

Q Did not you know they were a society for Parliamentary Reform?

A Yes.

Q Did you wish Parliamentary Reform when you became a member, when you heard that paper read?—Did you wish a Parliamentary Reform, or any alteration in the House of Commons, or in the government in any way, upon your oath? Look to those gentlemen; upon your oath, when you joined that society, did you wish to have an alteration in the government. (*The witness hesitated.*) Cough it up; come, answer me that upon your oath, were you acquainted with Mr. Dunn, of Manchester?

A No, I thought they were.

Q I should have thought you was. Why do not you answer that question, Sir, when you know there is the life of an individual standing at the bar at stake?

A I do not understand you.

Q I am sorry for it. Did you wish Parliamentary Reform, or any alteration in the government, when you became a member of that society?

A I never wished any thing of the kind.

Q Then, upon your oath, why did you become a member of such society, if you wished nothing of the kind?

A The reason of my becoming a member was, that when I went in Mr. Smith asked Whitehall if I would not be made a member? I said no, I had better not to-night; but Mr. Smith urged him on, and then somebody got up, and read something from a paper, I did not understand what he read; they gave me afterwards what they read over, and a ticket.

Q And then you read it?

A I do not know that I read it that night.

Q Did you read it before you went there again?

A I did.

Q Then of course as you carried home the paper that was read to you at the society, and going again afterwards, you must have approved of it before you went the second time?

A No, I did not; I read it to two or three of my friends, and they were of the same opinion with myself.

Q What is become of the paper?

A I left it at Mr. Dundas's office.

Q Then of course you went the second time for the purpose of being an informer?

A Yes, I did; I went to see what they were upon.

Q Upon your oath, between the first and the second time that you went to that society, or before you went there at all, had you been desired by any body to go for that purpose?

A No,

*A.* No, I had not.

*Q.* Then you went of your own free will, for the purpose of being serviceable to the public in going there?

*A.* The second time I did.

*Q.* Then of course when you went there the second time you pretended to be a friend, and approved of what was going on, and acted as a spy?

*A.* So I have proved at last.

*Q.* You went there the second time in order to be one?

*A.* I went there in order to see what their plan was; what was the real ground of it.

*Q.* Did you take down any minutes upon paper?

*A.* No, they would not suffer it.

*Q.* You went the third time again?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Was it then Mr. Yorke talked of the pikes?

*A.* No, it was not.

*Q.* In the course of attending these seven times, they met weekly, did not they?

*A.* Yes, every week.

*Q.* That would extend for the course of two months almost?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Of course you can tell what month it was in?

*A.* I cannot. It was in the year 1793.

*Q.* Was it winter or summer?

*A.* Towards the latter end of the year.

*Q.* How long before Christmas, think you?

*A.* I cannot say.

*Q.* You can recollect pretty near; you know within seven weeks?

*A.* I recollect the day that Yorke made a speech; how long it was before that I cannot say; I attended twice after I had been with Mr. Dundas.

*Q.* Pray, Sir, should you know the persons that you saw that attended this meeting at the end of this year?

*A.* I could not swear to them.

*Q.* Did you know the countenances of the people; were they generally the same people, or different people?

*A.* They were different people, they came from different divisions.

*Q.* How many of the people in that room got up and shook hands with Mr. Yorke when he had stated what you have said he stated about bloodshed and arms?

*A.* I cannot say exactly; the room was as full as it could hold; upwards of sixty, between that and a hundred.

*Q.* Where was that?

*A* At a coffee-house in Shire-lane.

*Q*. And they all shook hands with Mr. Yorke in applause and approbation of what he had said?

*A*. They did.

*Q*. Was that when he was going to Belgium; was Belgium the word he made use of?

*A*. It was Belgium or Belgiam, I never heard the name before.

*Q*. Then of course that was the word he used; and he was going to head the French army?

*A*. He said he had received a letter from a friend of his, that they would be ripe by Christmas.

*Q*. Mr. Alexander, you are a lover of your country, no doubt, merely?

*A*. Nothing else.

*Q*. Nothing else; you had no other reason for going among this society?

*A*. No other reason.

*Q*. Then you went voluntarily?

*A*. Voluntarily.

*Q*. Without having been employed or desired by any body?

*A*. There were three of my friends I mentioned it to, who said they thought I should do very right in giving the information.

*Q*. Who are they?

*A*. Mr. Broughton, Mr. Briand, and Mrs. Greswood, a widow woman in Leather-lane.

*Q*. How long have you been in business for yourself?

*A*. I am not in business for myself: I am not in a situation at present.

*Q*. I believe you are in a very singular situation: what do you mean by not being in a situation?

*A*. I am not in employment.

*Q*. How long is it since you was in employment?

*A*. In May last.

*Q*. Where did you live?

*A*. In Moorfield.

*Q*. Where there?

*A*. At Mr. Killeby's, No. 14, Finsbury-place, Moorfields?

*Q*. What is Mr. Killeby?

*A*. He is a linen-draper. He was then, but he has since let his shop to another.

*Q*. How long did you live with Mr. Killeby?

*A*. Five months.

*Q*. When was it you went to him?

*A*. I went to him in December, and left him in May.

*Q*. You

Q. You came to him in December as shopman

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you live before that?

A. At Mr. Faulding's, a linen-draper, Holborn-bridge.

Q. Did you live long there?

A. I lived there almost two years.

Q. Since you left this Mr. Killeby, have you been applying for any other business?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. What sort of business have you been applying for?

A. For the same.

Q. It is a long time in this town, where there is so much linen and calico, to be out of business; who have you applied to?

A. To different people.

Q. Let us hear who they are?

A. Twynam and James, in Holborn.

Q. Who else?

A. I applied to another person who has just opened shop, Mr. Marley, in Holborn, and him I agreed to live with, No. 320, facing Gray's-Inn-lane.

Q. How came you to leave him?

A. I was obliged to leave him in consequence of attending here.

Q. So you have lost your business by attending here?

A. Yes.

Q. You are a very good patriot indeed; so for the good of your country you gave up your business with Mr. Marley?

A. Yes.

Q. How much was he to give you?

A. Twenty-five pounds a year.

Q. How long ago is it since you entered into the engagement with him?

A. It was some time before he opened his shop, I do not know when he opened his shop; I think he opened shop the 22d of last month.

Q. How long was it before he opened shop that you entered into this agreement with him?

A. I cannot say that.

Q. I am really very sorry for that; was it a day, two days, or more?

A. Considerably more than that.

Q. How long?

A. I believe it was the latter end of July, or beginning of August.

Q. When



Q. When did you go to tell him that you could not go on with this agreement?

A. I told him the day after I had the subpoena; I had the subpoena last Tuesday fortnight.

Q. Who subpoenaed you?

A. Mr. Wood.

Q. And was you told it was necessary you should give up your employment for that?

A. No.

Q. Did you ask whether you might live with this linen-draper, and come when you was wanted?

A. No.

Q. Did you apply to the Solicitor of the Treasury, and tell him that you had entered into this engagement?

A. No.

Q. Then you gave up your engagement totally because you was wanted half an hour at the Old Bailey?

A. No other reason.

Q. Did you ask Mr. Marley if he would consent to take you as his snopman, and allow you to come here to give evidence?

A. No, I never did; I thought it would be such a continuance.

Q. Have you any idea that Mr. Marley would have hindered you from obeying the King's writ? Then you mean to tell the Jury, that having entered into an engagement with Mr. Marley to receive twenty-five pounds a year, you put yourself out of employ without asking Mr. Marley, or the attornies who subpoenaed you, whether it was necessary?

A. Yes.

Q. Then how have you maintained yourself since you put yourself out of this employment?

A. I only left him last Friday, I said I was going out of town.

Q. Why did you speak to Mr. Marley about going out of town?

A. Because I expected to go down to Sheffield about Mr. Yorke, as soon as this was over.

Q. What made you expect to go down about Mr. Yorke, after this is over?

A. I only furnished it in my own imagination.

Q. Had any body else told you you was to be employed upon that errand, after you had done this job?

A. No.

Q. Then what made you think you was to go down to Sheffield after Mr. Yorke; look at the Jury; don't look so much at me, I have seen enough of you.

A. I was

*A.* I was informed that he was expected to be tried the last Affizes in Yorke.

*Q.* Who told you so?

*A.* Mr. White.

*Q.* You told me before, you did not know you was to go down?

*A.* It was only a surmise of my own mind.

*Q.* You have not sought out for any employment since?

*A.* No, I have not.

*Q.* Where did you live before you lived with Mr. Killeby?

*A.* With Mr. Faulding.

*Q.* Where did you live, Sir, before you lived with this Mr. Faulding?

*A.* At Mr. Smith's in Cheapside.

*Q.* How long is that ago?

*A.* That is between four and five years ago.

*Q.* How long did you live with Mr. Smith in Cheapside?

*A.* Eighteen months, I believe.

*Q.* And you left him five years ago?

*A.* I left him and went in the country to see my friends that were at the town of Fishford, six miles from Salisbury.

*Q.* Who were your friends you went to see there?

*A.* My aunt.

*Q.* What is her name?

*A.* Alexander.

*Q.* How long did you stay with her?

*A.* Eleven months.

*Q.* When you had paid your affectionate respects to your aunt, what did you do when you came back, before you went to Mr. Faulding?

*A.* I went from my aunt's to Mr. Faulding.

*Q.* That cannot be, because it is five years ago?

*A.* It is between four and five years ago.

*Q.* When you had paid your affectionate respects to your aunt, where did you go next; you lived eighteen months with Mr. Smith; then you went to your aunt and staid eleven months; when you came back where did you live before you went to Mr. Faulding's?

*A.* With another aunt in old Bedlam, the other side of Moorfields.

*Q.* Her name is Alexander too, is it?

*A.* No, Simpson.

*Q.* How long was you there?

*A.* I do not know, a considerable while.

*Q.* A considerable while, that you know is a very vague thing?

*A.* It

. It is impossible for me to say how long it is,

*Q.* From the time you came back from your aunt in the country, did you live with your aunt in Old Bedlam till the time you went to Mr. Faulding's; try and recollect the time that you came back from your aunt's in the country, I do not want to hurry you?

*A.* I went to Mr. Smith's from the country, and then when I left Mr. Smith I went to my aunt in Old Bedlam, and after that to Mr. Faulding.

