



Swing Riots – How Marlborough Was Affected

Marlborough, Nov 25.

There is scarcely a night but some of the farmers around are suffering by fire. At Dore there was a fire that destroyed five ricks, with barns, and other premises adjoining. They march in mobs of from one to nine hundred, mostly labouring men, some armed with adzes and hatchets, axes, hammers, pieces of iron, and other dangerous weapons. The Wiltshire Yeomanry are called out; the Staff are at the Armoury, night and day. There is a troop of dragoons stationed here till the alarm has subsided. They (the mob) first proceed by breaking the machinery, and since that they have entered houses and demanded money; the cavalry have taken with the farmers (yesterday), it is reported, 54; they were brought in, in carts and wagons, surrounded by the yeomanry on each side, with their swords drawn, and placed in our gaol; all the tradesmen almost in the town are sworn in as special constables; twenty-four of them parade the street every night as patrol. Mr. Westall has received two letters, threatening to destroy his premises by fire. The cavalry are gone out again today, accompanied by the farmers, who marched down the street this morning on horseback, armed with bludgeons, and headed by T. B. M. Baskerville, Esq., as their magistrate and leader; they are expected in town tonight, with the leader of one of the rebels. His name is Maurice Pope.

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