

Theme 2 – Working class unrest

Subtheme2 - Riots and reform

Transcripts for other primary sources

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Ne C 4999 - Letter from Thomas Winter, Red Hill, Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 11 Oct. 1831

Red Hill Oct[obe]r 11th /31

My Lord Duke

I hasten to tell your Grace that the Castle was burnt to ruins during last night & that the Mob are deliberately pulling down the fence walls at this time.

The violent manner in which I have been threatened has induced me to leave home but any instructions from your Grace will meet me on its arrival at the Post Office.

Mr Chambers is suffering from [p. 2] inflammation in the Eye is the reason he has written this letter to your Grace.

They threaten very strongly to go to Clumber & they last night went to Musters Esq[ui]re & broke & destroyed all his furniture & set fire to his house but the flame was extinguished soon after they left.

I remain My Lord Duke
your much obliged & obedient
servant

Tho. Winter

11 OClock

Ne C 5000 - Letter from John Sherbrooke Gell, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 11 Oct. 1831

My Lord Duke

Your Grace is probably aware that the main walls alone of Nottingham Castle remain standing. The Mob made a breach in the Wall & also burst the Gate about six oClock last night, whilst I was at Colwick, which they had also set fire to in two places, nearly gutting & plundering it. Mrs Musters & her family have taken refuge at my House on Standard Hill. Having obtained 18 Constables & 5 Dragoons I succeeded in clearing the castle yard about one oClock this morning. The mob have today been to Beeston & I can see /2 o'Clock, a silk mill there in Flames. The County Magistrates are now sitting and the Yeomanry is ordered to different points [p. 2] expected to be attacked. Threats are held out for tonight against the different Banks, & against all the Houses in the Town built upon your Grace's land; but I should hope proper precautions will be taken before dark. I am sent for & must conclude abruptly.

Most obed[ien]tly
J.S. Gell
Nottm 11th Oct[obe]r 1831

Ne C 5001 - Letter from Geo. Flower, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, to John Parkinson; 11 Oct. 1831

Mansfield 11th Oct[obe]r 1831

My Dear Sir

I feel it my duty to inform you that by the Express Coach information has been brought that Nottingham Castle has been destroyed by Fire - that the Mob were gone to Woolerton for the same purpose and that they declared their intention of proceeding afterwards to Clumber, and to take Mansfield in their way they are in great strength. Several Houses in [p. 2] Loughboro' have been destroyed - I have

sent my Boy in order that you might have the earliest information to enable you to prepare for them. Excuse the observation cannot you secrete the Rations.

I am in haste

D[ea]r Sir

Yours truly

Geo: Flower

Ne C 5003 - Letter from G[odfrey] B. Mundy to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; n.d. [c.1831]

H.S. Club
2 P.M.

My dear Duke

Lord Hill has just told me that matters are growing quieter in Notts.

The 15th Hussars had dispersed a party of the rioters who were threatening Wollaton and the Notts Yeomanry had attacked & put to flight another party at (I believe) Arnold.

Sir H Bouverie had [p. 2] also received orders to send infantry in carriages from Lancashire to Derby with all speed possible, so I sh[oul]d hope any further outrages will be stopped.

Let me hear from you at Clumber, & you may rely upon my discretion in not saying anything to the Duchess than can [p. 3] occasion alarm -

Sincerely hoping you may find all quiet there, I am ever yours Rest

Sincerely & affect[ionate]ly

GBMundy

P.S. Should you have occasion to act against the rioters, let me recommend you always to keep a reserve, if [p. 4] be ever so small. They will be useful either to retire upon, or to follow up your attack when you have broken the mob.

N.B. Let your swords be well sharpened, otherwise it is only playing at soldiers -

Burn this, if you please.

[p. 5]

P.S.

Poor Mrs Musters was carried by her daughter into the garden, where she lay under a tree most part of the night, and her son found her in a room over the stables when he arrived at Colwick.

