OTMOOR RIOTS.

As no correct account of the Otmoor riots has been published we insert the following:

Otmoor is a marshy, waste piece of land in Oxfordshire, of 2,000 acres, with a small brook running through it, and seven neighbouring towns had a right of common upon it. As it was of little value, from the continual floods, and the encroachments, and other abuses, an act of parliament was obtained, in 1816, to drain and reclaim it. This was carried into execution, and all the remaining crop till last year, when the rainy season in June having occasioned great floods in the lands above Otmoor, and the embankments being supposed to impede the descent of the water, a riotous mob of farmers and others assembled, and cut down the banks. They were directed for felony under Pen's Act, but were acquitted, under the direction of Judge Parker, on the ground that, as the embankments stopped the water, and occasioned the injury to the lands above, they were a nuisance, which the occupiers had a right to abate. He added likewise that the commissioner had exceeded the powers given him by the act of parliament in making this new drain and embankment. In consequence of this decision, the poor people and farmers of the Otmoor towns entertained a notion that the act of parliament was void, and the enclosure and all the proceedings under it were illegal; and that they had a right to destroy the banks, and lay the whole open as it was originally. They assembled, therefore, on Saturday night, the 19th August, in large bodies, and began tearing and cutting up the fences and hedges. These proceedings were continued every night for a week. The strikers, who were often disputed, were joined by people from the neighboring villages, and their numbers at some times amounted to more than a thousand; and the greater part of the fences were destroyed to a very great value. Many persons were assailed and wounded, particularly a son of Sir Alexander Coke, who went to protect his father's property, and was left for dead. All attempts of the civil power being found insufficient to quell them, the assistance of the military was called in. The Oxfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry, under Lord Churchill, and the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry Cavalry, under the Marquis of Chandos, lent their ready protection, and the riots were stopped in their proceedings. About forty were taken prisoners on the first day, but on being carried in wagons to Oxford, escaped by a detachment of the Oxfordshire Cavalry, they were rescued by the mob which was assembled at Otmoor, it being St. Giles's fair. A detachment of Dragoons has been sent down by government, many of the rioters have since been apprehended, and measures are pursued to bring them to justice.

A notion had been entertained that Otmoor belonged to the poor inhabitants of the surrounding towns, upon which it has been fully cleared, and it has been proved that this arose from no respect from other commons; that the poor had no other right than they have in other places, and every cottage house had an allotment for it upon the inclosure. So far from doing any injury, the proprietors have rendered an essential service to the country, and even to the poor themselves, by bringing this large tract of land into cultivation.