

Burdett, and some other eminent friends of the good cause. All this raised the bile and provoked the wrath of all the creatures of the Court.

Various schemes were hatched by which they hoped to run me down, such as trying to get all discounts or Bank accommodation stopped; but I was too strong for them. The sheriffs of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire laid their wise heads together, and came to the bold determination of seizing my warehouse, counting house, dwelling house, &c., for the purpose of finding my political and treasonable correspondence. After breaking open all lock-fast places and making a thorough search without finding anything to suit their purpose, they were told by my clerks that I had gone into the country that morning with Mrs. Ferrie and a party of friends, to spend the day at Mr. James Elder's.

It was then determined by these wise men to seize my person also. A warrant was put into the hands of their bailiffs, and I was apprehended in the midst of this company of friends as if I had been a culprit of the blackest cast: I was carried to the City and ushered into the presence of my accusers; the two sheriffs and their deputies. I immediately demanded of them a copy of the warrant, affidavit or information upon which they had ventured to take this very violent step. I saw at once that this demand took them all aback. Sheriff Connel at once got up and in a most rude and passionate manner ordered me to be respectful or he would make out a warrant to put me in jail. I replied that he might do it at his peril, and that he had no right to act out of his own County, indeed that he had no right to be there except he was summoned as a witness. On this he broke out into a most furious passion, and said, he had a letter in his pocket which would condemn me. I smiled with contempt at him, and put him at defiance. The other Sheriffs saw that they had got themselves into a scrape, so they all retired into an adjoining room to consult. When they returned the head Sheriff of the City and County, Robert Hamilton, addressed me in a very polite and conciliatory manner, saying, that he had from the first been against this mode of conducting the case, and that he was sure that there was a mistake in the matter, but that they had been informed that I had for long been in active correspondence with very dangerous political characters, and that all they wanted was to peruse said correspondence, and that he hoped there was nothing seditious or treasonable in it, and if there was not, I could have no objections to satisfy them on the question. I said that, as they had not consulted my feelings in the very harsh steps which had been taken, I would show them nothing, and that I had never at any time corresponded with such characters as they had mentioned. At which Connel said, "Dare you deny, sir, that you have for long been corresponding with these firebrands of this country—Major Cartwright, Sir Francis Burdett, Samuel Brooks and others of that stamp?" I replied, I would not deny I had, and I considered it a high honour.

On this he rose and swore that he would again go to my dwelling house and break open every lock-fast place which they had not before examined. I