Ne C 5004 - Letter from Thomas Moore, High Sheriff of Nottingham, Nottingham, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 12 Oct. 1831

Nottingham, Oct 12 1831

My Lord Duke,

I think it my duty, as High Sheriff, to communicate to your Grace the proceedings which have taken place here & in the neighbourhood within the last few days. On Saturday night the intelligence arrived of the rejection of the Reform Bill in the House of Lords, and on Sunday some disposition was evinced to riot & some shop windows &c were broken, but the Mob dispersed on the appearance of the Military. A meeting w[hi]ch was called by the Mayor took place on Monday noon, but seemed to pass off quietly; in the evening however a Mob collected [p. 2] and after committing a few acts of outrage in the Town proceeded to Colwick where they destroyed the furniture & attempted to burn Mr Muster's House, in w[hi]ch to a certain extent they succeeded. I regret to say that

afterwards they proceeded to your Grace's Castle which they completely destroyed, and upon w[hi]ch I need not further dwell as I know your Grace has been fully informed. Hearing of the attack about to be made upon the Castle I immediately applied to the County Magistrates present for Troops to act against them, but I lament to say that they thought the force in the Town so weak that it would endanger the safety of the Town by dividing them; nothing further was done that night.

But on the following mor[nin]g (Tuesday) the Mob again assembled & at about eleven o'clock proceeded to Beeston & burnt an extensive Silk Mill belonging to [p. 3] Mr Lowe & committed other depredations. On their return to Notting[ha]m they broke thro' the gates into Wollaton Park where Capt[ain] Edge was stationed with his troop of Yeomanry with w[hi]ch he charged the Mob & routed them, having secured 15 or 16 prisoners. Afterwards the Mob was attacked on their return into Nottm by one of the Holme Troops & fired upon but without any wounds being inflicted. The 15th Hussars came up at the time & secured 2 or 3 prisoners, the whole of w[hi]ch were lodged in the County Gaol.

One of the Mob was wounded by a shot from a soldier of the 15th as they were conveying the prisoners to gaol but the wound is not considered mortal. After this circumstance the Mob dispersed & the night passed away in perfect tranquillity. Colonel Thackwell made most judicious arrangements with the Military stationing the five Yeomanry troops on the different avenues to the Town & they are still upon duty & will remain so until the tranquillity w[hi]ch still exists (1/2 past 3) appears permanent. Should anything transpire of importance your Grace shall hear from

Your Grace's most
obedient humble ser[van]t
Thos Moore

**Ne C 5005- Letter from William Sherbrooke, Nottingham,
Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; n.d.
[c.1831]**

My Lord Duke

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Grace that the disgraceful proceedings & dangerous riots which have for two days agitated this Town & its vicinity have now I trust ceased & I hope tranquility will be restored. The Magistrates have sworn in Special Constables & the Yeomanry have been extremely active, nineteen prisoners [p. 2] are now in the gaol, one man has been dangerously wounded by the Regular Troops who were called out by the Magistrates & others more slightly. Your Grace will have previously heard of the injury that your Castle has received which excites general indignation & regret, Mr Gell having communicated with you yesterday & the multiplicity [p. 3] of business plead my excuse for not having sooner written to your Grace. I have the honor to be

Your Graces Most faithful Ser[van]t

W. Sherbrooke

County Hall Wednesday

Ne C 5002 - Letter from Richard Hunt on behalf of Henry Pelham-Clinton, Earl of Lincoln, Clumber, Nottinghamshire, to J. Parkinson; 11 Oct. 1831

Clumber Oct[obe]r 11th 1831

Sir

I am desired by the Earl of Lincoln to inform you that he is in hourly expectation of an Attack upon Clumber House - the Plate and Pictures we have been engaged in removing today and we are pretty well provided with Fire Arms and Ammunition but his Lordship thinks that if you could come over either this Evening or in the Morning & get any of the Tenants (who might be willing to render assistance) to come over here, that your Presence would be of service - Elizabeth as well as most of the Maid Servants from the House are going away so that I am afraid your Accommodation would not be very good here - Mr Hunt is gone to Bottomsall.

I presume that you must have heard of the burning of Nottingham Castle. - Mr Bradley has been over there to day and says the People are quiet now.

