

spend their time in mock debate and idle opposition, they might chuse another leader.

His harangue was received with the loudest applause; upon which he moved, that the whole body of the Association should meet on the second day of June, in St. George's Fields, at ten in the morning, to accompany him to the House of Commons on the delivery of the petition. This being unanimously assented to, he informed them, that if he found himself attended with less than twenty thousand of them, he would not present the petition. He then directed they should form themselves into four divisions; the first, second, and third, to consist of those who belonged to the City, Westminster, and Southwark; the fourth of the Scotch resident in London. They were, by way of distinction, to wear blue cockades in their hats.

In this manner did Lord George Gordon bring to bear what he had often mentioned in Parliament. His speeches to that Assembly had frequently held out the most fiery denunciations of the power and influence he possessed in Scotland; where he told them he was at the head of one hundred and twenty thousand men, determined to do themselves justice if it should be refused them. He insisted, with the utmost vehemence, that ample security should be given to the people of Great Britain against the danger of Popery.

Three days previous to the presentation of the petition, he gave notice of it to the House, and acquainted it with the manner in which it was to be presented. From whatever motive it proceeded, this information did not seem to make any impression upon that assembly. It was received with as much indifference and unconcern as all his former intimations.

On the second day of June, according to appointment, about fifty or sixty thousand men assembled