

THE TOWN of Bolton affords a recent and melancholy Demonstration of the destructive Consequences of quartering Troops among Citizens in a Time of Peace, under a Pretence of supporting the Laws and aiding Civil Authority; every confederate and unprievable Person among us was enabled with the Commission of their Conferences when it was known that a Number of their Regiment were ordered to this Town under such a Pretence, but in Reality to enforce oppressive Measures; to awe & control the legislative as well as executive Power of the Province, and to quell a Spirit of Liberty which some it may have been badly opposed & even ridiculed by some, would do Honor to any Age or Country. A few Persons among us had determined to use all their Influence to procure a destructive Measure with a View to their securely enjoying the Profits of an American Revenue, and unhappily both for Britain and the Country they fell victims to it.

It is to Governor Bernard, the Commissioners, their Confidants and Coadjutors, that we are indebted as the procuring Cause of a military Power in this Capital.—The Boston Journal of Occurrences, as printed in Mr. Holbe's York Gazette, from Times to Times, afforded many striking instances of the Distresses brought upon the Inhabitants by this Measure; and since those Journals have been discontinued, our Troubles from that Quarter have been growing upon us. We have known a Party of Soldiers in the face of Day fire off a loaded Musket upon the Inhabitants, others have been picked up by Boys and even our Magistrates assaulted and put in Danger of their Lives, when Offenders brought before them have been refused; and why those and other bold and base Criminals have as yet escaped the Punishment due to their Crimes, may be soon Matter of Enquiry by the Representation of this People to the Legislature; but it is natural to their being often wounded by our Youth in these Encounters, has only served to irritate the former.—What pained at Mr. Gray's Rope-walk, has already been given, the Public, & may be said to have led the Way to the late Catastrophe.—That the Rope-walk Lads when attacked by Superior Men, and that the latter was with few exceptions, a Success in the Club-way, was too mortifying, and perhaps it may hereafter appear, that even some of their Officers were unhappily affected with this Circumstance. Divers Stories were propagated among the Soldiers, that served to agitate their Spirits; particularly on the Sabbath, that one Chalmers, a Sergeant, represented as a sober Man, had been mistreated the preceding Day, and must therefore have been murdered by the Townsmen; an Officer of Distinction so far credited this Report, that he required of Mr. Gray's Rope-walk that Sabbath; and when entered by that Gentleman as soon as he could meet him, the Occasion of his going, the Officer replied, that it was to look if the Sergeant said to be murdered had not been hid there; this sober Sergeant was found on the Monday unhurt, in a House of Pleasure.—The Evidence already collected shew, that many Threatnings had been thrown out by the Soldiers, and we do not pretend to say that there was any preconcerted Plan, when the Evidence are published, the World will judge.—We may however venture to declare, that it appears too probable from their Conduct, that some of the Soldiers aimed to draw and provoke the Townsmen into Quarrels, and that they then intended to make Use of other Weapons than Cane, Clubs or Bludgeons.

Our Readers will doubtless expect a circumstantial Account of the tragical Affair on Monday Night last; but we hope they will excuse our being so particular as we should have been, had we not felt that the Town was interested in Enquiry & its Representation thereof.

On the Evening of Monday, being the 9th Current, several Soldiers of the 29th Regiment were seen parading the Streets with their drawn Cutlasses and Bayonets, abusing and wounding Numbers of the Inhabitants. A few minutes after nine o'clock, four youths, named Edward Archbald, William Merchant, Francis Archbald, and John Leach, Jun. came down Cornhill together, and separating at Doctor Loring's corner, the two former were passing the narrow alley leading to Murray's barrack, in which was a soldier brandishing a broad sword of an uncommon size against the walls, out of which he struck fire plentifully. A person of a mean countenance armed with a large cudgel bore him company. Edward Archbald admonished Mr. Merchant to take care of the sword, on which the soldier turned round and struck Archbald on the arm, then pushed at Merchant and pierced thro' his cloths into the arm close to the arm-pit and grazed the skin. Merchant then struck the soldier with a short stick he had, & the other Person ran to the barrack & bro't with him two soldiers, one armed with a pair of tongs the other with a shovel; he with the tongs pursued Archbald back thro' the alley, collar'd and laid him over the head with the tongs. The noise bro't people together, and John Hicks, a young lad, coming up, knock'd the soldier down, but let him get up again; and more lads gathering, drove them back to the barrack, where the boys stood some time as it were to keep them in. In less than a minute 10 or 12 of them came out with drawn cutlasses, clubs and bayonets, and set upon the unarmed boys and young folks, who stood then a little while, but finding the inequality of their equipment differed.

On hearing the noise, one Samuel Atwood, came up to see what was the matter, and entering the alley from dock-square, heard the lat-