I remain Sir
(in haste)

Your obed[ien]t Serv[an]t
Rich^d Hunt

Ne C 5006- Letter from William Tallents, Wansford, Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 12 Oct. 1831

Wansford
Wednesday
12th Oct 1831

My Lord Duke

I came hither in consequence of learning from Lord Lincoln that you would be on your road home yesterday - and I had made arrangements by which every chance of annoyance to your Grace, in the event of your passing through Newark in the day time would have been (I hope) completely obviated - All however is and has been quiet with us at Newark but I hope and trust that your Grace will nevertheless (if you pass through in the day time) write & order horses from Newark to meet you at [p. 2] the House in Bennington where the Mail Coach changes horses - it is about 6 miles from Newark towards Grantham.

Every thing also, I learn this evening, is quiet at Clumber and that Lord Lincoln has put it in a strong posture of defence.

I have left letters for your Grace at the Inn at Wansford, which I had written prior to the express I have just received.

I have advised the Magistrates at Newark, as a precautionary [p. 3] measure to swear in about 200 Special Constables, & have written to Capt[ai]n Handley & Capt[ai]n Bartle to beg that in case of need the Newark Troop of Yeomanry & the Staff of the Militia may be in readiness to be called out if the Civil power should prove unequal to the suppression of any disorders which may arise

-

But I believe all will remain quiet.

I have the Honor to be
My Lord Duke

Your Grace's most obed[ien]t
& faithful servant

Wm Edw[ar]d Tallents

Ne C 5010 - Letter from Mr. J. Parkinson, Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 12 Oct. 1831

Clumber
Oct[obe]r 12th 1831

My Lord Duke,

I should have written by post to day had I not expected that Your Grace would receive a Letter from Lord Lincoln, but His Lordship having been so much engaged it prevented his writing until too late, and he requests that I will transmit particulars to Your Grace in a Parcel by Coach.

Information having been received that the Mob at Nottingham, after totally destroying Nottingham Castle by Fire intended to proceed to Clumber, Lord Lincoln gave immediate directions for the removal of the Pictures into the Evidence Room and which has been done without any damage to them whatever, and the Plate is lodged safely in the Cellar, a wall has been built in the front of it, which is whitewashed so as to appear like the other walls of the Cellar, and a shelf upon which are Bottles &c so that no one but those in the secret (and they are few) could find the Plate.

[p. 2] The 24 pieces of Cannon are loaded and placed effective situations in various parts of the House and about 150 men were stationed with them, having also about 150 muskets and large Pistols with Cartouches of which an ample quantity has been found in the House, besides other Arms - and 45 of the Clumber Yeomanry are now upon Duty under the command of the Sergeant Major and Mr Barrow and several more of the Troop are expected hourly. Messengers on Horseback have been sent to Mansfield & Ollerton &c who are to return & give immediate information here and amongst Your Grace's Tenantry. I do not apprehend that an open attack will now be made upon the House but the Yeomanry will be retained and about 50 Tenants and Labourers in the House besides, and the Constable of Worksope will have a few men to watch around the Town.

The Mob at Nottingham burned a Silk Mill and proceeded to attack the House at Wollaton, but were dispersed by the Yeomanry under the command of Mr Edge, they then attempted to set fire to a Cotton Mill [p. 3] and a number of them were taken prisoners whom the Mob attempted to rescue but were defeated after 3 were killed. Mr Musters's House at Colwick is nearly destroyed - Mr Mundy's of Shipley and Mr Mundy's at Markeaton very seriously damaged and Sir Rob[er]t Wilmots at Chaddesden totally destroyed - some Windows have been broken at Mansfield particularly ten of Mr Flower's House, whose Letter & one from Admiral Sotheron & another from my Clerk to me I enclose herewith for Your Grace's information. An efficient Watch is kept at the Farm and it is believed that a Mob dare not face Clumber. The Duke of Portland has been particularly friendly in writing to and calling upon Lord Lincoln here this morning.

I am sorry to add that Joseph Bains an honest and industrious Carpenter of [p. 4] Bottomsall was shot dead last night in the ante room to the Library (where about 10 were keeping Watch) by a Pistol going off accidentally in the hands of - Sissons a labourer employed by W. J. Hunt. An Inquest will be held tomorrow - The man was sent to mend the Fire and took up a Pistol contrary to furtive orders, which went off whilst in his hand.

I will attend here until I am satisfied that there is no danger, for the purpose of keeping good Order and Your Grace may be assured that there is every disposition to defend Clumber.

