Petition of Edward Jones of Manchester

House of Commons, Votes and Proceedings, 15 May 1821

Transcribed by Lauren Jaye Gradwell

(No. 568)

A Petition of *Edward Jones*, of *Manchester*, in the County of *Lancaster,* was presented, and read; setting forth, That the Petitioner, in the exercise of his right as a *British* subject, attended a Meeting which was held on *St. Peter’s* Field, in *Manchester,* on the 16th of August 1819, for the purpose of petitioning the House for a Reform in the Representation of the People in the House; while in the exercise of this right the Petitioner was furiously attacked by the Yeomanry Cavalry, who made an unprovoked attack upon the Meeting, riding amongst and cutting at all within their reach; the Petitioner in his endeavours to escape, was many times in danger of being rode down by the Yeomanry, one of whom directed a blow with a sabre at the arm of the Petitioner, which fortunately only cut through the clothes of the Petitioner; another of the Yeomanry gave the Petitioner a violent blow across his hand, which caused a very severe bruise; the Petitioner having with difficulty reached his home after some time had elapsed, had occasion to go out on business, the Petitioner had not proceeded above fifty yards from his own door, before he heard some one pronounce “Fire;” the Petitioner at the time did not see any soldiers, nor was there any disturbance amongst the people; the Petitioner however clung to the wall upon hearing the word “Fire” given, when a body of infantry immediately discharged their muskets, a ball from one of which entered the thigh of the Petitioner; the Petitioner was prevented, in consequence of the wound he received from attending to his business for upwards of eighteen weeks, in consequence of which and the expense of medical and surgical aid, the Petitioner sustained a loss in his income of £.80 ; and he humbly prays, That the House will cause an inquiry to be made into such a wanton outrage.