88th regiments of foot, and the Cheshire yeomanry made their appearance in another part of the field; the infantry and artillery did not take any active part, and a scene of terror, confusion, and disorder presented itself, to which no language can do justice; the people were thrown down by hundreds, and galloped over, and indiscriminate was the attack, and furious the onset, that the special constables shared the common fate, one of them being killed, and many wounded, and still more thrown down; nay, the softness of the female sex itself could not procure protection; defenceless women and tender children, shared in the common overthrow. And, particularly the objects against which their hostility was directed. No resistance was made, or indeed, could be made against this terrible display of military force; it is said, indeed, that when the military had surrounded the hustings, a few bricks-bats were thrown, and that Mr. Ainslie one of the Manchester yeomanry cavalry, was knocked from his horse by this means, but his fall has been assigned to another cause, and the dreadful injury he received was the result of being ridden over. It is impossible, by any verbal description, to convey an adequate idea of the dreadful scene which now presented itself; it had more than the horrors of a field of battle, because it presented the unusual spectacle of unarmed men, defenceless women, and infant children, falling beneath the sword of the (we are going to use the term warrior) but we will not do so disgrace it."

"The Hussars conducted themselves with great propriety, and did not use their sabres to the injury of a single individual. The streets into which the terrified people had fled for shelter, were scored by detachments of cavalry; and a very short space of time this numerous assembly was so completely dispersed, as hardly to present to the eye a single group save those that were laid bleeding on the ground."

"So far the Mercury's account is written editorially. The next extract is from the same paper, but there given as 'details from our own reporter.' The senior EDWARD BAINES, was, at that time, the sole Editor:— 'The number of persons assembled at the meeting this day may be safely estimated at 60,000. Various female societies sent by the magistracy, proceeded, like the men, by their files, armed with the cap of liberty. The assembly was also entirely composed of the working classes, except where strong bodies of special constables were posted."

were drawn up under arms behind the house, and of course out of sight of the meeting, who were, however, sufficiently apprised that a strong military force was at hand. Such was the state of things when Mr. Hunt arrived upon the ground; he immediately proceeded to the hustings, and a resolution was put calling him to the chair, which was unanimously agreed to, and he proceeded to address the immense multitude by which he was surrounded; at that moment the most perfect order and entire silence prevailed, nor had any of the known proceedings of the magistracy excited any passions, nor any apprehension that they were assembled in defiance of the laws. Mr. Hunt had not spoken more than from eight to ten minutes, in which he exhorted them to the maintenance of the most perfect order, and instantly to put down the man who should make any attempt to create a disturbance; and was proceeding to state that the magistracy, by causing the meeting to be postponed, had been the means of creating a twofold attendance, and instead of gaining an advantage by this postponement, they had sustained a defeat—at this moment a shout of terror announced the approach of the military, and the Manchester cavalry appeared in sight, galloping towards the hustings, and when they arrived within about one hundred yards of the hustings they halted for a moment, probably to address the proceeding, by the solid mass through which they must force their way. At this moment, Mr. Hunt, who saw the approach of the cavalry, and the pause they had made, with a view, as he explained to the persons who surrounded him, of re-inspiring confidence, gave directions for a shout, with three times three, which was complied with, the cheering had not the effect of inducing the cavalry to retreat; the pause was not momentary; they drew their sabres, and charged through the immense body of people, thus was interspersed between the hustings, which they instantly surrounded—but we will here give the words of the Police Journal:—'The yeomanry cavalry, in a moment, by a cheer, had not the effect of inducing the cavalry to retreat; the pause was not momentary; they drew their sabres, and charged through the immense body of people, thus was interspersed between the hustings, which they instantly surrounded—but we will here give the words of the Police Journal:—'The yeomanry cavalry, in a moment, by a cheer, had not the effect of inducing the cavalry to retreat; 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NEWCASTLE.—A delegate meeting for the County of Northumberland and adjacent districts was held in the Charities Hall, Newcastle, on Sunday last.

LONDON.—RISING SUN, OXFORD STREET, STONEY.—Mr. J. Campbell, leader of the Rising Sun, in his usual effective and brilliant style.