Lord Lincoln has written to Adm[ira]l Sotheron to thank him and decline the invitation for the Ladies Clinton, who are at Mr Mansell's - The Lords are well & in excellent Spirits. I have the Honour to be

Your Grace's faithful & obedient Servant
John Parkinson

Ne C 5011 - Letter from Henry Pelham-Clinton, Earl of Lincoln [later 5th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne], Clumber, Nottinghamshire, to unknown 'Sir'; 13 Oct. 1831

Clumber
Oct[ober] 13. 1831

My dear Sir

Many thanks for the measures of precaution which you have taken. - We had above 200 men in the house for these two last nights including a troop of the Yeomanry. - Nothing has happened till within these [p. 2] few hours, when some villains fired a cow-house at a cottage in the Park a mile from the house. - I instantly rode up and ordered an engine to follow, and most Providentially / considering the situation / no other damage was done than the loss of a poor cow who was burnt in the flames - I have since sent out scouts in [p. 3] all the woods to endeavour to take the wretches. - I have no doubt that it was done in order to draw away our garrison, but this I prevented by only allowing so many men to go as were wanted for the engine. - The cottage was one in which Mr Thompson the Tutor lives. - I mention these circumstances [p. 4] in order to shew my Father / when he comes thro' Newark / that there is great reason to be watchful for his own safety, but that as yet every thing here is safe. - I have endeavoured as much as possible not to let it be generally known that my Father is expected.
Ever

My dear Sir
Yours most truly
Lincoln

P.S. All the valuables in the house are in safety from fire.

Ne C 5012 - Letter from J. Thompson to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 13 Oct. 1831

Thursday Morning
Oct. 13th. 1831

My Lord Duke

After the full report which Mr Parkinson dispatched yesterday by Coach, and the previous letters which we trust your Grace may have rec[eive]d from the Ladies, you will be in possession of all the information relative to our proceedings. - That neither Lord Lincoln nor myself have yet written your Grace will attribute partly to our expectation that you would have reached home on Wednesday morning but principally to the absorbing nature of our duties in providing [p. 2] for the safety of the valuables in the house and in getting together the means of defence. A third night now has passed and all is safe. More order from so promiscuous a force / indeed from the most regular force, could not have been observed than that we have witnessed. The House has lost somewhat of its neatness, of course, but not the slightest injury has yet been done to any thing of the least value. - We have now three officers of Yeomanry in the House, Cap. Monckton, Messrs Barrow & Dowland, [p. 3] and through the night the men performed their duties of pickets &c in the regular way. - We have got the Magistrates order for their being called out, though last night, Lee of Rufford, refused his Signature to it. - His Grace the Duke of Portland has been most obliging in offering his assistance as well personal as by all the men he could send from Welbeck. - We hear from Nottingham that the storm there has subsided, but all yesterday the agitation continued at Mansfield. We have a force of about 60 or 70 Yeomanry in the house, besides [p. 4] another of 100, at least, composed of the farmers &c of the neighbouring Villages. - On the least hostile demonstration

we could treble the number in half an house and we consider ourselves able to expel any number that could march from Nottingham.

Admidst the sorrow which cannot be repressed for this unhappy state of things, it has been a proud sight to witness the admirable conduct of Lord Lincoln and his Brothers. It would be a consolation to your Grace under any calamities, and in them I feel that Clumber will ever have a sufficient [p. 5] protection. I do not believe that there are three young men [in] England that could have so acted. - The domestics of the house have well done their duty, and in short every one has displayed a zeal and promptness which could only have been confidently looked for from those more intimately connected with the family. -

I am writing in great haste and amidst many interruptions and would plead this in excuse for any omissions. I have the honor to be My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's

Most obedient ser[van]t
J. Thompson

[p. 6] Parkinson is gone this morning to Mansfield, through whom we shall get all the intelligence necessary to regulate our future proceedings.

Ne C 4998 - Copy letter from Dr. Alexander Manson, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, to J. H. Barker, Mayor of Nottingham; 9 Oct. 1831

Copy

Stoney Street Nottingham 10th + Oct[ober] 1831 at 1 o'Clock P.M.
+ a mistake should have been the 9th

Sir.

