

at Fairhill, one mile from Birmingham. It accordingly was beset about midnight, and before ten o'clock the following morning, was entirely demolished. We lament to hear his library and elaboratory, with all his philosophical apparatus, were consumed, as well as every other article in the house. The Doctor was apprised of their intentions in time to escape with his family to a house in the neighbourhood. Friday morning nine persons were found dead in the streets, and several others have been dangerously wounded, by the falling of houses, &c. &c. &c.

Many houses belonging to some of the principal dissenters have been marked for destruction; and, unless the arrival of the military should put an end to the commotion, the consequences may prove fatal to the whole town. Trade is entirely at a stand, and every thing in the greatest confusion.

Orders were on Saturday sent from the Secretary of State's office to the High Sheriff of the county of Warwick to call forth the posse comitatus of the county to quell the commotions at Birmingham.

Lord Aylesford was very active in pacifying the mob at Birmingham, and his endeavours were attended with some success.

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

*Friday Evening, July 15.*

This day, after the mob had completed the destruction of Dr. Priestley's house and elaboratory, by fire, and also his garden, Lord Aylesford, and some other Gentlemen, led a great part of the rioters from Sparkbrook to Birmingham, in the hope of dispersing them, but without effect.

A great number, about one of the clock, assembled round the elegant mansion of Mr. John Ryland (for-

merly the residence of Mr. Baskerville, the celebrated printer) which had lately been enlarged and beautified at a 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! The rioters being divided into parties, and meditating the destruction of several other houses, about three o'clock in the afternoon, consternation and alarm seemed to have superseded all other sensations in the minds of the inhabitants; business was given over, and the shops were all shut up. The inhabitants were traversing the streets in crowds, not knowing what to do, and horror was visible in every countenance.

About half past three, the inhabitants were summoned by the bellman to assemble in the new churchyard; 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 beginning to attack the house of Mr. Hutton, paper merchant, in the High street. This was easily effected, there being not more than half a dozen drunken wretches then assembled on the spot.

From thence they proceeded to disperse the grand body, 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 wounded. The constables were attacked with such a shower of stones and brick bats as it was impossible to resist. The rioters then possessed themselves of some bludgeons, and the constables were entirely defeated, many of them being much wounded; one person was killed, but of which party is not yet known.

The mob being now victorious, and heated with liquor, every thing was to be dreaded. Several attempts were yet made to amuse them, but in vain. They now exacted money from the inhabitants, and at ten o'clock at night, 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.

Saturday, July 16. In the forenoon the following handbill, signed Aylesford, E. Finch, Robert Lawley, Robert Lawley, jun. R. Morland, Edw. Carver, J. Brooke, J. Charles, R. Spencer, H. G. Lewis, C. Curtis, Spencer Madan, W. Villers, was distributed, without producing the wished for effect:

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 of our neighbours. And all true friends to the town and trade of Birmingham in particular, are intreated 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 cause, and to promote the peace, happiness, and prosperity of this great and flourishing town. God save the King.

Twelve at noon.

This moment Mr. Hutton's country house, about two miles from Birmingham, is on fire. Universal despondency has taken place. People of all professions are moving their goods, some to places of private security, others into the country. Plunder is now the motive of the rioters. No military force is nearer than Darby, and nothing but military force can suppress them.

Eight o'clock in the evening. The rioters are now demolishing the beautiful house of Mr. G. Humphreys, and that of Wm. Russell, Esq. a little further on in the Oxford road. The shops are still shut up, and no military yet arrived; dreadful deprivations are expected in the course of this night.