*Q.* You have thrown me out now entirely; I am quite lost, I must take it down. How long is it since you left Mr. Smith? do not hurry yourself.

*A.* I do not know exactly—about four or five years.

*Q.* What did you leave Mr. Smith for?

*A.* We had some words.

*Q.* What might the words be, think you?

*A.* I cannot recollect.

*Q.* Now try; you have an excellent memory, you repeated the whole speech the man made at the meeting, but you cannot remember the words between you and your master; try, I wish you would look at those gentlemen, they are very good-looking men; look across.

*Lord President.* Why do not you give an answer?

*A.* I do not remember the words.

*Mr. Erskine.* I do not ask you what you said to your master and he said to you, but what was the quarrel about, because you must have a strange memory if you do not recollect, for a gentleman who is to repeat a whole speech; now do recollect the nature of the quarrel between you and Mr. Smith.

*Mr. Attorney General.* This witness has not repeated a whole speech of Mr. Yorke's.

*Mr. Erskine.* Will you be so good as to tell what you quarrelled with Mr. Smith about?

*Lord President.* Give him fair play, that is all. Do you recollect, or do you not recollect; if you do, you are afraid to tell it?

*Mr. Erskine.* There is fair play on both sides. Do you or do you not recollect what was the cause of the quarrel you had with your master?

*A.* Some words that happened between the shopman and me, and that caused words between me and my master, and then we parted.

*Q.* What was the nature of the quarrel (now you see you begin to recollect it) that happened between you and that shopman?

*A.* We

*A.* We had words, and he becalled me—I was hot as well as he; we called one another fools; I do not know whether we did strike one another, and my master turned me away.

*Q.* What was his name?

*A.* Williams.

*Q.* What was his Christian name?

*A.* I do not recollect.

*Q.* Have you seen Mr. Smith since you parted with him?

*A.* Yes, once.

*Q.* You told me you went to your aunt's at your returning from Mr. Smith?

*A.* Yes, and from there to Mr. Faulding's.

*Q.* You are sure, Sir, that this happened in 1793, that you heard all this about the pikes?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* What did you hear at the third meeting?

*A.* I cannot say; I took no particular notice of any thing I heard but that night.

*Q.* How long did you stay?

*A.* Till between eleven and twelve o'clock.

*Q.* What time did you go?

*A.* About eight.

*Q.* Will you be so good to tell us if you recollect any thing that was said at all that third night?

*A.* I cannot recollect at all.

*Q.* So, that except that night, that Mr. Yorke made a long speech, you do not recollect a syllable?

*A.* No.

*Q.* There were various things read over?

*A.* I do not know that there was any thing read over that night.

*Q.* What business were they doing that night?

*A.* I cannot say.

*Q.* Were there any papers read; perhaps there were some members admitted?

*A.* I do not know for that night particularly, but they were sitting there, and the books were kept open for the admission of members till nine o'clock.

*Q.* But I take it for granted, there must have been a great deal said and done, from eight or nine o'clock till eleven or twelve at night; for you know you went there to watch, in order to inform: Do you recollect any thing at all?

*A.* I do not.

*Q.* You went the fourth night?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* What time of the evening did you go the fourth night?



A. I suppose about the same time.

Q. And staid, as you went to collect information, till the meeting broke up?

A. Yes, till they were all gone.

Q. What was said that night—not a syllable?

A. Not that I recollect; nothing at all.

Q. You went the fifth night?

A. Yes.

Q. About the same time?

A. Yes.

Q. And staid till it broke up?

A. Yes.

Q. And the first time you saw Mr. Yorke there?

A. Yes, I think I saw Mr. Yorke there three times; he came in with another person, he said he had been in Newgate to see Mr. Frost, and that he was to be pillored the next day, and he said that he had some words with Mr. Kirby.

Q. What did you hear said about pikes by Mr. Yorke?

A. It was not Mr. Yorke that mentioned about the pikes.

Q. It was not Mr. Yorke?

A. No, I believe he was not there the night the pikes were mentioned; there was a person from Sheffield said, they could get pikes made for sixpence a-piece, and somebody said, they thought it would do for them as well as for the people of Sheffield, and it was only living upon bread and cheese for one day; but I remember hearing Mr. Yorke say, at another time, about arming themselves with mop-sticks while Mr. Frost was pillored.

Q. When was it Mr. Yorke made this speech; was it the seventh night?

A. I cannot say.

THOMAS WHITEHORNE sworn—examined by Mr. BOWER.

Q. Were you at any time a member of the London Corresponding Society?

A. I was.

Q. At what time did you begin to be a member of it?

A. I believe the same evening with the last witness that was examined.

Q. About what time of the year, the beginning or the end?

A. Towards the latter end of the year.

Q. What is your profession?

A. I am a shopman to a bookseller.

Q. The first time you was there, was with the last witness, Alexander?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Did

Q. Do you know how Alexander came to go there?

A. I believe we went together.

Q. Were you both admitted the same night?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did you continue a member?

A. We paid for a quarter that evening; I was there about four or five times to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Did you see Mr. Yorke there at any of the times?

A. Only once.

Q. How long did you continue a member after the night you saw Mr. Yorke there?

A. I was not there above once or twice.

Q. You quitted the society?

A. Yes.

Q. For what reason?

A. I quitted my situation, and it was not so convenient for me to attend afterwards; I do not know any other reason.

Q. You remember Mr. Yorke being there?

A. I do, perfectly.

Q. Was there a few, or a great many people in the room, at that time?

A. There might be from forty to sixty people there.

Q. Did Mr. Yorke distinguish himself that night; did he say any thing; did he appear as an ordinary member?

A. He came in, and he seemed to be very well known, he made a long speech; I left him speaking, but I do not recollect any part of it; the room was nearly full.

Q. When Mr. Yorke came, you can tell us, perhaps, if you do not remember the words of the speech, whether it was a moderate or a violent speech?

A. He seemed to be speaking very loud, but I was quite at the further end of the room from him.

Q. You cannot take on yourself to say any thing of the substance of it?

A. No. I made no minutes, I could not perfectly swear to any sentence.

Q. When you went there the very first night that the other witnesses went with you?

A. I believe it to be the first night.

Q. Do you recollect before you went out of the room, whether any thing was said by Mr. Yorke of his intentions of going home, or going abroad, or any thing of that sort?

A. I understood he was going abroad, and I believe he mentioned that in his speech, or whether I understood it from somebody in the room, I cannot be certain which, that he was about quitting England.

Q. Who did you live with at the time you became a member of this club?

A. At Mr. Owen's in Fleet-street.

Q. Where did you live after that?

A. At one Mr. Bagster's in the Strand.

Q. Do you recollect so much of the speech as to say what impression it made upon you at the time?

Mr. Erskine. I certainly object to that.

Lord Chief Justice. Certainly it is a question that ought not to be pressed, for he says he does not recollect any thing about it.

Mr. Bower. Whether you ever had any conversation with Mr. Alexander about what passed that night?

A. I saw him a morning or two after we were there, and I believe I might ask him how long he staid after I left the room, or something to that purpose.

Q. You say you quitted the society very soon afterwards?

A. Very soon afterwards, I believe I was not there above four nights in all.

Q. What was the reason of your absenting yourself from the society?

A. I left the situation I was in to go to another part of the town.

Q. Had you any other reason?

A. No, I had not; I lodged at another part of the town, and had not time, if I had had the will; if I had remained in the same situation I might have gone again.

Q. Have you always said that that was your reason; recollect yourself?

A. I did not say any thing about it particular, it is a matter that I never thought to be questioned on, and therefore I never thought about it.

Q. What part of the room was you in; was you near Mr. Yorke?

A. No, quite the reverse.

Lord President. How long have you known that other man, Alexander, the last witness?

A. Some months, I cannot say how long.

Q. What was his situation when you first knew him?

A. He was in a linen-draper's shop at the first of my knowledge of him.

Q. Where?

A. At Mr. Faulding's upon Holborn Bridge.

GEORGE WIDDISON sworn—examined by Mr. BOWER.

Q. You live at Sheffield?

A. Yes.

Q. What

Q. What are you ?

A. A barber and hair-dresser.

Q. Are you in any other employment ?

A. Yes, a turner.

Q. Was you at any time a member of the Constitutional Society at Sheffield ?

A. Yes.

Q. At what time did you become a member—about two years ago ?

A. Above that time.

Q. Were you at any time a delegate ?

A. We were not separated into divisions at that time, we were all united, and used to meet at different houses.

Q. On what occasion did you become a delegate, or how long was it after you became a member, that you became a delegate ?

A. I cannot say.

Q. How many might you be at that time ?

A. Some hundreds.

Q. Was the Fountain one of the houses you met at ?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember at any time a meeting at the Fountain ?

A. Yes.

Q. How many people might there be ?

A. The first time I attended there were about 200.

Q. That is about two years ago ?

A. Yes, and better.

Q. How long did you continue a member of that society ?

A. About two years, or better.

Q. When you first remembered the society, where did they all meet ?

A. At that house ; that was the beginning.

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Yorke ?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know him by any other name ?

A. No.

Q. When did you first see Mr. Yorke ?

A. About a twelvemonth ago, I believe.

Q. Where was it ?

A. Either at Mr. Gale's or Mr. Martin's, I think.

Q. Did you ever see him at any time afterwards at any of the meetings of the Constitutional Society ?

A. Yes, several times.

Q. Do you recollect at any time, whether Mr. Yorke took an active part—who was chairman ?

A. He



*A.* He was generally chairman when he was there.

*Q.* Was he often there?

*A.* I have seen him at three different meetings as near as I can recollect; I saw him at one meeting in Queen-street.

*Q.* When was that?

*A.* I cannot speak as to the time, but it was not long after the execution of the King of France.

*Q.* When did you see him again at any other meeting?

*A.* I saw him at another meeting at the sign of the Barrel.

*Q.* Do you recollect about what time that was?

*A.* I do not.

*Q.* Do you remember any thing particular at the time you saw Mr. Yorke at that meeting, at the Barrel, in his conduct, or in his speech?

*A.* He appeared to me to be rather in liquor at the time he was there.

*Q.* Do you remember seeing him at any time after that at a meeting in the open air?

*A.* Yes, I saw him at the meeting on the Castle-hill.

*Q.* The beginning of November last that was in?

*A.* No, in April.

*Q.* What was done at that meeting?