I beg leave to acquaint you as Chief Magistrate of this Town that there are considerable Bodies of the lower classes of this Town, from ten to One hundred, going about the Streets and behaving in a riotous and disorderly manner. - They hooted at and abused me in a shameful manner this morning, in going my professional rounds; and in Pelham Street a Brick Bat was thrown at me, which struck my Servant who was along side of me in the Gig, - and did him personal injury. I have also good private information that personal injury is intended me should I appear in Public. I have no doubt that the present Mob clamour and violence against me has been excited by a Paragraph in Suttons Review, the week before last, reflecting upon myself and others for having signed a Petition against what is commonly called "The Reform Bill", and this without giving a Copy of the Petition, which Mr Sutton thought proper to scandalize myself and others for signing. I have thought it necessary to inform you of the cause of the Mob clamour against myself and I understand others. Mr Sutton must look to the consequences. In the meantime I call upon you as Chief Magistrate of Nottingham to preserve the Peace of the Town in time and to give that protection from personal injury - and injury to property that the law accords to all his Majestys subjects.

I have the honor to be
Sir your most obedient Servant
signed - Alex^r Manson

To
J.H. Barber Esq[ui]re
Mayor
of Nottingham

[p. 2] Memorandum - The Letter of which the foregoing is a Copy was delivered by my servant /James Alton/ to the Mayor not later than twenty minutes after one o'Clock, on Sunday the Ninth of October 1831.

The Mayor and Mr Enfield the Town Clerk called at my house about a quarter of an hour after 3 o'Clock on the same day, they appeared to treat my apprehensions as unfounded, and wished to explain what had occurred as the mere ebullition of popular feeling at the moment, on hearing the rejection of the Reform Bill by the House of Peers. I told them that I was of a different opinion, and that as they treated my Letter and what I stated with apparent levity; if the Mayor would not give me the necessary protection I would apply to the County Magistrates.

The Mayor asked me what protection would satisfy me. I told him it was impossible for me to say what would be necessary, as the lower classes appeared to be in a state of great excitement, but that he with the means in his power, ought to be able to ascertain what was going on -

He told me he would send six Constables immediately to my house that he would call himself in the Evening to consult with me as to the further protection that might be necessary, and at parting I said to him, 'I trust to your protection. I never saw any thing of the constables or the Mayor - and at half past seven o'Clock on the same day in the Evening a most tremendous attack was made on my house by the mob; nearly the whole of the windows were broken some of the window Frames broken to pieces the stone work and interior of the house injured and every effort made by the Mob to break in at the door which was [p. 3] fortunately very strong and resisted their efforts to break it; large stones pieces of granite and other missiles were thrown into the House that would have killed any one struck by them.

About half past Eleven o'Clock P.M. after all the injury had been done the ex Mayor Mr Wilson called with a Constable, who he said was sent to protect me!!! and Mr Wilson said that the Mayor was ready to call out the Military or any other force that I thought necessary. The Constable was the most inefficient [sic] and shabby looking fellow I ever saw; I told him he might go into the Street and execute the Mayors orders, but, that he should not remain in my house, that I had made it a Castle and would defend it with the last drop of my blood - I desired Mr Wilson to inform the Mayor that I considered his conduct as extremely reprehensible in not having sent me the protection promised and that I was determined to call him to a public account -

Signed Alex^r Manson

Ne C 5013 - Letter from John Sherbrooke Gell to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 14 Oct. 1831

My Lord Duke

The address transmitted to Mr Sutton, did not arrive in time to be inserted in his paper of today, but will appear in one published tomorrow morning - directions have also been given to print it in form of a Hand Bill, copies whereof shall tomorrow morning be forwarded to the Magistrates &c.

I have not troubled Lord Lincoln with an express, as he only directed me to do so in case I could communicate the motions of the mob; who have since Wednesday slunk to their dens.

A report from Col. Thackwell, if your Grace can obtain one will communicate the clearest [p. 2] outline of what passed here, on Monday and Tuesday. Two inquests have been held on the bodies of boys found in the ruins of the Castle, and I have caused Marriott the Gate Warden to make before Col. Coape & Mr Beecher the deposition necessary for enabling your Grace to proceed against the County for the destruction of the Castle. This I have also done in the

case of Mr Musters, whose lady tho' killed by the Newspapers is with her daughter safe in my house, & as well as usual.

