CHARTIST MEETING AND TORY RIOT AT DEVIZES.

(From a Government paper.)

On Friday evening last, a public meeting, convened by the Devizes Chartists (respectable tradesmen), took place in the Market-place. At 6 o'clock a procession of about 2,000 persons from the surrounding villages, entered Devizes, with music, flags, &c. Mr. Henry Vincent, Mr. W. G. Burns, of the Convention, and Mr. W. P. Roberts, of Bath, were in an open carriage. On reaching the market the numbers were about 5,000. A large waggon was provided as hustings.

Mr. Carrier, of Trowbridge, was called to the chair. He had not spoken five minutes before a body of from 200 to 300 Tories, composed of drunken farmers, lawyers' clerks, parsons, and other supporters of the renegade Burdett, headed by Tugwell, the under-sheriff of the county, made their appearance at the right of the meeting. A horn was blown by Tugwell, the under-sheriff, as the signal of attack, when an immediate rush was made upon the meeting, with cries of "Corn laws for ever;" "Church and State;" "No Dissenters;" "No bloody Whigs and Radicals;" "Three cheers for the Queen;" and "Down with Vincent." The meeting thus suddenly thrown into confusion, no man knowing friend from foe, and the dark of night approaching, a scene of indescribable confusion occurred. Mr. Roberts of
We meant noon, and the dark of night approaching, a scene of indescribable confusion occurred. Mr. Roberts, of Bath, endeavoured to obtain a hearing, but in vain. Mr. Burns then mounted, and said, "Here are a few drunken Tories trying to raise the antiquated cry of "Church and State!" but we will neither be bamboozled by the one, nor plundered by the other." (Loud cheers and dreadful uproar.)

Mr. Vincent rose amidst stones, flints, and mud, which were flying in all directions. He said, "Friends, be not alarmed—these fellows below are giving us very important lessons—they are convincing us of the efficacy of moral force. (Loud cheers, waving of hats, groans, and cries of "Corn-laws and Church and State for ever.") We are met to night to tell the base aristocracy that we have sworn death to the system by which they live, (cheers and confusion,) and to tell them, that if these be the weapons with which the people are to be met, we shall take up arms in our own defence." (Cheers, and throwing of mud and stones.) The confusion increasing with the darkness, Mr. Vincent said, "It is essential the peace be preserved, so I suggest the propriety of adjourning this meeting."

Mr. Carrier then adjourned the meeting until Easter Monday, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

One of the farmers said, he would give any man 30s. who would fire upon Vincent, or any of the Chartists. Numbers of the Tory landlords carried fire arms, and several were fired off in the distance. The Chartists soon dispersed in the most orderly manner, and Messrs. Burns, Vincent, and Roberts retired to the Curriers' Arms, and there addressed a large room full of friends.
As soon as the meeting in the Market place was adjourned, the Tories, in a perfect state of frenzy, retired to the Castle Inn and other places. Three barrels of beer were given away to about 300 men and boys. In a state of beastly drunkenness, armed with clubs, stones, knives, &c., the mob marched down to the Curriers' Arms, and surrounded the house. All the leading Tories of the town and neighbourhood were seen in the crowd. An attempt was next made to force their way into the house, and the lower part of the door was immediately smashed in, together with the windows in front of the building. Several of the Chartists expressed their determination to arm themselves and their friends, to attack the assailants, but Messrs. Vincent, Burns, and Roberts, insisted upon the Chartists keeping the peace until the latest moment. Things getting worse, and there being every appearance of the drunken mob obtaining possession of the house, the females were put into a back bed room. Mr. Vincent and his friends armed themselves with all available weapons, and successfully protected the building from further injury.

By this time the mayor, a magistrate, and the constabulary force arrived. By the courage and perseverance of the mayor, the piteous body of destructive, who rejoice in the name of Conservatives, were soon compelled to disperse. The gang of Tories who got up the row are the same persons who engaged 300 ruffians to spit upon Dundas, the Liberal candidate, at the late election.
Chartist Meeting And Tory Riot At Devizes.

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