Petition of Joseph Jones of Rhodes-bank

House of Commons, Votes and Proceedings, 15 May 1821

Transcribed by Lauren Jaye Gradwell

(No. 608)

A Petition of *Joseph Jones,* of *Rhodes-bank*, in the township of *Oldham,* and County Palatine of *Lancaster,* Cotton Spinner, was presented, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner attended a Meeting held near *St. Peter’s* church, in *Manchester,* on the 16th of August 1819; that the people there assembled were peaceable and orderly, and did not manifest any disposition to tumult, when the *Manchester* Yeomanry Cavalry commenced a most furious attack upon them; a scene then ensued too shocking to relate, and which, in the opinion of the Petitioner, it is impossible for language to describe; the *Manchester* Yeomanry Cavalry, as appeared to the Petitioner, cut at all within their reach, regardless of age, sex, or condition, and, deaf to supplications for mercy, or the cries of their maimed victims; the Petitioner, shocked at the scene before him, and alarmed for his own safety, endeavoured to make his escape, but was thrown down by the extreme pressure of the crowd, and whilst so down one of the Cavalry made a cut at the Petitioner with his sabre, and inflicted a deep wound in his face; the Petitioner also received two severe wounds in his right leg, as he supposes from the trampling of the horses, but he was in a state of insensibility at the time, which wounds disabled the Petitioner from following his employ for many weeks; he therefore humbly prays, That the House will cause an inquiry to be made into the shocking transactions of that day.