

A
FULL ACCOUNT
OF THE
RIOTS AT BRISTOL,

On the three last days of October, 1831.

ON Saturday, the 29th of October, 1831, the opening of the Commission of Assize was appointed to take place at Bristol, in the usual form. By a very Ancient Charter this solemn Court of Justice must be held by the Recorder, who is to be a skilful and experienced lawyer, together with the Magistrates of the city. The Gaol contained upwards of one hundred prisoners, committed for various crimes and misdemeanours, who were to be tried by Sir Charles Wetherell, the Recorder, as Chief Judge.

Sir Charles is also a member of Parliament, and in his place in the House of Commons, he opposed the passing of the Reform Bill, the great political question of the day. In county, and town, and village, there had been public meetings, and long and fiery speeches; the press, the powerful press applied its mighty lever to the work, and petition after petition travelled to London, in favour of "the Bill." If they would honestly confess it, I believe very many were all alive about the passing of the Bill, who like myself had no very clear notions as to what it meant, or what reason there was to expect such great things from it. The Bill, or some bill will pass one day I suppose, and I am content to let Old Time settle the point. You and I, have lived long enough, to see several "great questions" agitated, with vast promise of good to the country, more especially to the labouring classes. The grand consideration, however, must be, whether