

rendezvous, then in Haggarsgate. An old man, named William Atkinson, was seen encouraging the rioters, and was condemned and executed at York. Curiously enough, it was a man of the same name who was actual keeper of the Whitby rendezvous at the time, and the following letter, which has been preserved, written by this Lieutenant Atkinson to Philip Stephens at the Admiralty, was among the documents that Mrs. Gaskoll had placed at her disposal:—

‘Please acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that on Saturday the 23rd instant, at half past seven o’clock my rendezvous was attacked by a mob, in number as far as near as I could judge about a thousand (men and women).

‘The women supplied the men with large stones and bricks; the windows of the house was instantly demolished, but the resistance of the Gang kept them out till nine, when with Capston bars they broke the door to pieces and rushed in, as many as the house and yard could contain; they turned the gang out, and treated them in the most savage and cruel manner. Some of them nearly murdered; the furniture of the House destroyed and carried off, the landlord almost killed, and the action of this banditti was of the most horrid nature. We received no military aid; that on (sic) Captains Shortland, Lieutenant Okes, and myself, waiting on Lord Darlington was informed by his Lordship that he could not act without a magistrate; and am sorry to say the magistrates have paid very little attention to the duty on which we are employed; but to do justice to Major Yeoman, I must add that he has not been able from extreme illness to render us his services. On Sunday I collected the major part of my gang and brought them to the rendezvous in order to get their wounds dressed, and taken care of in the best manner I could; at 9 o’clock at night another mob assembled in order to pull