MANCHESTER MEETING.

(From the Manchester Herald.)

MANCHESTER, JAN. 19.

It appears that application had been made to the Boroughreeve and constables, to convene a meeting for the purpose of discussing the question, whether it would be proper to petition the House of Commons for the immediate repeal of the Corn Bill? The municipal authorities, aware that something more was meant than met their ears, and that the question of the corn laws was solicited, to furnish a pretence for the discussion of other subjects, declined the measure.

The anonymous advertisement by which the public meeting of yesterday was called, stated that "the chair would be taken precisely at 11 o'clock." A party, with flags and music, met the orator, and took his horses from the carriage. A little before 12 o'clock, the republican procession came down Market-street; it consisted of three men, bearing flags with inscriptions. The first, we understand, was the property of the "Man from Bristol;" it was red, with gold letters; on one side the words "Hunt and Liberty," and on the other side "Universal Suffrage." It was mounted on a red staff, which was surmounted with the red cap of liberty! The other flags were white; on one of them was inscribed "No Corn Laws," and on the other "Rights of Man." These were followed by a band of music, and immediately after came the silly people who drew the barouch in which stood, waving his hat, the so-often-rejected candidate for a seat in the house he has so much libelled. When the procession arrived at the Exchange, the carriage stopped at the front door, and the orator wished to have given "a spice of his quality," by making an harangue to the subscribers to the news-room, who were looking at the "most impudent man living" from the windows and door. But the moment he opened his mouth, he was saluted with every mark of indignant contempt, and he was obliged to give up his intention, for the hisses and groans of the gentlemen whom he wished to become his auditors drowned even his stentorian powers, and his myrmidons moved onwards with their precious load, to the hustings (if so the scaffolding may be called), which was erected on the ground near St. Peter's church, now rented for exercise by the Manchester and Salford yeomanry cavalry.

The scaffolding was then taken possession of by Mr. Hunt, and a number of persons, compared with whom, he himself (though his appearance has not unaptly been compared to that of a cow-jobber) looked something like a gentleman. Amongst them, we understand, were Mitchel, Saxon, Knight, and Ogden, whose oratorical powers had been all heard upon the same ground previously to the famous blanket march. Orator Knight, we understand, opened the business of the day, by moving that "Mister Hunt take the chair." He did so, and proceeded to speakify; he thanked them for their favour, that of elevating him to the high honour of being their chairman at such a meeting, interlarding his inflammatory harangue with libellous invectives against the House of Commons.

Knight was the next speaker; but if we were ever so much inclined to report the speeches delivered at the meeting, it would be impossible; for none but a voice like "Mister Hunt's" could be heard at many yards' distance, in the open air, on so windless a day. Nonetheless,...
or none but a voice like Mister Hunt's could be heard at many yards' distance, in the open air, on so windy a day. Several other persons afterwards spoke; and soon after one o'clock, just as the chairman was about to commence another harangue, the scaffolding gave way, and planks and orators all came tumbling down together.

The mishap, we are happy to add, did not do much personal injury to any one, but reduced the orators to a dilemma from which they were not soon released. Mister Hunt, however, recollecting his former situation in Spaffield, espying the sign of the Windmill, near the ruins of his late elevation, sans ceremonie went in, walked up stairs, threw up a sash, and was about to address his auditors from the window; but the landlord reminding him that his house was licensed for the sale of ale, and not to have sedition preached from it, very properly took him by the arm, and turned him into the street.

There was then no alternative but waiting till the scaffolding was again erected; and in little more than three-quarters of an hour this was effected, and the soi-disant patriots resumed their labours.

At four o'clock the different motions which had been made were all disposed of, and Mister Hunt concluded the "labour of his lungs" by hoping he should never forget the glories of the day. The party then proceeded to the dinner to which Mister Hunt was invited, and to which he was drawn by a few poor deluded people, the procession passing from the scaffolding in the same order in which it came, again stopping at the Exchange door, where the scene acted in the morning was repeated; the man evidently wishing to insult a class of society far ranking above that by which he was surrounded, amongst which not one respectable person could be recognized. After staying a few minutes in this situation, the procession moved through the Market-place, and Old Milgate, to the Spread Eagle, in Hanging-ditch, where the public dinner was provided.

