



Dinton

On Tuesday last the citizens of Salisbury were considerably excited by the information that a party of rioters, after destroying a thrashing-machine of Mr Colbourne's, at Bishop Down Farm, were proceeding, armed with bludgeons, iron bars and portions of the machinery they had broken to pieces, towards this city, for the purpose, as reported, of destroying the iron-foundry of Mr Figes.

Mr Wyndham, of the College, placing himself at the head of a few special constables, hastily collected, and supported by a detachment of the Salisbury Troop of Yeomanry, met them at the entrance of the town, and after having earnestly but vainly remonstrated with them in their illegal proceedings, directed the Riot Act to be read, and the few constables present being unable to arrest their progress, the mob was charged, under a shower of stones, and driven by the cavalry to the higher ground adjoining. The Cavalry then mounted the hill, and the rioters were speedily driven off. They were subsequently disarmed by the special constables, and in the course of the afternoon and evening 22 of the rioters were taken into custody, 17 of whom were committed to the county gaol for further examination.

The Yeomanry, after clearing the principal streets, dismounted, and paraded a strong guard at the Council-House. The remainder, with their horses bridled and saddled in quarters, held themselves in readiness to mount at a minute's notice. The whole of the Salisbury Troop were under arms during the night of Tuesday, and a strong guard mounted at the Council House, where the Magistrates of the city and of the county were assembled to give their directions for the preservation of the peace of their respective districts.

The Special Constables, in immense force, aided by many of the most respectable citizens, were under the directions of Mr Brodie; and it is impossible to speak too highly of the zeal and alacrity with which they discharged their respective duties. The prompt manner in which the more riotous part of the mob were seized and put into confinement produced an entire dispersion before the evening, on the approach of which the public-houses were completely cleared, and the night passed without any further disturbance.

The Hindon Troop, under the command of Captain Wyndham, of Dinton, arrived on the evening of Tuesday, and on the day following, under the directions of the Earl of Radnor, and Lieut.-Col. Baker (who had also, with Mr Fort, vainly advised a riotous assemblage at Alderbury to disperse), proceeded to Alderbury and Whaddon, and enabled the constables to secure twelve of the principal rioters, who were promptly seized, bound, and conveyed in a wagon, under an escort of the Hindon Troop, to the County Prison.

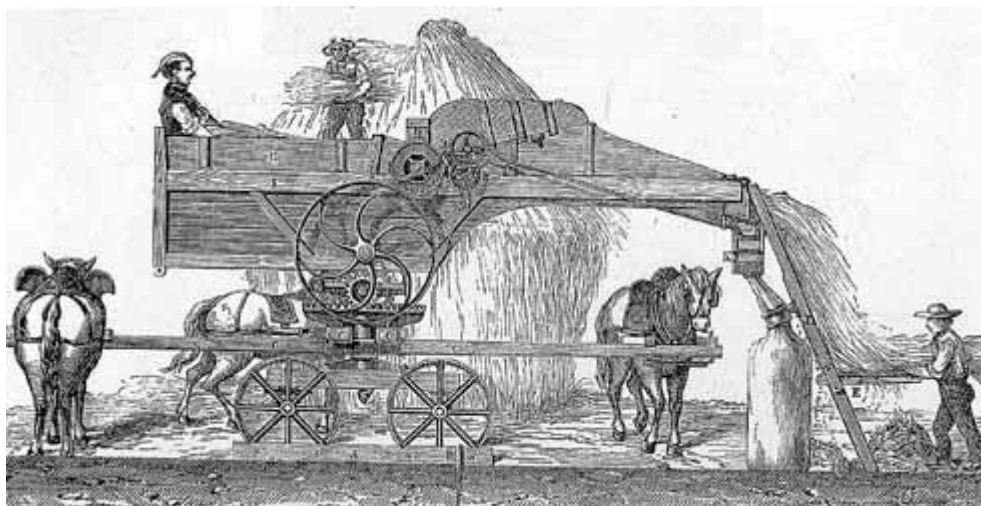
The Salisbury Troop, under the command of Captain Lord Arundell, and accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Baker, marched on the evening of Wednesday, to Mr Coote's of West Park, who had been twice attacked by strong bodies of rioters, but who, aided by some gallant friends, and the zeal and courage of his domestics, had not only succeeded in beating off the assailants, but, after a severe conflict, secured ten of the most desperate of the gang (a number exceeding the strength of their own party), all of whom have been subsequently committed. Mr Coote was well prepared to resist any attack that might have been made, and which had been strongly threatened; but both himself and friends being worn out with watching, he requested that a detachment of the Salisbury troop might, for their relief, stay during the night. Lord Arundell accordingly directed a division, under the command of Lieut. Peniston, to remain for that purpose; and it is but justice to this troop to observe, that, although they had been on duty during the whole of the preceding night, they complied with their Captain's orders with the utmost cheeriness. The horses of this division had not been unsaddled, nor men unbooted, from eleven o'clock on Tuesday till nine o'clock on the morning of Thursday, at which time they returned to their quarters at Salisbury. The parties who had threatened a renewed attack on Mr Coote had too much prudence to put their threats in execution, and the night passed without any further attempt.