*A.* That was the meeting that that pamphlet that you have been reading was proceeded upon.

*Q.* Was you there when any delegate was elected?

*A.* Yes, I have been there when delegates were elected.

*Q.* I mean the delegates to the Scotch Convention?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* When was that?

*A.* I cannot recollect the time, near a twelvemonth ago, I suppose.

*Q.* Who was elected delegate?

*A.* Matthew Campbell Brown.

*Q.* What was Brown?

*A.* He is an attorney by profession.

*Q.* Was he an attorney at that time?

*A.* Yes, he was at that time, but some little time before that he acted as a player.

*Q.* Did he go as a player?

*A.* Yes, I believe he did.

*Q.* Did you see Mr. Yorke at any time this year, 1794?

*A.* The first I saw of him, was rather the latter end of March, or the beginning of April.

*Q.* That was the first time?

*A.* Yes, in this year.

*Q.* Had you frequently an opportunity of seeing Mr. Yorke?

*A.* Yes

*A.* Yes, I was employed as hair-dresser to him.

*Q.* Where did he live at that time?

*A.* At one Mr. Cothorne's.

*Q.* Had you an opportunity when you was about Mr. Yorke, to know what he was doing, whether he was writing any thing, or what he was about?

*A.* I don't know particularly what he was about?

*Q.* Did you learn whether any address, or any thing of that kind, that he had any share in?

*A.* No, I cannot say that I did, I saw an address afterwards that was said to be wrote by him.

*Q.* Were you ever with Mr. Yorke when any thing was said about arms at any time?

*A.* Yes, I was.

*Q.* What time was it, pray tell us what were the circumstances that happened first respecting arms, when you have been with Mr. Yorke, and fix any time when it was?

*A.* I think it was some time in April.

*Q.* Will you tell me what past?

*A.* I do not know what past between him and me, it was the general talk of the town, when arms began first to be made.

*Q.* Can you recollect any particular people you have heard him talking to about arms?

*A.* No, I cannot recollect.

*Q.* Have you yourself had any conversation with Mr. Yorke, or had any instructions from him about arms?

*A.* Not from him, I made some myself.

*Q.* Who did you make them for?

*A.* I made a dozen of pike shafts for Mr. Gale.

*Q.* Did Mr. Yorke know you was making them?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Did you tell Mr. Yorke, or how did he become first acquainted with it?

*A.* We spoke several times about it, I do not know whether he spoke to me first, or I spoke to him. I told him I was making some, and when I had one made I shewed it to him, and asked him if he thought that size would do for them, he said he thought it would.

*Q.* How many did you make?

*A.* About a dozen, or a dozen and a half.

*Q.* What became of them?

*A.* Mr. Wilkinson took them.

*Q.* Did he seize them all?

*A.* I do not know, I have not been in my house since.

*Q.* Had you only made that number in the whole?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Pray,

Q. Pray, had you any conversation with Mr. Yorke respecting the purpose for which these things had been made?

A. Not particularly with him, but with other people; I meant to have one in my own defence.

Q. Did Mr. Yorke say any thing to you about a Reform in Parliament?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you at any time learn from him what he meant by a Reform in Parliament?

A. Yes, that it was for universal suffrage.

Q. Be so good as to recollect how that conversation came between you and him?

A. Universal suffrage was what he proposed.

Q. Did Mr. Yorke know from yourself what you meant by a Reform in Parliament?

A. We always understood each other that we were all for universal suffrage.

Q. What do you mean by all?

A. The society.

Q. Did you inform Mr. Yorke that that was your meaning, that that was what you understood by it?

A. I did not particularly at that time inform Mr. Yorke, this matter was agreed upon by all of us.

Q. In the conversations that you had with Mr. Yorke, did you and he uniformly agree with what he meant by a Reform, or did you disagree in opinion?

A. We agreed till within a few weeks before Mr. Yorke left Sheffield the last time.

Q. You did not agree then; in what did you disagree with him?

A. I disagreed in respect of universal suffrage.

Q. Did you tell Mr. Yorke so?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did he say to that?

A. I told him when I went one morning to dress him as usual, that I thought the plan of Reform we were upon would not do; and he asked me my motive, and I told him, I thought it would carry us too far; says he, I have studied it some time, and I have read various authors on the subject, and I do not see that any Reform can be of service to the nation except that. Very well, says I, so far you and I differ in opinion, I will no longer subscribe my name to universal suffrage; very well, says he, then you must give it up; and we had no more conversation on the subject.

Q. Had you any more conversation after that?

A. Not after that.

Q. After that you had not the same kind of communication?

A. No,



A. No, I had not.

Q. How long was this before Mr. Yorke left Sheffield?

A. About three weeks before.

Q. Do you remember the meeting in the month of May in Sheffield, in the open air?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present at the time of that meeting?

A. Yes.

Q. Was Mr. Yorke there?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. Did Mr. Yorke make a speech there?

A. Yes, he spoke to a considerable large company.

Q. Did you hear any part of his speech?

A. Yes, I heard a good deal of it.

Q. After that meeting did you go to see Mr. Gale at all?

A. Yes, I saw Mr. Gale after that.

Q. Had you any conversation with Mr. Gale or Mr. Yorke about these shafts you had made, about being paid for them?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you paid for them?

A. No.

Q. Who did Mr. Yorke bid you to apply to for the payment?

A. He did not say who I was to apply to.

Q. Did you make them for sale?

A. Yes.

Q. Did any person buy any.

A. No.

Q. You have been telling me you had only some private conversation with Mr. Yorke, but he had many other conversations that were not private with you; you have often heard him converse with other persons when you have been present?

A. Yes, I have, when I have been along with him.

Q. What have you heard him say on this subject of arms at any time: who are the persons you have seen him with: do you know Mr. Davidson?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see him with him?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever heard Mr. Davidson say any thing respecting arms?

A. He was a customer of mine in the hair-dressing business, and we have spoke together about them?

Q. Tell us what part Mr. Davidson took?

A. Mr. Davidson did not give me to understand that there were any particular order given, only that the people in general began to call out for them; they thought they were in danger.



Q. That Mr. Davidson told you?

A. Yes.

Q. You know nothing yourself: you meant to keep one for your own defence; that was what you understood?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you any of the books, as a delegate of this society?

A. Yes.

Q. They are not here, I understand?

A. No, I believe not.

GEORGE WIDDISON—cross-examined by Mr. ERSKINE.

Q. You seem a decent sort of man, you was two years a member of that society?

A. Yes.

Q. And till within four weeks of the time you have been speaking of, you have been of the same opinion, I believe, with the rest of the society, for universal suffrage?

A. I was.

Q. Was you a friend of your King?

A. Yes, undoubtedly, and the Queen both.

Q. As far as you could collect, from the conversation and behaviour of those that you were two years connected with, did they appear as such that loved the King?

A. Yes, in general.

Q. As an honest man, would you have continued two years in that society, if you conceived them as people not loving the King?

A. No.

Q. Then you did not think universal suffrage were repugnant to the love of your King?

A. No, not at that time.

Q. Who was the people that you and your society copied after in your ideas of universal suffrage?

A. The plan we first went upon was the Duke of Richmond's plan of universal suffrage.

Q. Then you understood, and the society understood, that what the Duke of Richmond had said, was your plan; had you any of the publications of the Duke's at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of a letter to Colonel Sharman?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. No matter whether it is the Duke of Richmond's or not: was it ever read in the society?

A. I believe it has.

Q. Did you ever hear it read?

A. Yes, several times; and I think once or twice in the society.

Q. Was

Q. Was it generally approved of?

A. Yes, it was at the time we adopted it.

Q. Look at that (*the Duke of Richmond's letter to Colonel Sharman shewn him*), should you recollect it if I should read this part to you;—this, for instance—“The subject of Parliamentary Reform is that, which of all others, in my opinion, most deserves the attention of the public, as I conceive it would include every other advantage which a nation can wish; and I have no hesitation in saying, that from every consideration which I have been able to give to this great question, that for many years has occupied my mind, and from every day's experience to the present hour, I am more and more convinced, that the restoring the right of voting universally, to every man not incapacitated by nature for want of reason, or by law, for the commission of crimes, together with annual elections, is the only Reform that can be effectual and permanent.”—That is it, is it not?

A. Yes:

Q. Now I ask you, upon you oath, as far as you understood (what passes in the heart of man you cannot tell), but as far as you understood from the conversation of the people with whom you associated, did it appear to you, and did they express themselves that this was their object?

A. Yes.

Q. Did it appear to you that there was any disposition in those with whom you associated to compel this by force of arms?

A. I never understood it so.

Q. Was it from any thing of that sort that you left them, or was it that you thought universal suffrage was not so good a plan?

A. I did not think the people's minds were prepared for it.

Q. Do you think if the people's minds were prepared still, that that is the proper plan?

A. I cannot say, I did hope at first that it would be brought about without any confusion.

Q. Was you a member at the time they sent a delegate to the Convention of Scotland?

A. Yes; I was at that time, and some time afterwards.

Q. Did you think you was doing any harm when you consented to the sending of that delegate?

A. I did not consent, but if I had I should not conceive I was doing any harm; I was rather too late, or else I should have given my consent.

Q. What was the Convention to do?

A. I never understood that they had any object in view but

drawing up an Address to the Nation, and then an Address to the Parliament, or some part of the government.

*Q.* Do you remember any thing that was said about the expediency of petitioning Parliament, from private bodies of men?

*A.* I do not understand what you mean by private bodies of men; it is in public bodies that we talked of petitioning.

*Lord President.* You are not to put the very question into his mouth, even on a cross-examination.

*Mr. Erskine.* It has been usual in cross-examinations.

*Lord President.* Examine him so as he may speak his own words.

*Mr. Erskine.* Was it ever expressed, or did you gather it from any thing that passed in your presence in the society, previous to the sending, and at the time of sending down the delegates to Scotland, did you suppose they were to assume the functions of Parliament, and be a Parliament?

*A.* By no means.

*Q.* Did you ever understand, or from what you heard from others that were connected with you; did you ever understand that that was the conception of this plan?

*A.* No, I never understood it so.

*Q.* Would you have been a party to the plan if you thought it had been their plan?

*A.* I hope not.

*Q.* Do you consider them, and did you consider them, to be people attached to their King, and, at the same time, to their own freedom?

*A.* Most certainly.

