

rank offence which smells to Heaven, which has the primal eldest curse upon it—a brothers blood!" Perhaps the sanguinary monster and his abettors would attempt to urge the plea of self-defence in extenuation of their crime. Vain subterfuge! *quantum in Charybdi laborant!* Let it first be proved that an assault endangering life and property had been committed—an assault sufficient to justify their firing upon a promiscuous crowd, most of which were no otherwise concerned in the Charrivarri than as mere spectators. Till this be clearly evinced, the plea of self-defence will never serve their turn; it becomes rather an aggravation of their crime, as its obvious tendency would be to libel the magistrates and misrepresent the whole affair."

The general propriety of these reflections, can not be denied, but the particular application of that part of them which relates to the conduct of the magistrates would lead to the conclusion that their conduct throughout was praiseworthy. It has been the contrary. True, they did not interfere to prevent the Charrivarri; but I am not inclined to give them credit for their forbearance in that respect, as proceeding from a conviction that to do so would have been, as is the fact, illegal and improper, but from timidity, vacillation, and old-womanism. Their subsequent conduct proves this; as well as the absurd prohibition of the Charrivarri, which we find in the ridiculous editions of blue-laws that are facetiously called police-regulations. Instead of making all possible exertions to discover, take up, and bring to justice, the perpetrators, advisers, abettors, and accessories of the unprovoked and malicious attack that was made upon the populace by a predetermined, and prepared, set of sturdy malignants, and of the murder that was committed in consequence; they have been as quiet and indifferent on that subject, as if it was not deserving of notice, and no more to be reprehended than the slaughtering of sheep for the shambles. whilst on the other hand, every exertion has been used to find out, harass, and prosecute, the innocent, unoffending, and aggrieved, persons who formed the Charrivarri. Nay, as far as I at present know of the matter; the enquiries and examinations have been confined to the persons and events, the characters, dresses, and vociferations, that occurred, previous to the firing of the fatal shot which was the first breach of the peace, the first unlawful act that was committed; as yet even the parties who subsequently, the evening after, attacked the house whence the firing took place, and who certainly were guilty of a riot, have remained I believe, unquestioned, probably for the very excellent reason, because they had not their masquerade dress on, which it seems is the front and head of their offence, in the eyes of those wiseacres who pretend that the Black Act is applicable to this case.