On Thursday morning, the Hindon troop, in consequence of information which had been received here, marched westward, on the road to Dinton, Tisbury, &c. &c. Whilst they were at the former place, intelligence arrived that a large mob had assembled near Pyt House. The troop hastened forward with all speed, but arrived too late to save Mr Benett's thrashing-machine, at the home farm, from destruction. The mob had just quitted that spot to go to Lindley farm, where they succeeded in breaking another machine, also the property of Mr Benett. The troop first got sight of them as they were quitting this farm, and ascending a hill on the road to Tisbury; it then divided itself into two squadrons, near a plantation of fir-trees, one going to the right, and the other to the left. - The road being narrow, for the space of more than a hundred yards, the mob, stationed amongst the trees, pelted the military with stones as they were passing on. At the end of the plantation, where the two squadrons met again, the mob commenced a furious attack on them. - They were armed with bludgeons, pickaxes, hatchets, and other deadly weapons, besides stones. - The greatest patience and forbearance were shown for a long time by the cavalry; but common patience has its limits: - men cannot sit quietly on their horses to be wounded or cruelly butchered. A general charge was made on those misguided men, and some pistol shots were fired and sabre wounds inflicted. The result was, that a man of the name of Harding, was killed, and many were severely wounded, one of them very dangerously, 25 were captured, and brought in carts, under an escort of the cavalry, to Fisherton Gaol, where they were all lodged before midnight. Several of the Hindon Troop were also wounded, but not severely. We should state, that, before the mob began breaking then thrashing-machines, they had assembled at Mr Benett's house, who, on remonstrating with them in his magisterial capacity, was struck with stones, as was also Mr Legg, his bailiff.

We have given above an account of what has taken place within the immediate sphere of our own observations, and of the conflict near Tisbury; but the whole county has been in a state a great agitation during the past week. We have heard of a conflict at Knook, where the rioters were discomfited, and several prisoners taken. We have also a private letter from Marlborough, detailing the tumultuous proceedings in that neighbourhood of that place, and of Pewsey and Swindon. It appears that on all occasions the farmers, tradesmen, and yeomanry did their duty manfully, and stood well by one another. At Rockley, Wootton Rivers, Milton, Fifield, Aldbourne, Ramsbury,

Shalbourne, Burbage, and Froxfield, the different mobs were utterly discomfited; and 10 prisoners have been committed to Marlborough gaol. Too much praise cannot be given to the Rev. W. H. G. Williams, Mr Baskerville, Mr Colley, sen. Mr Colley, jun. and Mr Goddard, jun. for their spirited exertions in the above instance. -We are sorry to say that the mobs have, in some instance, been led in by persons who, from their station in life, ought to have done all that laid in their power to suppress rather than to create rebellion. We have heard of one person of this description, who headed the poor deluded fellows at Tisbury, whose name we are present forbear to mention; but we understand that the officers of justice are on the search for him, and that he will probably be soon in custody. In one place (we forget the name of it) the mob was led on by an opulent carrier, carrying a tri-coloured flag. The coward, however, ran away, and deserted his comrades on the approach of the civil and military forces. Search was made for him afterwards in his dwelling and warehouses, but he was not to be found. At last, the constable bethought him to open one of the rolled hides of leather, where this *surrageous* leader was discovered, and immediately secured and carried off to prison. -And now that Wiltshire has done its duty in suppressing tumults, and has found that its respectable inhabitants are not to be intimidated and ruled by mobs, let us express a hope that the *just* demands of the poorer classes will be attended to. They ought to be; and, in fact, we know that there is a truly virtuous and good feeling, and a sense of justice in the middling and higher orders of society, which will induce them immediately to commence the good work, and render unto every one that fair compensation to which he is entitled for his labour.

(*Salisbury and Winchester Journal* – Monday 29 November, 1830)



A Threshing machine of the type destroyed in the riots.