*Q.* You considered then and consider still, the major part of the society as persons attached to the King?

*A.* Yes, because I look upon it that the preservation of the King's, and the liberties of the subject, are inseparable; that is the idea the people had of it.

*Q.* Are you speaking now your own sentiments?

*A.* Yes, not only mine, but what I understood was the sentiments of those I was associated with; I always understood it in that light.

*Q.* Was there any talk of arming for the purpose of attacking the laws that are under his Majesty's execution?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Was there any thing said in your society about attacking the King's Majesty and putting down the laws, or altering the government?

*A.* No.

*Q.* What was said about arms, was said publicly in the society, at the time the hand-bill came out?

*A.* I do



*A.* I don't know that, I never was present when arms were mentioned.

*Q.* When you made a pike for yourself what did you make it for?

*A.* To defend myself if it should be necessary.

*Q.* What made you collect about that time, that it was necessary for you to have arms for your defence?

*A.* Because there was not so good an understanding between the two parties as there had been.

*Q.* Who do you mean by the two parties?

*A.* Those who were for universal suffrage, and the other; those who opposed it.

*Q.* Had you any intention, when you made that pike, to defend yourself against the magistracy of the country?

*A.* No, only against those people who might come without any legal authority from the magistrates.

*Q.* From what you know of the sentiments of the other persons in that society, did it appear to you that that was the general notion?

*A.* I always understood it to be so; we have been often threatened in many companies that we have been in.

*Q.* Have you been threatened with personal violence?

*A.* Yes, in various companies; I have heard them remark; those that were looked upon as aristocrats, said, that if any invasion should take place in this country, in case any thing was to happen, that the first thing they would do would be to destroy their enemies at home first, and then join the French.

*Q.* What answer did you make to that?

*A.* Several times I have said, I hoped that was not the general opinion, if it was we should be under the necessity of preparing for it, by arming ourselves in our defence.

*Q.* Then you and those that you were associated with, were disposed to the government and constitution of your country?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Who did you say would make the attack?

*A.* The aristocratic part; they said they would follow the example of the French, and make an attack upon our associates.

*Q.* For any thing that you know passed in your society, was there any thing said against the Lords House of Parliament?

*A.* No, that very rarely formed any part of our conversation. The only treatise I saw was written by Major Cartwright, who proposed an alteration in the House of Lords by filling them up by election, but I never understood that there was any regulation formed with respect to the House of Lords.

*Q.* Now



Q. Now upon the whole, am I to understand you, that you continue yourself to be attached to the King and constitution?

A. Yes, both.

Q. You talk of Mr. Yorke; you say you saw Mr. Yorke once when he was drunk?

A. No, he was not drunk, but he was not so sober as I have seen him, because he is a very sober man.

Q. Now, with the exception of that time, how did he conduct himself at those meetings with regard to conversation?

A. He generally conducted himself very well as to what I saw of him; he used to get a little warm in conversation now and then.

Mr. Bower. I observed that you said, that in general you thought people who were for annual parliaments and universal suffrage were well affected to the King; you said you thought so in general?

A. Yes.

Q. You heard Mr. Yorke's speech at Castle-hill; upon hearing that speech did you think he was one of those persons who were well affected to the King?

A. I never had reason to believe otherwise.

Q. Did you ever know any thing of a communication between Davidson, and the society in London, about arms?

A. I never knew it till I saw a letter published in a newspaper in May last.

Q. Was that published at Sheffield?

A. Yes, in a London newspaper.

Q. Till that time you never knew there had been any communication with the London Corresponding Society about arms?

A. Never.

Q. You never knew that they had any other object but to form a meeting that should petition Parliament, that was what you understood?

A. Yes.

Q. Was you present when the thanks of the Sheffield Society were voted to Mr. Paine?

A. Yes, I was a member.

Q. Was you present when the vote was given?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you read Mr. Paine's books then?

A. Yes.

Q. Then I may take it that you are of opinion after reading these books, that the thanks to this man were given by people who were well affected to the King and Constitution?

A. Yes.

Mr.

*Mr. Bower.* Very well, then I will trouble you with no more questions.

HENRY HILL sworn—examined by Mr. LAW.

Q. Where do you live?

A. At Sheffield.

Q. What are you?

A. A cutler.

Q. Was you at any time a member of the Constitutional Society of that place?

A. Yes, as soon as it was instituted, the second or third night of its meeting.

Q. In what year?

A. In the year 1792, I believe March, I cannot be positive.

Q. How long did you continue a member of that society?

A. Very near twelve months.

Q. Do you remember during the time you was a member of that society, that society being visited by Mr. Yorke?

A. Yes, once.

Q. Do you remember when that was?

A. I think it was in the year 1792.

Q. Do you remember the meeting at the Castle-hill?

A. Yes.

Q. When was that?

A. In April last, 1794.

Q. Do you remember the lecture on the fast-day?

A. Yes.

Q. That was in February, 1794?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember after that lecture had been given on the fast-day, any conversation about preparing arms in the town of Sheffield?

A. Not for some time after that.

Q. Do you remember a meeting of the 7th of April, 1794?

A. Yes.

Q. About that time was any conversation prevalent in the town about providing yourselves with arms?

A. Yes,

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Davidson?

A. Yes.

Q. What was he?

A. A printer, he worked at Mr. Gale's.

Q. Mr. Yorke lodged at Mr. Gale's, did not he at one time?

A. I cannot say that.

Q. Had you about that time any application from Mr. Davidson to make some blades for pikes, for him?

A. Yes.

A. Yes.

Q. When was that?

A. In the beginning of April.

Q. Did he order any particular number?

A. No.

Q. What orders did he give you respecting the making of them, and the size or number?

A. As to size, he brought a bayonet to me to make a pattern by, I went and made one, and he approved of it.

Q. Did Davidson tell you where you was to get the iron; did you take it upon his account, or on your own account?

A. On his account.

Q. Who was to pay you for the workmanship of it?

A. Mr. Davidson.

Q. Whether the pike was approved by Mr. Davidson or not?

A. He did approve of it.

Q. Did you carry that to Mr. Camage's at any time?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you meet Mr. Yorke ever at Mr. Camage's?

A. No, Mr. Davidson desired me to go to Mr. Yorke.

Q. Did you go to him?

A. Yes, we had very little to say; when I went to him he had just received an account of Mr. Walker's trial at Manchester, and he was so overjoyed that he had very little to say about the blade that I shewed him, not then.

Q. What was he so overjoyed about?

A. Mr. Walker being cleared of that indictment.

Q. Did you ever see him with one afterwards, properly mounted upon a shaft in his hand?

A. Yes.

Q. When was that?

A. Some time after, perhaps a fortnight, or a week, I cannot say which.

Q. Did he make any observation on the pike so prepared and mounted?

A. He said as little as possible, there were some girls there, and he pretended to give the girls a push with it.

Q. What orders had you?

A. When Davidson first ordered me, I was to make them as fast as I found employment.

Q. To what number did you go on making?

A. To one hundred and twenty or thirty, or somewhere thereabouts.

Q. Did Mr. Davidson pay you for them?

A. He paid me for some.

Q. Did

Q. Did Davidson take up the whole of that hundred and thirty?

A. Yes.

Q. Where used you to carry them to when you had made them?

A. Sometimes I took them to my own lodgings, and sometimes to William Camage's.

Q. And did you deliver them to Mr. Davidson at Mr. Camage's?

A. Yes, sometimes, when he was there.

Q. What did he give you for the workmanship?

A. Two-pence a-piece.

Q. You saw Davidson's letter to the prisoner at the bar?

A. Yes, I heard him read it.

Q. Did he say any thing that he expected any demand, any order from any other quarter, from London, or any other place for pikes of the same sort.

A. Yes, that was what he said, that he did not know but there might be the same need of them in London as there was in Sheffield.

Q. What did you understand to be the purpose that might make them necessary both in London and in Sheffield?

A. To act on the defensive in case they were attacked by an unlawful set of men.

Q. They were sent to the secretary of the Corresponding Society?

A. I don't know to whom the letter was directed.

Q. By whom did you expect to be attacked?

A. By the opposite party that there is in Sheffield.

Q. But who was to attack them in London?

A. I cannot say any thing about it; but I suppose that they might be attacked by the same sort of people as in Sheffield.

Q. How soon after you had made these hundred and twenty pikes for Mr Davidson, did he leave Sheffield?

A. I think it was about the middle of May he went away, but I cannot recollect rightly.

HENRY HILL cross examined by Mr. GIBBS.

Q. You say you were a member of the Constitutional Society from the first time they came together?

A. Yes.

Q. I suppose you would not have been a member of it if you had not supposed them to be faithful to the King?

A. Most certainly not.

Q. Had you any views in becoming a member of this society, any intention of displacing the King from his throne?

3 H

A. I never



*A.* I never had, I never heard a syllable of it in Sheffield.

*Q.* Do you suppose that was the idea of any of the members?

*A.* No. I never heard them declare that it was, for any thing I ever saw by them, they appeared to be friendly to the King; I never saw any thing to make me to think to the contrary.

*Q.* What was the Reform they wished to be brought about?

*A.* A more equal representation in the Commons House of Parliament.

*Q.* Whose plan of Reform in Parliament did they follow?

*A.* They followed the Duke of Richmond's, as I understood, there were a number of these letters distributed in Sheffield.

*Q.* Did you hear the members of the society say they followed the Duke of Richmond's plan?

*A.* Yes, I have heard that spoken of several times in company.

*Q.* There were some pikes prepared at Sheffield, what was the reason of your preparing them?

*A.* By the opposite party using such threats, even in the house where I lodge; they have come at the dead of the night and insulted us when we have been in bed, and swore they would pull down the house and burn it, and calling us Jacobines and Levellers, and calling the house Jacobine-hall, because the society used sometimes to meet there.

*Q.* And had you actual reason to apprehend danger?

*A.* Yes, by their threats, they even shot into people's houses. An armed set of people that makes a parade in the street, one night shot under a person's door, as they were going home about twelve o'clock; they were a set of people that procured arms and paraded the streets in the dead of the night, they went and paraded the streets when any great victory was gained.

*A.* Was it this sort of conduct and these threats that induced you first to prepare arms?

*A.* No other reason in the world.

*Q.* Had you, or any of the people of Sheffield, in view, the attacking the magistracy of the country in procuring these arms?

*A.* Far from it.

