

at the hotel, it is probable that, at that time, some of you intended me some personal injury. But what is the value of life, when every thing is done to make it wretched?

In many cases, there would be a greater mercy in dispatching the inhabitants, than in burning their houses. However, I infinitely prefer what I feel from the spoiling of my goods, to the disposition of those who have misled you.

You have destroyed the most truly valuable and useful apparatus of philosophical instruments that perhaps any individual, in this or any other country, was ever possessed of, in my use of which I annually spent large sums, with no pecuniary view whatever, but only in the advancement of science, for the benefit of my country and of mankind. You have destroyed a library corresponding to that apparatus, which no money can re-purchase, except in a long course of time. But what I feel far more, you have destroyed manuscripts, which have been the result of the laborious study of many years, and which I shall never be able to re-compose; and all this has been done to one who never did, or imagined, you any harm.

I know nothing more of the hand bill, which is said to have enraged you so much, than any of yourselves, and I disapprove of it as much; tho' it has been made the ostensible handle of doing infinitely more mischief than any thing of that nature could possibly have done. In the celebration of the French Revolution, at which I did not attend, the company assembled on the occasion only expressed their joy in the emancipation of a neighbouring nation from tyranny, without intimating a desire of any thing more than such an improvement of our own Constitution, as all sober citizens, of every persuasion have long wished for. And though, in Answer to the gross and unprovoked calumnies of Mr. Madan and others, I publicly vindicated my principles as a Dissenter, it was only with plain and sober argument

and with perfect good humour. We are better instructed in the mild and forbearing spirit of Christianity, than ever to think of having recourse to violence; and can you think any such conduct as yours any recommendation of your religious principles, in preference to ours?

You are still more mistaken, if you imagine that this conduct of yours has any tendency to serve your cause, or to prejudice ours. It is nothing but reason and argument that can ever support any system of religion. Answer our arguments and your business is done: but your having recourse to violence, is only a proof that you have nothing better to produce. Should you destroy myself, as well as my house, library, and apparatus, ten more persons of equal or superior spirit and ability, would instantly rise up. If those ten were destroyed, an hundred would appear; and believe me, that the Church of England, which you now think you are supporting, has received a greater blow by this conduct of yours, than I and all my friends ever aimed at it.

Besides, to abuse those who have no power of making resistance is equally cowardly and brutal, peculiarly unworthy of Englishmen, to say nothing of Christianity, which teaches us to do as we would be done by. In this business we are the sheep, and you the wolves. We will preserve our character, and hope you will change yours. At all events, we return you blessings for curses; and pray that you may soon return to that industry, and those sober manners, for which the inhabitants of Birmingham were formerly distinguished. I am your sincere well wisher,

J. PRIESTLEY.

London, July 19.

P. S. The account of the first Toast at the Revolution Dinner in "THE TIMES" of this morning, can be nothing less than a malicious lie. To prove this, a list of the toasts, with an account of the proceedings of the day, will soon be published. The first of them was, **THE KING**

**AND THE CONSTITUTION,** and they were all such as the friends of Liberty, and the true principles of the Constitution would approve.

BERLIN, JULY 15.

To-morrow the intended nuptials between the Princess Frederica and the Duke of York are to be publicly declared at Potsdam, to which place the King and the whole Court are gone. Great festivities are to take place on this occasion; three comedies and an opera are already prepared. The marriage will be celebrated in the autumn; when it is expected another union, between the hereditary Prince of Orange and the Princess Wilhelmina, will at the same time be consummated.

FRANKFORT, July 21. It is said that the Elector of Hanover has declared to the Diet, that he cannot intermeddle with the differences arising between certain Princes of the Empire and France; and if the ecclesiastical Electors, and other Members, have the desire of waging war against the French, he will not prevent them, with this proviso, that it shall not be made a common cause with all the Members of the Empire.

LONDON, AUGUST 6.

Copies of the addresses to the Clergy and Laity of the Roman Catholic persuasion, in consequence of the late lenient measures of Parliament to that body of people, have been sent to Mr. Pitt, and the Secretaries of State. The exhortations therein contained, are well suited to the times, and worthy the attention of all descriptions of men of whatever persuasion. "Be firm and faithful," say they, "in your allegiance to the King, and full submission to the civil government; let every soul be subject to the higher powers. He that resists power, resists the ordinance of God, &c."

A very heavy county rate, with the constant burden of a number of troops quartered at Birmingham, will be the certain consequence of the late riots. It is singularly unfortunate for this devoted place, that not a soldier was to be met with at any of the towns within fifty or sixty miles distance; a circumstance scarcely to be believed. The losses sustained, and which the county will have to repair, must be felt severely, as the most moderate calculation estimates them at near 400,000l. sterling. Mr. Taylor's losses alone, are computed by himself at 40,000l.