PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

*HOUSE OF LORDS, June 12.*

## TRAITOROUS PRACTICES.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL, about 1 o'Clock, laid on the table a green bag, containing farther information on the subject of traitorous practices. The papers were referred to the secret committee.

*REPORT OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE.*

The Earl of Liverpool presented the Report.

"By the Lords' Committee appointed to take into consideration several papers, sealed up in a bag, &c. and to report to the house, &c.

"The report begins by stating, that the Committee, after an examination of the papers referred to them, feel it their painful duty to declare, that they see but too many proofs of a traitorous conspiracy to overthrow the Government and the constitution, and to subvert the existing order of society.

"The Report then praises the active exertions of the Government, and particularly of the Magistrates in the execution of the general laws, and of the special powers intrusted to them by the new Acts of Parliament: but the Committee assert, that though the plans of the conspirators have been thus frustrated, yet, in spite of all this, the same wicked and desperate designs are still pursued. The information on which this conclusion is founded is said to be collected from sources frequently unconnected and unknown to each other; but the result is said to be uniform, and is also corroborated by a striking coincidence in many minute particulars.

"The Committee then observe, that their intelligenee rests, in many of its parts, upon the testimony of persons who are either themselves implicated in these criminal transactions, or who have apparently engaged in them for the purpose of obtaining information, and imparting it to the Magistrates or the Secretary of State.

"The Committee allow that such testimony must be very unquestionable; and state, that they have reason to apprehend, that the language and conduct of some of the latter description of witnesses has had the effect of encouraging those designs which it was intended they should only be the means of detecting. But allowing for these circumstances, the Committee are still of opinion, that the statement which they proceed to give is by no means exaggerated, but perfectly warranted by the papers submitted to their inspection.

"It proceeds to state, that the papers relate, almost without exception, to the manufacturing districts in the midland and northern counties; and although the disaffeeted still look to the metropolis with the hope of assistance and direction, yet to the districts thus referred to the more recent projects of insurrection were to have been confined.

"The Committee then state, that although in many of these districts distress has operated to expose the minds of the labouring classes to irritation and perversion, yet this distress in their opinion, has been rather the instrument than the cause of the disaffection. In some of the disaffected districts they believed that distress had been less felt than in many other parts of the kingdom; while in other places, where the distress has been most grievous, it has been sustained with such patience, loyalty, and good conduct, as cannot be too highly commended; and the Committee think that it is chiefly by the means mentioned in the report of the former Committee, namely, by the extensive circulation of seditious and blasphemous publications, and by the continual repitition of inflammatory discourses, that this spirit of disaffection has been excited and diffused. These have gradually weakened among the lower order the attachment to our Government and constitution, and the respect for law, morality, and religion; and their minds have thus been prepared for the adoption of measures no less injurious to their interests and happiness, than to those of every other class of His Majesty's subjects.

"Since the former report, Manchester and its neighbourhood are stated to be the only places where meetings have been held in such numbers as to excite alarm. At a meeting there on the 3d of March, for the purpose of petitioning against the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, on which occasion several thousand persons were assembled, it was resolved, that another meeting was to be held on the 10th, with the intention that ten out of every twenty persons should proceed to London with a petition to the Prince Regent. The interval was employed in repeated and numerous meetings, when the designs of the leaders were developed in speeches of designs of the most undisguised violence. One man avowed himself a republican and a leveller, and would never give up the cause till a republican form of government was established; others stated, that if their petition was rejected, they must force it; that the large towns in Yorkshire were acting on the same plan, and would meet them on the road, or at least march to London at the same time: that the Scotch were on their march, and that they should be one hundred thousand strong when joined by the people of the manufacturing districts on the road; and that it would be impossible for the army, or any thing else, to resist them. The speakers were sometimes checked by some of their associates, but were generally received with strong marks of applause and concurrence. Arrangements for the match were pointed out, and the people were told to provide themselves with blankets, shoes and knapsacks and with money and food. Those who remained behind were to assist with subscriptions. Every ten men were to choose a leader, and one was to be placed over every hundred. Strong intimations were also given of the propriety and necessity of providing themselves with arms, but those do not appear to have been acted upon except in a few instances.