No tidings of outrage during last night have reached my ears, except the burning of an outhouse at Clumber.

Any directions your Grace may transmit [p. 3] shall be attended to according to my ability.

I have the honor to be

Your Grace's

obe[dien]t servant

John Sherbrooke Gell

Friday Evening 14th Oct[obe]r 1831

Ne C 5015 - Letter from Mr. W. Norton, Elton House, Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 14 Oct. 1831

Elton House. Bingham
Oct[obe]r 14 1831

My Lord Duke

I have the honor to inform your Grace that the Hundred of Bingham is in a perfect state of tranquillity, and that every precaution is observed to maintain that situation - which is very necessary as the Chief Constable reports to me that much uneasiness excites in the minds of the principal inhabitants of the various parishes - I found myself in the midst of the disturbances at Nottingham much in the same manner as [p. 2] I found myself placed amongst the mob last year near Newark when I had the honor of meeting your Grace at the Ball, that is to say most unexpectedly - having to preside at a Masonic Lodge (at Nottingham) of which I am Master on last Monday I was requested to address the Town Meeting for the purpose of preserving the public Peace which I was happy in doing and had the satisfaction of seeing it quietly disperse - when sitting at dinner with the Gentlemen of the lodge I was informed that the house of Correction Colwick Hall and the Castle were [p. 3] attacked, I immediately applied for Military assistance and as soon as Colonel Thackwell / who commanded the 15th Hussars / would assemble or rather withdraw a Picket I proceeded to the Castle read the Riot Act and dispersed the multitude - had there been at first a sufficient Military force at hand I believe we could have saved the Castle - my next step was to send instructions to the South Nottinghamshire Regiment of Yeomanry to assemble instantly in various positions round Nottingham which was performed with great alacrity and with the assistance of Colonel Wildman, who was in Nottingham, in selecting [p. 4] the points of assembly and in giving the necessary directions - very early on Tuesday morning I directed the Clerk of the Magistrates Mr Sculthorpe to convene the Magistracy of the Nottingham Division which was done with all practicable speed. - I have been engaged night and day since Monday in restoring Peace I accompanied Col. Thackwell last evening in a Patrole from Nottingham to the Race Course Mapperley Daybrook to the vicinity of Red Hill through Arnold towards Woodborough then to Gedling Carlton over Carlton Hill to Nottingham where we returned between one and two o'clock in the [p. 5] morning having found every part of that district perfectly quiet which perhaps might be partly owing to the heavy rain which fell during our progress - The Authorities and Magistracy in and near Nottingham will of course furnish your Grace with the particulars of the lamentable occurrences which have taken place during the disturbances which I trust are now ended - had the wind been in the north instead of the south my property in Brewhouse Yard would almost to a certainty have been [p. 6] consumed, as it is some of the houses are damaged. I cannot conclude this communication without taking the liberty of representing to your Grace as far as it is in my power to do so the merits of Colonel Thackwell

whose zeal perseverance and ability with a very limited force appear to me entitled to the utmost praise - I have the honor

To be

My Lord Duke

Your Grace's

Most obedient & humble servant

W.N. Norton

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle

&c &c &c

Ne C 5016 - Letter from Sam Parsons, Nottingham Park, Nottingham, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 14 Oct. 1831

Nottingham Park 14th Oct[obe]r 1831

My Lord Duke /

I regret the occasion which now induces me to address your Grace, but the scenes of violence committed against your Graces property, and other outrages threatened, are of so violent a nature, and so completely revolutionizing, that I feel it a duty, connected as I am, although in a small degree, with your Grace's Interest, not to let the circumstances which have recently occurred in this place, pass unnoticed to your Grace. I have no doubt you will have various accounts of the occurrences, but as I was one of the prosecuted, both in person and property, I have sought information and taken all precautions and means of defence in my power for resistance, and without arrogating any merit to myself, I have every reason to believe, that my precautions for defence and resistance has saved not only the property I hold under Lease from your Grace, but also a great part of the other property of your Grace's under Lease in the Park, and my greatest object in writing your Grace, is, to complain of the inefficiency of a County Magistracy, in and near the Town of Nottingham.