Before we conclude this article, it is a justice owing to the lower classes of the town of Manchester to say, that, excepting during the dinner hour, between twelve and one o'clock, and excepting a few women and children allured by the novelty of the scene, the greatest proportion of persons that description who attended were evidently from a distance and from the country, led to the town by the influence of the advertisement which had been industriously circulated. At noon there were present at least 10,000 persons, but a very considerable proportion were drawn to the place entirely by curiosity; and that the general feeling was not with the leaders of the spectacle full proof was given, by at least two-thirds of the persons present, setting up a shout of satisfaction on the fall of the hustings.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

MANCHESTER, JAN. 18.

The day of anticipated mischief has passed over; and Mr. Hunt, whatever may have been his errors at other places, conducted himself in a manner highly praiseworthy; instead of inciting the multitude, he took much pains to repress the popular fury. Mr. Hunt arrived at Ardwick, near this town, a little before 11 this forenoon, in an open barouche, accompanied by three private friends. At this place he was met by a deputation of the Reformers from this town, who, commiserating the hacks in his carriage, unyoked them from their harness, and themselves buckled to, to convey "the conquering hero" to the place of rendezvous.
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About eleven o'clock Mr. Hunt arrived at Ardwick, (as is before observed,) in an open landau, accompanied by his friends: here a deputation of the Reformers from this town joined the procession, and proceeded through the town. About half-past eleven, accompanied all the way by repeated huzzas from the assembled thousands, the crowd reached the arena (St. Peter's-fields).

Mr. Hunt first mounted the hustings, and after thanking them for the honour they had conferred on him, in their requisition for his attendance, and in their unanimous election of him to fill the chair, begged that no one would attempt to interrupt the proceedings of the Meeting, by calling "silence," which he had ever found to be the greatest annoyance. He then alluded to the Boroughreeve having refused to call the meeting on the requisition which had been presented to him; and remarked, that they were called together as legally and constitutionally as if the municipal authorities had been present. "Some gentlemen (Mr. Hunt observed) had proposed a petition—a petition to that House of Commons, which, when last assembled, had kicked their prayers and petitions out of doors. Would they submit again to petition that House?—or would they come forward as men—as Englishmen—and demand their rights?" (Here the word Remonstrance, from the assembled thousands, drowned the voice of the orator; and it was finally agreed that a remonstrance to the Prince Regent should supersede the petition that had been prepared. A remonstrance was quickly brought forward, and unanimously adopted.) Seeing some of the 7th Husars on the ground, Mr. Hunt begged the people not to offer them any insult; they were their countrymen—and however a sense of duty might compel them to act contrary to the general weal, they were Britons, and could not help feeling as Englishmen. "Wherever I go (said Mr. Hunt), Government always do me the honour to protect me by a strong military guard." Mr. Hunt concluded by strenuously enforcing the necessity of a prompt and efficient muster of the friends of Reform, in order to counteract the mischievous attempts that were secretly making to undermine their liberties; and expressed his detestation of the odious corn bill, (which he tritely denominated the starvation law,) the repeal of which was the object of their present assembling.

Messrs. Knight, Mitchell, Ogden, and others, who stand at the head of the Manchester reformers, followed Mr. Hunt; but their speeches, though lengthy, did not excite much interest; and about 4 o'clock the meeting broke up, when the orators and their friends were escorted, in the same order of procession in which they had entered the town, to the Spring Eagle, in Hanging-ditch, where a substantial dinner was served up to upwards of 200, and where I now leave them, as happy as Sir John Barleycorn and English gin can make them.

Young Cobbett did not find it convenient to attend the meeting.

It is the most pleasing part of this business to state, that not the least disposition to riot or turbulence was evinced, nor was there any personal insult offered to any individual whatever. The owners of the principal cotton mills (whether well or ill advised I will not pretend to say) locked their men in at the dinner hour, and let them out an hour earlier this evening. This certainly kept many thousands from the place of meeting.
Manchester Meeting.

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