*Q.* Where they meant merely for your own defence?

*A.* Merely for self-defence, for no other purpose that ever I knew of.

*Mr. Law.* Before you procured these pikes for your self-defence, did it never occur to you to mention to Mr. Wilkinson, the magistrate, or the other magistrate, that you were in danger?

*A.* No never to my knowledge.

*Q.* Did you complain of the danger you were in to any one person you can name?

*A.* No,

*A.* No, I do not know that there was any complaint to the magistrates or any other person.

*Q.* You have said you were well affected to the King, and you had no objection to the House of Lords, and only to effect a Reform in the Commons House of Parliament; was you present when a vote of thanks was voted Mr. Paine?

*A.* I do not know any thing about that; I was not present.

*Q.* Did you never hear of it?

*A.* No.

ROBERT MOODY sworn—examined by Mr. GARROW.

*Q.* I believe you was a joiner at Sheffield?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Was you a member of the Constitutional Society, as it is called, at that place?

*A.* Yes, but I had not been a regular member more than a year before I was apprehended.

*Q.* Besides the meeting of the society, had they any meetings called district meetings?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Henry Yorke?

*A.* Yes, I have seen him at some of the public meetings.

*Q.* Did you ever see him acting at any of the meetings?

*A.* He has acted as an orator in speaking.

*Q.* Did you ever see him act as chairman?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* You say you have seen him act as an orator. Where did you see him?

*A.* At the Castle-Hill.

*Q.* How many persons might have been present at that time, at the Castle-Hill?

*A.* I suppose not fewer than ten thousand.

*Q.* Upon that occasion you heard Mr. Yorke speaking to the persons assembled?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Was you near enough to hear and collect distinctly the substance of what he said?

*A.* No, I was at a distance.

*Q.* Did you stay till the business was concluded?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* In what way did Mr. Yorke return from the meeting to his own apartment?

*A.* There was a coach brought for him, and when he had done, the horses were taken out, and the populace drew him home.

*Q.* Did you see a person of the name of Camage there?

*A.* Yes, he read some resolutions which I afterwards saw published in the Sheffield paper.

*Q.* Where these resolutions printed by Mr. Gale?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Did Mr. Broomhead act as secretary to that meeting?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Did you, after that, see Mr. Camage upon a visit to your shop?

*A.* Yes, he was at my shop once or twice; he brought five or six pike blades, and desired me to make three dozen of handles.

*Q.* Who came with him?

*A.* I cannot say who it was, there was a person with him.

*Q.* How many blades might Camage bring to your shop in the whole, to put into handles?

*A.* Three dozen shafts ordered, and there were blades brought for them.

*Q.* Did you learn from Mr. Camage what the purpose was for which these pikes were to be made?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Did you know in the society who were the persons that were to furnish the pikes to the society?

*A.* I never knew who they were for; I understood that Mr. Davidson was to take them from me, so that I was to have ready money as I did my work.

*Q.* Did you learn from any members of the society, for what purpose these pikes were to be made?

*A.* I understood, from what I could collect, that they were for self-defence.

*Q.* Against whom?

*A.* Against persons who might illegally attack them, for the opposite party; they met frequently in large bodies, and these people said we should be dispersed.

*Q.* Who said so?

*A.* Many said so of the opposite party, and how far they might get a justice of peace to give them authority; and, if they had made an application to a magistrate, a little matter would have done it.

*Q.* There had been a rumour, you say, that the opposite party had said they would disperse you, that they said they would apply to a magistrate, that a little matter would do it, and on this arms were to be made use of in case of any such attack?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Now, Sir, do you recollect any conversation about the this time, in any of your public meetings, with respect to any of the dagoons that were in the neighbourhood of Sheffield?

*A.* I remember



*A.* I remember so far it was said that the dragoons—

*Q.* Was it said by Mr. Camage, or any of the members of the society?

*Lord President.* You heard that where, or by what people?

*A.* Some people in the town, I cannot say by who; it might be true, or it might be false.

*Mr. Garrow.* To which of these meetings did the conversation apply; did it apply to the meeting at the Castle-hill?

*Lord President.* The object is to see at what meeting it past.

*Mr. Garrow.* Previous to the meeting on Castle-hill, how long had there been any conversation about dragoons?

*A.* I know of none before.

*Q.* Now, after the meeting on Castle-hill, did you hear from Mr. Camage, or any body else in the society, any conversation relative to the dragoons in the neighbourhood of Sheffield?

*A.* I do not know who I heard it of.

*Q.* From Mr. Broomhead?

*A.* No.

*Q.* From Mr. Davidson?

*A.* No.

*Q.* From Mr. Gale?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Were the dragoons in the neighbourhood of Sheffield?

*A.* They were.

*Q.* Did you at any time, at Mr. Camage's, see any leaden instrument, or model of an instrument?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* What was it called?

*A.* It was what was called at the Privy-Council a night-cat; it was there called a cat.

*Q.* What passed at the time that cat was shewn in Mr. Camage's shop?

*A.* It was lying in the window, and I took it up and asked what was the use of it, and he said it was an instrument that was or might be made use of to throw in the streets, which would lay pointed upwards to prevent horses travelling in the streets.

*Q.* Did it seem to you that the instrument was well-enough calculated to answer that purpose?

*A.* I thought it might.

*Q.* Throw it any way it presented a point?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Where was it that he stated such an instrument had been used?

*A.* He never told me any such thing that it had been used.

*Q.* You said it was an instrument that might or had been used to throw in the street to prevent horses travelling along?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Did



Q. Did he name any town in the course of that conversation?

A. No.

Q. Who was present besides Camage, at the time that he presented it to you?

A. Nobody.

Q. At any time when you was in Camage's shop, did you ever see any blades for pikes brought by any body?

A. Yes, I once saw a few, perhaps six or eight.

Q. Did you see any pike complete at Mr. Camage's, at any time, like that at the other end of the Court—bring it?

A. I never saw only those that I made the shafts for.

Q. (*It was brought forward*) Is that the sort of instrument that you made?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the shaft made of?

A. Deal.

Q. That is not shod?

A. No.

Q. Nor loaded?

A. No, nothing but the deal.

Q. Do you remember Mr. Davidson making application to you respecting letters?

A. Yes, I remember his asking me for a letter or two to be directed to me; I told him he might, I had no objection, but I never had any come to my hands.

Q. That blade fits in at the top, or takes out occasionally; does it not?

A. No, it is fast in; it fastens in the hoop.

Q. I do not know whether you know of Davidson's correspondence with the London Corresponding Society, upon pike blades?

A. No.

Q. How long had Mr. Davidson come from Leeds to Sheffield?

A. I suppose about two months, I had not known him longer, however.

ROBERT MOODY—cross-examined by Mr. ERSKINE.

Q. If I understand you right, Mr. Davidson had written some letter or letters, you knew nothing of them; but if any answers were to come to those letters, they were to come to your hands?

A. Yes.

Q. None ever came to your hands?

A. Never.

Q. How long were you a member of that society?

A. A year.

Q. Do

Q. Do you remember the time the delegate went ?

A. No.

Q. What was this cat, a little thing or a large thing ?

A. The points were about an inch long, it might stand an inch and a half high.

Q. Was ever any made from that model that you know of ?

A. I never saw nor heard of any.

Q. Was this concealed or lying open ?

A. Lying open in the shop.

Q. Any body going there might have seen it ?

A. Yes, they might.

Q. It was a model ?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever hear of any order given to make any from it ?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever see a real one in your life ?

A. No, never.

Q. Did you frequent the society much ?

A. Not till the year back, before I was brought away in custody.

Q. During the time you was there, and till you was taken into custody, was any thing said in your presence or hearing against the King ?

A. I never heard any thing said against him.

Q. Was you yourself a friend to the King and Constitution as well as you understood it ?

A. Yes, I believe him to be a good man ; and it is a crime to do any thing against a good man.

Q. Were the people with whom you associated, decent well-behaved people ?

A. Yes, I always wished to go into the company of those who were better informed than myself, in order that I might get improved.

Q. You say it was in the month of April that they first began to talk about these pikes ?

A. Yes.

Q. And it was in consequence of those threats that they were talked of ?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there ever any thing said about these pikes till these threats were used ?

A. I never made any before.

Q. And how many were made in all ?

A. I made two dozen, and nine or ten.

Q. Do you know of any others ?

A. Mr.

*A.* Mr. Widdison made some handles; I understood.

*Q.* If you had believed that they were to have been used for the purpose of making a wicked attack on the government of the country, would you have been concerned in making them?

*A.* No, certainly I would not.

*Mr. Garrow.* How early had you any apprehension of these attacks?

*A.* Within the course of a few months before I was brought from the country.

*Q.* This gentleman has asked you about your apprehensions of ill usage; I want to see whether I apprehend you right: were any pikes made till Sheffield and its neighbourhood began to raise volunteer corps for the defence of the country?

*A.* These were made before.

*Q.* How long before?

*A.* Two or three weeks, perhaps.

*Q.* You told me what you apprehended was, that a magistrate would lend his authority, upon a little matter, to disperse your meetings?

*A.* It might be that, or they might themselves take upon themselves to disperse us without the authority of the magistrate.

*Q.* And here, consequently, the pikes were to be used?

*A.* If it was necessary.

*Q.* Now, one thing more about this cat: suppose a number of these were to have been made, not of lead but of iron, and to have been thrown into the road, were they not most effectual instruments to prevent any cavalry acting?

*A.* It appears so to me.

JOHN EDWARDS sworn—examined by Mr. GARROW.

*Q.* What are you by business?

*A.* A silversmith.

*Q.* Was you a member of the London Corresponding Society, as it is called?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you know the prisoner at the bar, Mr. Hardy?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Did you know him in any character in the London Corresponding Society?

*A.* Yes, I have known him as secretary to the London Corresponding Society.

*Q.* Did you at any time receive any direction from the prisoner at the bar to any person at Sheffield?

*A.* Yes, I did receive a direction.

*Q.* To whom is that direction?

*A.* I cannot recollect the name.

*Q.* Should you recollect the name if you was to hear it?

*A.* I have

*A.* I have been told the name since I have been in custody, but I cannot swear whether that was the name or not.

*Q.* Now, Sir, at what time was that direction to some person at Sheffield furnished to you by Mr. Hardy?

*A.* It think it was in the month of April, in the year 1794.