ter part of the combat, and when the boys had dispersed he met the 10 or 12 soldiers aforesaid rushing down the alley towards the square, and asked them if they intended to murder people? They answered Yes, by G—d, root and branch! With that once they struck Mr. Atwood with a club, which was repeated by another, and being unarmed he turned to go off, and received a wound on the left shoulder which reached the bone and gave him much pain. Retreating a few steps, Mr. Atwood met two officers and said, Gentlemen, what is the matter? They answered, you'll see as you go by. Immediately after, those heroes appeared in the square, asking where were the boogers? where were the crows? But notwithstanding their fierceness to naked men, one of them advanced towards a youth who had a felt of straw laid in his hand, and said damn them there is one of them; but the young man seeing a person near him with a drawn sword and good cane ready to support him, held up his slave in defiance, and they quietly passed by him up the little alley by Mr. Sibbys to Kingfield, where they attacked single and unarmed persons till they raised much clamor, and then turned down Cornhill street, inflicting all they met in like manner, and pursuing some to their very doors. A thirty or forty persons, mostly lads, being by this means gathered in Kingfield, Capt. Preston, with a party of men with charged bayonets, came from the main guard to the Commissioners house, the soldier pushing their bayonets, crying, Make way! They took place by the custom-house, and continuing to push to drive the people off, pricked some in several places on which they were clamorous, and, it is said, threw five balls. On this, the Captain commanded them to fire, and more snow-balls coming, he again said, Damn you, Fire, be the consequence what it will. One soldier then fired, and a townman with a cudgel struck him over the hands with such force that he dropt his firelock; and rushing forward aimed a blow at the Captain's head, which graz'd his hat and fell pretty heavy upon his face. However, the soldiers continued the fire, successively, till 7 or 8, or so, as we may say 11 guns were discharged.

By this fatal manoeuvre, three men were laid dead on the spot, and two more struggling for life; but what shewed a degree of cruelty unknown to British troops, at least just the house of Hanover has directed their operation, was an attempt to fire upon or push with their bayonets the persons who undertook to remove the slain and wounded!

Mr. Benjamin Leigh, now undertaker in the Delph Manufactory, came up, and after some conversation with Capt. Preston, relative to his conduct in this affair, advised him to draw off his men, with which he complied.

The dead are Mr. Samuel Gray, killed on the spot, the ball entering his head and beating off a large portion of his skull.

A mulatto man, named Crispus Attucks, who was born in Frammingham, but lately belonged to New-Provident and was herein ordered to go for North-Carolina, also killed instantly; two balls entering his breast, one of them in special grazing the right lobe of the lungs, and a great part of the liver most horribly.

Mr. James Caldwell, mate of Capt. Morton's vessel, in like manner killed by two balls entering his back.

Mr. Samuel Maverick, a promising youth of 17 years of age, son of the widow Maverick, and an apprentice to Mr. Greenwood, Ivory-Turner, mortally wounded, a ball went through his belly, & was cut out at his back: He died the next morning.

A lad named Christopher Moore, about 17 years of age, an apprentice to Mr. Walker, Shipwright; wounded, a ball entered his back about 3 inches above the left kidney, near the spine, and was cut out of the breast on the same side; apprehended he will die.

A lad named John Clark, about 17 years of age, whose parents live at Melford, and an apprentice to Capt. Samuel Howard of this town; wounded, a ball entered just above his groin and came out at his hip, on the opposite side, apprehended he will die.

Mr. Edward Payne, of this town, Merchant, standing at his entry-door, received a ball in his arm, which shattered some of the bones.

Mr. John Green, Taylor, coming up Leverett's Lane, received a ball just under his hip, and lodged in the under part of his thigh, which was extracted.

Mr. Robert Patterson, a seafaring man, who was the person that had his trowsers shot through in Richardson's affair, wounded; a ball went through his right arm, and he suffered great loss of blood.

Mr. Patrick Carr, about 30 years of age, who work'd with Mr. Field, Leather-Breeches-maker in Queen-Street, wounded, a ball enter'd near his hip and went out at his side.

A lad named David Parker, an apprentice to Mr. Eddy the Wheelwright; wounded, a ball entered in his thigh.

The People were immediately alarmed with the Report of this horrid Massacre, the Balls were set a Ringing, and

great Numbers soon assembled at the Place where this tragical Scene had been acted; their Feelings may be better conceived than expressed; and while some were taking Care of the Dead and Wounded, the Rest were in Consultation what to do in those dreadful Circumstances.—But so little intimidated were they, notwithstanding their being within a few Yards of the Main-Guard, and seeing the 29th Regiment under Arms, and drawn up in King's Street; that they kept their Station and appeared as an Officer of Rank express'd it, ready to run upon the very Muzzles of their Muzzles.—The Lieut. Governor soon came into the Town-House, and there met some of his Majesty's Council, and a Number of Civil Magistrates; a considerable Body of the People immediately entered the Council Chamber, and expressed themselves to his Honor with a Freedom and Warmth becoming the occasion. He used his utmost Endeavours to pacify them, requesting that they would let the Matter abide for the Night, and promising to do all in his Power that Justice should be done, and the Law have its Course; Men of Influence and Weight with the People were not wanting on their part to procure their Compliance with the Honorably, by representing the horrible Consequences of a pious and rash Engagement in the Night, and assuring them that such Measures should be entered upon in the Morning, as would be agreeable to their Dignity; and a more likely way of obtaining the best Satisfaction for the Blood of their Fellow-Townsmen.—The Inhabitants attended to their Suggestions, and the Regiment under Arms being ordered to their Barracks, which was notified upon by the People, they then separated & returned to their Dwellings by one o'clock. At 3 o'clock Capt. Preston was committed, as were the Soldiers who fired a few Hours after him.

Tuesday Morning presented a most shocking Scene, the Blood of our Fellow-Citizens running like Water thro' King-Street, and the Merchants Exchange the principal Seat of the Military Parade for about 15 Months past. Our Blood might also be track'd up to the head of Long-Lane, and through divers other Streets and Villages.

At eleven o'clock the inhabitants met at Faneuil-Hall, and after some animated speeches becoming the occasion, they chose a Committee of 3 respectable Gentlemen to wait upon the Lieut. Governor in Council, to request of him to limit his Orders for the immediate removal of the troops.