

increased; and under cloud of night, the rioters grew bolder and more violent. The mayor attended by some of the magistrates, appeared in front of the Mansion-House and endeavoured by expostulation and entreaty, to prevail on them to go home, warning them of their danger, if by persisting in their criminal conduct he should be compelled to read the riot act. During this kind and conciliatory address, the mayor and those around him were assaulted with a shower of stones, by one of which the person next the mayor was severely hurt. At length the riot act was read, which declares that all persons assembling tumultuously are guilty of a capital felony, and may be punished with death; and messengers were despatched for the troops, which, till now had been kept in concealment. In the interval of more than half an hour, before their arrival, the mayor and those who were with him in the Mansion-House, were in the greatest personal danger. The people on the outside had driven in the constables, torn up the iron railings in front of the house, and with stones and large pieces of timber battered in the windows and window frames and the pannels of the doors; and were with the greatest difficulty prevented from forcing a complete entrance by barricading the windows and doors with beds and furniture; they had entered into the dining-room and another room on the ground floor, and destroyed the contents, and had made such a breach in the street door as enabled them to rake and sweep the hall with stones and large bars of wood; and they had, as it appears, provided and placed straw in the dining room, for the purpose of setting fire to the house. On the arrival of the soldiers, the people withdrew from the attack, but they shewed no signs of alarm, and received the soldiers with loud cheers.

Here was the Mansion House, the appointed dwelling place of the newly elected chief magistrate, a partial ruin, and only preserved by a guard of soldiers from entire destruction by the mob, who seemed eager to rush in, and dye their hands in blood. And