*Q.* For what purpose was that direction given to you by Mr. Hardy, and what was to be supplied in consequence of it from Sheffield?

*A.* I went one day to Mr. Hardy's, to his house, and I asked Mr. Hardy if he was going to send to Sheffield, if he would inclose a letter from me, or inform me of some person at Sheffield, who would forge the blades for pikes.

*Q.* Did the prisoner at the bar, in consequence of some application, furnish you with a direction of any person at Sheffield?

*A.* Mr. Hardy read part of a letter to me, and gave me a direction to a person at Sheffield on a small piece of paper?

*Q.* What was the purport of that which he read to you as part of the letter from Sheffield?

*A.* I cannot recollect the purport of it at present.

*Q.* The substance of it?

*A.* I understood that a plan had been formed for forging blades for the people of Sheffield.

*Q.* This was upon your application to him for a direction to some body at Sheffield to make blades for pikes?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* What did you do in consequence of that?

*A.* I spoke to two or three members of the Corresponding Society, and I understood that there were several persons that would wish to furnish themselves with such things, and as such I took it on myself to go to Mr. Hardy to know where I could get them, and who I could send to at Sheffield; and a meeting was to have taken place on Friday, the day before Mr. Hardy was apprehended, at the Parrot in Green Arbor Court in the Old Bailey.

*Q.* For what purpose?

*A.* Every body was to lay down his money that wished to have them, and the blades were to be sent from Sheffield to London.

*Q.* What sum of money was to be laid down for those who chose to have these blades sent up from Sheffield?

*A.* One shilling each.

*Q.* Was this communication with the prisoner mentioned at any meeting of the London Corresponding Society?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Was it mentioned to any division meeting?

*A.* No.

*Q.* What number did you belong to?



A. Twenty-nine.

Q. Was you present at any time at No. 22 ?

A. Yes, I think I was.

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Gosling ?

A. Yes.

Q. Of the name of Hillier ?

A. Yes.

Q. Baxter ?

A. Yes.

Q. Spence ?

A. Yes.

Q. What division was Baxter delegate for ?

A. I do not know.

Q. Was he a delegate for any of the divisions of the London Corresponding Society ?

A. He was at one time.

Q. Was Spence likewise ?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this plan of sending to Sheffield for blades of pikes mentioned to any of those persons ?

A. Yes, to Gosling, Baxter, Spence, and Hillier.

Q. Do you know that there was a place in the Borough, where they met on this subject ?

A. Yes, I heard at a meeting that there was a place where they met in the Borough, but where I did not know.

Q. For what purpose ?

A. To learn their exercise.

Q. What exercise ?

A. The use of the musket.

Q. Was there any subscription at that place in the Borough where the use of the musket was learned ?

A. I do not know.

Q. Did you learn from any of the members of the society that there was ?

A. Never.

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Higgins ?

A. Yes.

Q. Godwin ?

A. Yes.

Q. Where they members of the Corresponding Society ?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you learn from them, or either of them, whether there were any society of that sort that you have mentioned ?

A. I understood from Godwin, that there was such a society, but I never was there.

Q. You learned from this man who is a member of the London

don Corresponding Society, that there was a place in the Borough, where they learnt the use of the musket?

A. He told me so.

Q. Did you learn from him whether he belonged to it or not?

A. No.

Q. Did you learn from him or any other member of the London Corresponding Society where that society met?

A. No.

Q. Do you know a place called Bandy-leg Walk?

A. I have heard of it, but I don't know where it is.

Q. Did you hear from Higgins, Godwin, or any other member of the society, of any meeting held at Bandy-leg Walk?

A. No.

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Franklow?

A. I have heard of him; he was a member of the same division I was.

Q. Do you know where Franklow lived?

A. I have known since that.

Mr. Erskine. What is said by Hillier, and Higgins, and others, I conceive is not evidence.

Lord Chief Justice. I take that point to have been determined by the majority of the Court.

Mr. Garrow. Do you know of any association at Lambeth?

A. I have heard of it.

Q. Did you hear of that from Franklow, or any other member of the London Corresponding Society?

A. I never saw Franklow till I was before the council.

Q. Did you hear from any member of that association?

A. I remember there was something said of it soon after I went to the division, but by whom I cannot tell.

Q. Be so good as to state to us what passed at that time?

A. I only heard that there was a meeting at Lambeth, which bore the name of *The Lambeth Loyal Association*; that was all I heard.

Q. Did you hear at that or any other meeting of the society, of what number that meeting at Franklow's was composed?

A. I never knew how many composed it; I understood the number was to be sixty when it was full.

Q. For what purpose did that association at Lambeth of Franklow's meet?

A. That I cannot tell, for I never was there.

Q. For what purpose was it stated at the London Corresponding Society, at your division of the society that you met?

A. I never heard any thing of it in the society for what purpose.

Q. Did you never hear any thing from any member that Higgins or others of the London Corresponding Society had arms?

A. I never heard any thing more than what I have stated already.

Q. What was this association of Franklow's for; as you collected in the division?

A. I could not tell, for nothing of the kind was ever mentioned.

Q. Did you ever hear any body in the meeting of the Corresponding Society say in what dress those persons who attended Franklow's meeting met?

A. No, I did not hear.

Q. Do you know in what dress they met and what dress they assumed?

A. In a blue coat and red collar; I think I saw Franklow once in that dress, in a blue coat, red collar, white waistcoat and breeches.

Q. In that dress you saw Franklow himself?

A. Yes, once.

*Lord President.* When was it you saw him so dressed?

A. At the dinner at the Globe Tavern.

*Mr. Garraw.* When was that dinner at the Globe Tavern?

A. Upon the 20th of January.

Q. Was that the anniversary dinner?

A. Yes.

Q. At that dinner Franklow appeared in the dress you have mentioned?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know, Sir, of any meeting of any number of persons of the London Corresponding Society at the Three Tuns, Snow-Hill?

A. The division twenty-two used to meet there.

Q. Do you know of any proposal in the Corresponding Society for instructing that division, Twenty-two, at the Three Tuns, upon Snow-Hill, in the use of arms?

A. No, I cannot say I recollect that.

Q. Do you know of any meeting of any number of persons for that purpose, at the Three Tuns, to the number of sixteen or thereabouts?

A. Yes, I recollect there was one evening.

Q. Was you one?

A. I was.

Q. What was the purpose of that meeting?

A. I had spoke to several members myself for that purpose, to meet there and form an association, like the Lambeth association, if they thought proper, but no person would.

Q. Were



Q. Were those sixteen members of the division Twenty-two?

A. I do not know what division they were members of, they were of several divisions I believe.

Q. When was it that division meeting was held at the Three Tuns, Snow-Hill?

A. I cannot recollect what time.

Q. Was it before or after the anniversary dinner?

A. A long while before that.

Q. In the London Corresponding Society, was there any committee, which was called the secret committee, for the dispatch of business?

A. I understood there was.

Q. Did you understand that in the society.

A. Yes.

Lord-President. When the sixteen people met what was done there?

A. Nothing at all.

Mr. Garrow. At that meeting were sixteen were present, what was proposed by any body?

A. I only proposed forming an association similar to that of Franklow's, and no person there would join me.

Q. Be so good as to tell us in what way the secret committee of the society was chosen?

A. I cannot tell how they were chosen, I only heard of it in the division.

Q. Did you in the division hear of the appointment of any secret committee which was afterwards dissolved?

A. Yes, this was the same secret committee which I heard mention of in the division which was afterwards dissolved.

Q. Was that secret committee supplied by any new committee to take its place?

A. Yes, I understood it was, that the committee that was dissolved, I understood, had full powers to choose another.

Q. What was the reason as stated in the division meeting, for dissolving that secret committee and giving full powers to choose another?

A. It was thought that some person had given information of that committee having been chosen.

Q. Was that person so suspected, a member of the society?

A. Yes, he was a member of the general committee.

Q. What is his name?

A. Lynam.

Q. You suspected that Lynam had given information, and therefore the secret committee were dissolved—Did you ever know the persons who constituted that new committee?

A. I do



*A.* I do not know whether I know all.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of John Martin, an attorney, was he one?

*A.* Yes, he was.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Thelwall: was he one?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Baxter: was he one?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Moore: was he one?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Hodgson, or Moore?

*A.* One of them two it was, but I do not know which.

*Q.* You knew these two persons?

*A.* Yes, I do.

*Q.* One or other of them were a member of the secret committee?

*A.* He was.

*Q.* Where did this secret committee, as you have learnt in the meeting of the Corresponding Society, meet?

*A.* I do not know.

*Q.* At what sort of places did they meet; did they meet at the ordinary places of the general meeting of the society, or in private houses?

*A.* I do not know; I rather understood that they met at their own houses, I was told that by a person not in the society.

*Q.* What was the purpose for which this secret committee was constituted?

*A.* To receive any letters that were sent.

*Q.* And what were they to do with them when they had received them?

*A.* That was all left to them, and kept a secret from the society.

*Q.* Did they communicate occasionally to the society any correspondence that was sent to them?

*A.* Yes, there were letters sometimes read in the divisions.

*Q.* Was it left to them to use their discretion about them?

*A.* Yes, it was.

*Q.* Was you a delegate at any time of the society?

*A.* I was.

*Q.* In the character of a delegate was you a member of the general committee?

*A.* I attended the general committee about six times.

*Q.* Do

Q. Do I understand you right, that the correspondence was committed to the secret committee, and left with them whether it should be brought before the general committee, or the society at large, at their discretion?

A. It is impossible for me to answer that, because it all remained with themselves.

Q. Have you any reason to know that correspondence found its way to the secret committee, which never was communicated to the society at large?

A. I cannot tell that.

Q. Where did the general committee of delegates meet?

A. No. 3, Compton-street.

Q. Was you present at Compton-street?

A. I attended there twice.

Q. Was it any part of the business of that committee to receive the return of new members?

A. Yes.

Q. Did it happen at the meetings you attended, that there was always returns of members?

A. I cannot say.

Q. From Compton-street were the meetings of the committee transferred to another place?

A. Yes, to Mr. Thelwall's, No. 2, Beaufort-buildings.

Q. Do you recollect at the first meeting of the committee that you attended, any deputation attending to report from any other society?

A. No, I cannot recollect that.

Q. Do you know from any thing that passed in the committee or the society, that your society was in association and correspondence with the society, called the Society for Constitutional Information?