"On the 10th of March the meeting took place, consisting of from 10 to 15,000 persons; and although some of the leaders had been previously arrested, and some were seized on the spot, the purpose was not abandoned, and large numbers of the deluded people marched off towards London.

"It goes on to state, that a considerable body was stopped on their way to Stockport, while great numbers passed through Leek, and one party went as far as Ashbourne; but the activity of the magistrates in dispersing the meeting and stopping these parties, prevented the execution of a design which probably would have disturbed the peace, not only of the counties through which they passed, but might have led to consequences highly dangerous to the public tranquility.

"It observes, that the planners of the plot, instead of being discouraged by this discomfiture, pursued their measures uninterruptedly. Fresh meetings, though in smaller numbers, were soon afterwards held, consisting chiefly of delegates from Manchester, Derbyshire, and the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire. At some of those meetings reports were made of the quantity of pikes, firelocks, and bullets, which could be procured for the intended rising. Communications were kept up with Nottingham, Sheffield, and Birmingham, in order to excite the people of those districts to similar attempts, and to ascertain the progress of their preparations. In these meetings, it is stated that the pretence of Parliamentary reform was almost entirely discarded, and nothing less than revolution meditated: and to such a dreadful degree were the minds of many of the people at these meetings corrupted and inflamed, that in public speeches the necessity of *doing away with*, or *disposing of* (this was the term) the persons most obnoxious to them was unreservedly announced; and it is stated to have been once proposed to make Manchester a Moscow, in order to strengthen the cause by throwing great numbers out of work.

"A general insurrection was to have commenced at Manchester on the 30th; magistrates were to have been seized, prisoners liberated, soldiers either to be surprised at their barracks, or to be drawn out of them by the burning of factories, to be set on fire, and while they were thus diverted from their posts, the barracks were to be occupied by a party stationed for that purpose, and the magazine to be seized. The firing of a rocket, or rockets, was to be the signal for this rising. The numbers sufficient for the immediate purpose were estimated at 2 or 3,000 men, but it was expected that the insurgents would amount to 5,000 in the morning.

"In some parts of these proceedings there are traces of an intention to issue proclamations, absolving the King's subjects from their allegiance, and denouncing death against their opponents. The committee however allow, that they have not found any evidence of the actual preparation of these proclamations.

"This atrocious conspiracy was detected and defeated by the magistrates, who seized and confined some of the ringleaders before the period fixed for its execution. This timely prevention appears to have checked very considerably the proceedings of the disaffected, and the subsequent intelligence from that quarter is of a more favourable kind.

"During part of the month of April there appears to have been a general intermission at least of the more open proceedings. Owing to the regulations of the new Act, public meetings have been less frequent, and societies have been less frequently convened, even in public houses. Clubs have been dissolved, meetings suspended or hold so privately and so remotely as to have escaped observation.

"They have sewer communications in writing; the names of leading persons have been recommended to be concealed: few persons only are entrusted with the progress of their plans, and these men are to give notice to different delegates to have their partifans ready to act when and as required. These delagates have met in small numbers, and have kept up a general, though verbal, correspondence among the disaffected.

"Towards the end of April, and during the month of May, this correspondence has been more active. On the 5th of May a meeting was held in a town in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, which was attended by delegates from other principal towns of that district, and from Leicester, Birmingham, and Nottingham. At this meeting reports were made by the delegates of the numbers which could be collected from the different districts: they were stated to be very large; but the committee states itself to be aware of the exaggeration probable in such a matter. About this time it was proposed that there should be another general meeting, for as early a day as possible after the discussion of the question of reform in the House of Commons. The insurgents were first to march to Nottingham, where they were expected to be joined by other bodies; and on their way to London by still more, all armed either before, or to be armed by the robbery of private houses or of different barracks and depots, which were to be attacked.

"At several subsequent meetings it was reported, that the increase of members were so great, that it was said at one of them, that it was necessary to extend their divisions daily, and enlarge their committee.