TO THE SHEPHERD BRIGADE OF LEICESTER CHARTISTS.—Manchester, Marsden's Temperance Hotel, Wednesday morning, Aug. 27, 1842.

MY BRAVE COMRADES.—I left you on Tuesday afternoon, the 26th inst., and between that date and the present, have been in the midst of a busy life.

I had a good meeting at Birmingham, in the Hall of Science, a very commodious building belonging to the Societies, on the Tuesday evening.

On Thursday began a series of excitements, such as I had never seen before. I was set down at twelve at noon, by the omnibus, at Wednesday, called Wednesbury by the natives.

On Friday morning, the 12th, I walked on to Wellesborough, and on the 13th, I walked on to Wellesborough, and on the 14th, I walked on to Wellesborough.

On Saturday morning, the 15th, I walked on to Wellesborough, and on the 16th, I walked on to Wellesborough.

On Sunday morning, the 17th, I walked on to Wellesborough, and on the 18th, I walked on to Wellesborough.

On Monday morning, the 19th, I walked on to Wellesborough, and on the 20th, I walked on to Wellesborough.

On Tuesday morning, the 21st, I walked on to Wellesborough, and on the 22nd, I walked on to Wellesborough.

of the colliers, to ask all the workers at the earthenware factories, &c., to leave their labour.

I met the people again at six at night. The Square was crowded; I should say there were 20,000 people there; several of the gentry, &c., in conversation.

To my great delight, I got into the carriage containing Mr. J. Campbell, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Campbell.

By the Pope but the League-men reckoned without their host! They little knew what they were about.

They have gotten the people out! How will they get them in again! How will they ally the excitement!

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"something startling and novel"; but they did not condemn it, nor point out the danger to those who might act on it.

"NOW THE WAY THE AMERICANS OBTAINED THE SUPPLIES, and exemption from heavy taxation, furnishes us with an EXAMPLE WORTHY OF IMITATION."

"The 'Bloody Old Times' is now hard at work to fix the getting-up of the strike upon the Chartists and he talks loudly of the 'violent and incendiary writings in the Northern Star.'"

"The proceedings yesterday at the anti-Corn Law Convention, held at the Theatre Royal, were very interesting."

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"It appeared that the only plan which the manufacturers had resorted to at present, was TO STOP THEIR FACTORIES"!!!!

"It is apparent now who were the co-conspirators of the strike? Is it apparent now who were the movers to it?"

"The rest of the bill not being readable at that distance from the smallness of the print."

"Our readers are probably aware that the project of SHUTTING UP ALL THE MILLS IN ONE DAY originated with this journal, and that we have all along persisted in considering it as the only means by which the repeal of the Corn Laws was likely to be obtained."

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TO CORRESPONDENTS AND FRIENDS.—We shall be extremely obliged to our Correspondents and Friends in all parts of the Country, if they will take the trouble to forward to the Office every thing of importance that transpires in their respective localities, as early as possible after the occurrence.

A CONSTANT READER, LONDON.—Ver. Mr. Pritchard is gone to America, but not to stay there at present. He is gone to "look out," and to sell his goods.

A CHARTIST, CARLISLE, is thanked for the extracts from a letter written from Lancaster Castle to the Editor of the Northern Star.

A FURST, containing a sum of money, was picked up at the meeting held a fortnight since last Sunday, and is now in the possession of Mr. Isaac Kitchin, Bradford Moor.

HALIFAX.—The disturbances connected with the turn-outs commenced in Halifax on Monday morning.

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Akroyd's orders, pulled it out for them. It is stated that Mr. E. Akroyd gave four sovereigns to the men, and told them to buy bread with it for the women.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, a meeting of from ten to fifteen thousand people was held on Skircoat Moor, a fine extensive moor in the immediate neighbourhood of Halifax.

The proceedings commenced on Tuesday with a meeting on Skircoat Moor, at six o'clock in the morning, at which about 2,000 people were present.

The prisoners captured at Halifax on Monday afternoon, at and subsequently to the affray at Akroyd's mill, eleven in number, were sent off to Wakefield on Tuesday forenoon.

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