A. No, not at that time; I understood, at the Thursday night following, that a committee of correspondence was appointed, the Constitutional Society deputing five persons to attend a meeting of the Corresponding Society; this was on the first night. On the second night, I found they had appointed six persons, and there were only five persons of the Corresponding Society chose for the deputation, and then they chose another to add to them.

Q. Was you present at any time when a report was made by any of the members of the committee of conference to the society at large, or to the general committee?

A. No, I was not.

Q. You know Mr. Hodgson, and Lovett, and Thelwall, and Baxter, and Moore?

A. Yes.

Q. If

Q. If they were not, who were the persons that were deputed from your society to correspond with the Constitutional Society?

A. I was not present when they were deputed.

Q. Do you recollect any debate with respect to yourself at the time when this business of the delegates was considered?

A. Yes, I recollect that.

Q. Who were the persons that took part in that debate?

A. There were several persons that spoke, most of them strangers to me at that time; Mr. Thelwall was one that spoke.

Q. Was Mr. Baxter one that spoke in that debate?

A. He did at the committee, not at the division.

Q. Do you remember being present at any meeting of the general committee, when a business respecting a gentleman of the name of Eaton was taken into consideration?

A. I remember I was present when a medal was presented, that had been struck, to be given the jurymen who had acquitted him.

Q. Were the medals to be presented to any other persons, except the persons who had acquitted him?

A. I did not hear.

Q. Acquitted him, upon what occasion?

A. He was tried at the bar for a libel, and was found not guilty, I think.

Q. Do you remember any thing at a meeting at Chalk Farm, in the neighbourhood of this town?

A. Yes.

Q. What were the proceedings of the society, so far as they came to your knowledge, preparatory to that meeting?

A. I do not know, I was only appointed of the committee one night before that, and that was when the debate took place respecting myself; I do not remember any thing else.

Q. Was you present at the meeting at Chalk Farm yourself?

A. I was there

Q. Where did you first go to?

A. We went to Store-street first, in Tottenham-court-road.

Q. And from thence to what place?

A. To Chalk Farm.

Q. At what time did you arrive at Chalk Farm?

A. I cannot recollect what time it was; it was in the afternoon.

Q. Was that meeting at Chalk Farm one that had been appointed in consequence of any proceedings of the London Corresponding Society?

A. I do not know.

Q. What passed when you came there: you went there as a delegate from the London Corresponding Society?

A. I was a delegate at that time.

Q. Had



Q. Had you any card for your admission to Chalk Farm?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you procure it?

A. From the committee of the Corresponding Society.

Q. When and where were they procured?

A. At the committee of the Corresponding Society, at Compton-street.

Q. When?

A. The Thursday night.

Q. What, preceding the meeting at Chalk Farm?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the occasion of your going to Store-street, at first?

A. I understood there was a room engaged at Store-street; it was advertised that the meeting was to be held there.

Q. There you went with your ticket?

A. Yes.

Q. Then what led you to Chalk Farm?

A. I understood that Justice Addington had been there, and hindered the man from letting them have the room.

Q. Then you went to Chalk Farm?

A. Yes.

Q. What number of persons might be assembled at Chalk Farm?

A. I suppose upwards of two thousand.

Q. Was there any ceremony upon your entrance there?

A. A person stood at the door just to take the tickets.

Q. What place was it?

A. A kind of trap-ball ground—a green before a long room.

Q. These tickets which the person at the door was just to take, were what you had received at the committee of the Corresponding Society, if I take you right?

A. Yes, they were.

Q. What was done with the tickets when you came there?

A. The tickets were torn in half, one was kept by the door-keeper, and the other half the person that had it put in his hat.

Q. When you was admitted, tell us the proceedings that took place, and who were there, and what passed—did you find there any persons of the Corresponding Society?

A. Yes, several persons there.

Q. Any that you knew, and that you have named?

A. Yes, Moore, Hodgson, and Thelwall.

Q. Was there any person who was called to, or who took the chair?

A. Yes, John Lovett.



Q. Name some more of the Corresponding Society with whom you was acquainted?

A. Richier was there, and most of the members of the committee.

Q. Do you know Mr. Hardy?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he there?

A. I do not know, because I was up in the long room all the time.

Q. After you were admitted into the ground did any body take the chair?

A. Mr. Lovett took the chair; I was locked into the long room with some ladies a great part of the time.

Q. Did you hear what was read there, so as to give any account of it—recollect what was said?

A. No, I cannot.

Q. Was you present afterwards at any meeting of the general or any other committee of the London Corresponding Society in which the report of the proceedings at Chalk Farm was reported?

A. I do not recollect that I was at any meeting either of the committee or the society, because most of the members heard it there.

Q. Now, Sir, do you know a place called Robin's coffee-house, in Shire Lane?

A. Yes.

Q. Was that a place at which meetings of any of the divisions were held?

A. Yes; division No. twenty-nine.—I was a member of that division.

Q. Be so good as to look at this paper, and tell me whether you ever saw any of that sort of paper distributed at Robin's coffee-house, and if any of them were distributed by the persons you have named?

A. I have seen some, but not so large as that, and of a different date.

Q. Did it contain the same, the same expressions?

Mr. Erskine. I object to that question; the witness is asked whether he ever saw that paper or any paper like it.

Mr. Garraw. That is not the question. The question I put was, whether you did ever receive a paper of that at Robin's coffee-house.

A. Not at Robin's coffee-house.

Q. Did you ever receive one?

A. Yes,

*A.* Yes, one, but not so large as this, and it was of a different date; it was dated the 30th of January.

*Q.* Where did you receive that?

*A.* From Mr. Baxter, but I forget where.

*Q.* It was not the same sized paper you received from Baxter?

*A.* No, it is not, by the same sized paper.

*Q.* What is the date of that paper?

*A.* The first of April 1794.

*Q.* Did you at any time from Baxter, a member of the London Corresponding Society, receive a paper of the same contents as that, except that the date was the 30th of January, upon the different sized paper?

*A.* Yes.

*Mr. Erskine.* What did you do with that paper?

*A.* It was destroyed before I was taken into custody.

*Mr. Erskine.* I submit to your Lordship, that such questions ought not to be asked.

*Mr. Attorney General.* It shall not be said, when a paper is produced that your Lordships hold to be legal evidence; it shall not be said in this court, that the paper is fabricated by the spies of those who carry on the prosecution.

*Lord Chief Justice.* I hope that was not said.

*Mr. Attorney General.* But it was my Lord, by my learned friend.

*(The Clerk reads.)*

For the BENEFIT of JOHN BULL;

At the FEDERATION THEATRE in EQUALITY SQUARE,

On Thursday, the 30th of January, 1791,  
Will be performed,

A NEW AND ENTERTAINING FARCE CALLED

LA GUILLOTINE;

OR,

GEORGE'S HEAD IN THE BASKET!

Dramatis Personæ.

NUMPY the Third, by Mr. GWELP,  
(Being the last time of his Appearing in that Character.)

Prince of Leeks, by Mr. GWELP, junior.

Duke of Dice, by Mr. FREDDY, (from Osnaburgh.)

Duke of Jordan, by Mr. William Henry FLOGGER,  
(from the Creolian Theatre.)

Uncle Toby, by Mr. RICHMOND,  
Grand Inquisitor, Mr. Pensioner REEVES.  
Don Quixote, Knight of the Dagger, Mr. Edmund CALUMNY,  
And Chancellor of the Exchequer, by Mr. Billy TAX-LIGHT,  
Municipal Officers, National Guards, &c. by Citizens  
NOF, NADIREHS, YREG, ENIKSRE, &c.

Banditti, Assassins, Cut-Throats, and Wholesale Dealers in Blood,  
by the EMPRESS of RUFFIANS, the EMPEROR of HARM-  
ANY, THING of PRUSSIA, PRINCE of  
S. CASH-HELL, &c.

BETWEEN THE ACTS A NEW SONG CALLED,  
TWENTY MORE, KILL THEM! BY BOBADIL  
BRUNSWICK.

TIGHT ROPE DANCING from the LAMP-POSTS,\*  
By Messrs. CANTERBURY, YORK, DURHAM, &c.

In the course of the Evening will be sung in full Chorus,

*C A I R A,*

AND

“BOB SHAVE GREAT GEORGE OUR ——— !”

THE WHOLE TO CONCLUDE WITH

A GRAND DECAPITATION

OF

PLACEMEN, PENSIONERS, and GERMAN LEECHES.

\* \* Admittance Three Pence each Person.

*Vive la Liberté! Vive la République!*

\* French Fashion.

*Mr. Garraw.* You received one of these papers of a different date?

*A.* Yes, the 30th of January, 4971.

*Q.* At what time did you receive your paper?

*A.* I do not recollect what time, it is some time ago.

*Q.* Where?

*A.* I cannot recollect where I received it.

*Q.* From Mr. Baxter, about three months before January?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* Then it was delivered to you near three months before the thing was to take place?

*A.* I think it was near three months.

*Q.* You have given us some account that you did not know what passed at Chalk Farm.—After the meeting at Chalk Farm, did you go to Compton-street on the evening of that day?

*A.* Yes.

*Q.* What was the place of Compton-street—what connexion had that with the society?

*A.* It

A. It was where the division used to meet at the coffee-rooms.

Q. Did you sup there?

A. I did.

Q. How late did you stay?

A. Not late; I went away about eleven o'clock.

Q. Who was there?

A. A great many.

Q. Were they members?

A. I understood it so; they came from Chalk Farm.

Q. Was Mr. Thelwall there?

A. Yes, Mr. Thelwall was.

Q. Did you, in any of the meetings of the society, or its committee, receive any information with respect to arming in any way, except that which you have told us about pikes, and Franklow's association?

A. Never.

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Ashley?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he a member of the society?

A. He was.

Q. Did you ever receive any information from Ashley, of arming by pikes?

A. I never did.

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Joyce?

A. I have seen him two or three times.

Q. Do you remember any meeting at the Crown and Anchor upon the 2d of May, in the present year?

A. I was there.

Q. In what manner was you admitted?

A. I was admitted by a ticket.

Q. How came you by that ticket?

A. Mr. Joyce made me a present of it.

Q. By whose recommendation?

A. By Mr. Thelwall's: Mr. Thelwall called him out of the room, and he gave me a ticket.

Q. What was that meeting?

A. The anniversary dinner of the Constitutional Society?

Q. You was present at the dinner of the Globe Tavern, likewise?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember any printed paper being distributed at that dinner, at the Globe Tavern?