"Similar information from many quarters whence the delegates were deputed, confirms the expectation of a general rising about the time that has been mentioned; and states, that a postponement took place to the 9th or 10th of June, for various reasons. By the latest intelligence from these quarters it appears, that these designs were frustrated by the same causes that formerly existed, namely—the vigilance of Government, the activity and intelligence of the magistrates and the assistance lent them in the exercise of their functions by the regular troops and yeomanry acting under their direction, the efficient arrangements of the officers intrusted with the service, the knowledge obtained of the plans of the disaffected, together with the arrest and imprisonment of the leading agitators; and that by these causes a still farther postponement of their atrocious plans would be occasioned. Subsequent intelligence leaves no doubt that the plan, in its full extent, has been frustrated; but the correctness of former information has been confirmed by the late appearance of bodies of armed men at the period previously fixed, and particularly in one of the districts which had been described as determined to rise, without waiting for a general co-operation.

"The Committee think it important to state, that many of the most active magistrates and persons whose civil and military situations enabled them, upon the most extensive information, to form the most accurate opinion, concur in attributing the disappointment of the attempts already made, and of the hopes of continued tranquillity, to the exercise of the new powers which Parliament intrusted to the executive Government, and to the influence produced by the knowledge that these powers would be called into action as soon as necessity should justify their employment. They concur likewise in a representation of the danger with which the expiry of these powers, at the present moment, would threaten the country: and the Committee feel, that they should ill discharge the high trust reposed in them if they did not declare their unreserved assent to this opinion. They, therefore, with the fullest confidence in the loyalty and good dispositions, not only of those classes of the community and those portions of the kingdom which have generally hitherto remained free from disaffection, but of the greatest part of those very districts which are the chief scenes of discontent and of threatened disturbance, cannot refrain from declaring it as the result of all the information which they have collected, that the time is not yet arrived when the maintenance of public tranquillity, and the protection of the lives and property of His Majesty's subjects, can be allowed to depend upon the ordinary powers of the law."

The report was, on the motion of the Earl of LIVERPOOL, ordered to be printed.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL then stated, that in case the report should be printed in time, a noble friend of his would bring in the bill for continuing the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act to-morrow, and move the first reading on that day; and that it be read a 2d time on Monday.

## PETITIONS.

Lord Holland presented a petition from freeholders of Berkshire against the farther suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. This petition, his lordship stated, was very respectably signed, and would have been much more numerously signed had it not been apprehended that the Ministers intended to hurry through both houses the bill for continuing the suspension, and that the petition might come too late.

DISTURBANCES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE.

JUNE 13.---We have great satisfaction in being able to state, that the insurrection in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire has been checked.

Forty-eight of the insurgents have been made prisoners, 20 of whom have been sent to Nottingham, the remaining 28 to the goal of the county of Derby. A number of muskets, pistols, and pikes have been taken from the prisoners.

ALGIERS.

Letters from Gibraltar, received yesterday morning, of the 22d ult. mention the arrival of his Majesty's Ship Erin on the 10th of May, in six days from Algiers, and on the 25th the American frigate United States, in eight days, besides the arrival of different merchantmen, and that there was no news. Letters dated Leghorn, 24th of May, Marseilles the 31st, and Geneva, the 31st of May, are totally silent on the subject of the massacre. At the latter port a vessel had arrived from Tunis, bringing no intelligence of any importance.

THE ARMY.---The effective strength of the British Army at home and abroad, exclusive of artillery, on the 25th April, 1817, was as follows:---

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| Officers | 7,623 |
| Serjeants | 8,811 |
| Trumpeters or Drummers | 3,561 |
| Farriers | 338 |
| Rank and File | 134,699 |
| Total | 155,032 |
| The total of the artillery, as given in a recent number of our paper, was | 11,833 |
| Making the grand total of the Army | 166,865 |

In the above statement the Cape of Good Hope regiment, the Ceylonese regiments, and black pioneers, are not included, as they are paid by the colonies in which they are serving. These troops consist of 201 officers, 239 serjeants, 86 drummers, and 3,834 rank and file.

*Saturday June 14.*

*Evening.*

Paris papers just received, state that disturbances still continue in various parts of France---the ostensible cause is scarcity of provisions.

On the 2d inst. the States General of Wurtemberg formally rejected the Constitution, as presented by the King, 97 to 42.

The British trade in the Mediterranean is now sadly annoyed by pirates. An English vessel is said to have been sunk, with all her crew, in an engagement in the Gulf of Manfredonia. The pirate is reported to have been an Algerine.