A. After dinner, there was an address again read, that had been read in the morning and distributed about.

Q. Where had that address been read in the morning?

A. At



*A.* At the Globe Tavern before dinner?

*Q.* Was there any conversation at that dinner about any troops; any Hessian troops for instance?

*A.* I do not recollect that.

*Q.* Pass that, and go to the dinner of the 2d of May, at the Crown and Anchor: will you give us some account of that, how that festivity was conducted; but before I go to that, I will ask you as to the dinner at the Globe Tavern; you do not recollect the circumstance of any paper respecting Hessian troops?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Do you recollect any paper that respected the different parties in this country, the Ins and Outs?

*A.* Not there; I saw one at the Three Tuns, Snow-hill.

*Lord President.* When was that?

*A.* I do not recollect when it was?

*Q.* Before or after the 20th of January?

*A.* I think it was after.

*Mr. Garraw.* You was not present at Robin's coffee-house when Mr. Yorke made his speech?

*A.* I was not.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Hodgson?

*A.* Mr. Hodgson, the hatter, I know.

*Q.* Have you ever received any printed paper from him?

*A.* No, never.

*Q.* From him, or from Mr. Lovett?

*A.* No.

*Q.* From Mr. Hodson, the printer, in Bell-Yard?

*A.* No, I never did.

*Q.* Have you been present at any time at Mr. Thelwall's lectures in Beaufort Buildings?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Was it permitted for any body to take notes of his lectures?

*A.* I do not know.

*Q.* Was you ever present when any persons were doing so, and were interrupted?

*A.* No, I never was.

*Q.* Be so good as to state to us what the price was to be laid down for these pikes?

*A.* One shilling; it was to be sent to Sheffield for blades.

*Q.* The blades were to be furnished from Sheffield—what then?

*A.* Any person might have put a shaft to it that thought proper.

*Q.* Do you know a person of the name of Gosling?

*A.* Yes, I do.

*Q.* Do

Q. Do you know a person of the name of Hillier?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you any conversation at any time, or any instructions from Mr. Gosling on the subject of pikes?

A. No, none from Gosling.

Q. Had you any conversation with him upon that subject?

A. Gosling came to my father's house on the Monday that Mr. Hardy was taken into custody, to know where the meeting for the pikes was to be held.

Q. What was the purport of that meeting?

A. It was to put down the money for the pikes.

Q. Where was it to be?

A. At the Parrot in Green-Arbour Court, Old-Bailey.

Q. And that meeting was postponed till the week following, and in the interim, the week following, they took you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they come to you before you knew Mr. Hardy was apprehended.

A. Yes, they came to me before I knew that Mr. Hardy was apprehended; for while they were there, a person came to tell that circumstance.

Q. What was to be furnished for the one shilling?

A. A blade.

Q. Nothing else?

A. Nothing else.

Q. How were they to procure the shaft to make the pikes complete?

A. I do not know, they might get that where they thought proper.

Q. At that time, what sort of wood were the shafts to be made of?

A. Fir ones was recommended in the letter.

Q. In consequence of that recommendation were any others procured?

A. I made one myself.

Q. We saw one here just now, in which the blade was fixed to the shaft, was your's of that construction?

A. No, it was made to screw on. (*produces the handle.*)

Q. Is that the shaft of your's?

A. Yes, that is the shaft, only the blade screws in it at top.

Q. What is become of the blade?

A. It was destroyed on the Wednesday before I was taken into custody, after I was informed that Mr. Hardy was taken into custody.

Q. How happened that to be destroyed—by whose advice was it destroyed?

A. By

A. By nobody's.

Q. Why did you destroy it?

A. Because I was afraid it would be found upon me.

Q. Besides this play bill that we have had, do you know of any representations by magic lanthorn, or other device used as connected with that subject?

A. I had a magic lanthorn of my own, which I produced to show Mr. Gosling.

Q. Any connexion between that entertaining apparatus and the subjects of this trial?

A. It was a magic lanthorn belonging to Monsieur Chauvelin, with the destruction of the Bastile upon it, and the death of the governor.

Q. You said you knew a person of the name of Hillier?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether he had a pike?

A. I understood that he had.

Q. Was that of the same construction with your's, or was it different?

A. No; it was not of the same construction.

Q. He was one of those who was at your house the day Mr. Hardy was apprehended, and to whom you shewed your pike?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know where his pike had been constructed?

A. No.

JOHN EDWARDS, cross-examined by Mr. ERSKINE.

Q. How long, before you was apprehended, was you a member of the Corresponding Society?

A. I became a member of the Corresponding Society last July was twelve-months.

Q. You made a pike for yourself; what trade are you?

A. A silversmith.

Q. When was it you made that?

A. In March, 1794.

Q. How long had you been in the society at the time you made that pike?

A. Ever since July, 1793.

Q. For what purpose did you make it?

A. I had heard a person of the name of Yorke who had it mentioned in Robin's coffee-house, after one of the divisions broke up, that they had pikes at Sheffield, and I made one after them.

Q. But why should that induce you to make one for yourself; you must have had some motive for it?

A. I understood several of the members were providing themselves with arms, and I made it for that purpose.

Q. For



Q. For what purpose?

A. In case of any illegal dispersion of the meeting.

Q. Had you heard, Mr. Edwards, that there had been any threats of such illegal dispersions at Sheffield?

A. No, I had not heard of it, but it was just at the time the Hessian troops were landed without the consent of Parliament.

Q. Had you any intention to make use of that pike as against the government of the country?

A. Not against the government of the country.

Q. You had no intention of the sort when you went to Mr. Hardy's—what direction did you go for?

A. I asked Mr. Hardy if he was going to send to Sheffield, I said there were several members of the society wished to have pikes.

Q. Had you spoke to any members of the society who wanted them?

A. Not before.

Q. Did you after that, speak to some of the members who wanted them?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you understand them to want them for the same reason as you wanted them?

A. I understood it was for the same reason.

Q. From any thing that passed between you and any of the members at the London Corresponding Society, had you any reason to believe that they wanted them for a rebellion against the government and magistracy of the land?

A. No, not for any legal people that might be sent to disperse them.

Q. But if you were attacked without the law or the authority of a magistrate you thought you had a right to defend yourselves?

A. Yes.

Q. I believe in consequence of that you made a proposition in one of the divisions, when there were sixteen persons present?

A. That was long before I had the direction from Mr. Hardy.

Q. What was the reason of your making that proposition?

A. Because there had been great opposition shewn to the meetings of the society before that time.

Q. Where any opposition offered to you?

A. There was, at Rotherhithe, two of the police officers came in, and said they wanted men for his Majesty's service.

Q. Did you think in your conscience you were doing right?



*Mr. Attorney-General.* I object to that question—is that a proper question?

*Lord President.* Being upon the cross-examination of a witness, I think he may be asked whether he at the time apprehended that the thing he was doing was lawful or unlawful, whether it was so or not will not depend upon his apprehension, but if he has done an illegal thing innocently, he may be asked to that, and it may go to the general evidence.

*Witness.* At the very time that they came in we were reading the resolutions of Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Richmond at the Thatched House Tavern.

*Mr. Erskine.* I am really not an advocate for the conscience of Mr. Pitt or the Duke of Richmond.

*Mr. Attorney-General.* It is really too grave an occasion for such an observation.

*Mr. Erskine.* It is really hard upon me that I should be eternally assailed by these gentlemen, when I alone have the arduous task of extracting the truth from these witnesses.

*Lord President.* If you are improperly interrupted, I will certainly interpose, but it is perfectly impossible that the business can go on unless the gentlemen will exercise a mutual forbearance on both sides. You are a little apt to break out, and I think there has been a little inclination sometimes to observe more upon it than the thing called for.

*Mr. Erskine.* At the time that you were opposed in this manner, were you doing any thing which, in your apprehension, and your own mind, was wrong?

*A.* We were not.

*Q.* From any thing that you saw, and from any thing that you heard from these persons with whom you associated, did you collect that they intended to make a different use of the pikes from that for which you had made your own?

*A.* I did not.

*Q.* When you made this proposition to have a society upon the same plan as that of the Lambeth—what name did that association bear?

*A.* It bore the name of the Loyal Lambeth Association.

*Q.* If you had thought that this association at Lambeth were a meeting of persons that meant to oppose the government and magistracy of the country, would you have belonged to it?

*A.* No.

*Q.* Do you recollect the prisoner, Mr. Hardy, saying any thing about that?

*A.* No, I do not, I never heard him say any thing of that kind.

*Q.* Have you seen him several times at your divisions?

*A.* Yes.

A. Yes.

Q. In what manner did he demean himself at these meetings?

A. In a very quiet manner, I never heard him speak at the divisions, not once.

Q. Did he appear to be a man of turbulent disposition?

A. No, quite a different character.

Q. Did you ever hear any expressions from him in the meeting that led you to suppose otherwise?

A. I never heard the prisoner make use of an improper expression since I have been in the society.

Q. Did you ever hear Mr. Hardy make any proposition for arms or pikes?

A. Never.

Q. Was you ever present when any proposition of that sort was made to him, and he assented to it, or encouraged it?

A. No, I never heard any thing mentioned but what was mentioned in his shop, and there was nobody there but him and myself.

Q. Did you tell him that you had made a pike for yourself at any time?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you tell him for what purpose you had made it?

A. No, I don't think I did.

Q. He knew you as a member of the society?

A. Yes.

Q. This bill, upon what occasion was it that Baxter gave it to you?

A. Baxter had one or two that he gave to two or three persons of the division, No. 29, and I asked him for one.

Q. Why did you ask for a thing that was perfectly ridiculous and indecent?

*Lord Chief Justice.* And you might add, very infamous; it ought not to be mentioned, I am sure, without some strong term of detestation.

*Mr. Erskine.* I am sure your Lordship cannot think that I mean to be an advocate for a thing of that sort; it is certainly truly infamous.

Q. How came you to ask Mr. Baxter for it?

A. I saw it at a distance; I could not read it, and asked him to get me one.

Q. Did you ever hear any thing pass from any member of the society, more especially from the prisoner, that leads you to conceive he would have approved of any thing of that nature?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear any expression pass in the course of the