On Saturday the 8th inst[ant], intelligence arrived Nott[ingha]m of the rejection of the Reform Bill. On Sunday after the arrival of the Mail, indication of rioting appeared in the Town, and requisitions were sent to the Mayor to call a Public Meeting in the Market place on the subject of the Bill, having been rejected by the Peers. Hand bills were accordingly liberally distributed, and posted in the Town and vicinity, at the bottom of which was conspicuously printed that memorable animating and exciting Motto, 'England expects every man to do his Duty' and on that afternoon, and evening, the Windows of several persons in [p. 2] the Town inimicable to the Bill were broken by a Mob.

On the Monday Morning about 10 o'Clock, I was informed that my house was to be attacked by the Mob and pulled down; on that evening at eleven o'Clock, a large Concourse of Town and Country people were assembled in the Market Place - At one o'Clock a Gentleman came to me, & said he had been in the crowd, and heard some people amongst them say, they should have my house down. That night a Mob from one to two hundred came to view my house and premises, and about 1/2 past 2 o'Clock, one of my own Sons heard one of the Mob say, damn Old Parsons, we will have his Liver out; I then thought it time for me to obtain some protection, and immediately went to the Barracks to know if I could have assistance from them, and saw Colonel Thackwell, who said he should be ready to render every protection in his power, but must have the Authority of a Magistrate before he could act efficiently; I then went into the Town to endeavour to find a County Magistrate, and make my Case known to him, and Demand Protection. Colonel Wildman & Mr Norton two County Justices I was informed had been with the Assemblage in the Market place in the Morning, and after making enquiry for Mr Norton at his house, I was informed he was at the Free Masons Lodge; I went there, and on enquiring for him, and if any other

County Magistrate was there, I was informed he and Col. Wildman were both there, but I could not see either of them of half an hour - in half an hour (then 1/4 before 4 o'Clock) I went again, and was again informed I could not see them. I stated to the person in waiting my fears and apprehensions, and requested him to inform Colonel Wildman & Mr Norton that I demanded an audience with them, and their protection; and in about 10 minutes I obtained an audience, but they treated my application with the coldest indifference, and said they could do nothing [p. 3] only swear in any persons special Constables, that I though well to bring. I asked if I could have any Military Assistance, that I had been at the Barracks, and the Colonel had promised me protection if any Magistrate would give him Authority to Act in the County, but then answer was, they could do nothing but swear in Special Constables; I then went & collected some pensioners, took them to be sworn Special Constables, and furnished them myself with Arms, and returned to the protection of my property, determined to defend it with my life. Whilst I was with Col. Wildman & Mr Norton, Col. Thackwell cam in, he said there were complaints made of violence committing in the County, that he was ready to go and suppress them, if any Magistrate would go and give him authority to act, but Col. Wilman & Mr Norton both said, they would not go, & recommended Col. Thackwell to go himself, with some of his Men, That, Col. Thackwell said he would not do; if he did, they would only get insulted & pelted, and he would not suffer his Men to be insulted, without proper authority to defend themselves. About 7 o'clock, the Castle was on fire. - My house had been watched by a part of the Mob for an hour before, and it was to have been the next Object of Attack, at 1/4 past 7 the Mob assembled at the Park Gate, for the purpose of attack, but the Leaders being informed by some of their party, that my house was defended with fire Arms, their object was averted that evening, and thus a great part of the property in the Park saved. It was afterwards planned by the Mob, that my house should be the first place of attack on the Tuesday evening, On receiving this intelligence I sent my young Children Plate and Securities from home, and increased my force for defence; by the active interference of the Military in the afternoon of Tuesday, and the preparation it was known I had made for the reception of the Mob, my property and Family, I thank God, have hitherto escaped the fury of a Revolutionizing Mob, and I trust will never feel the effects of such devastation measures. I beg your Grace's pardon for troubling you with this long letter, but I think it necessary to your Grace to be acquainted with the circumstances and plead that as my excuse.

I am My Lord Duke

Your Graces Obed[ien]t Servant

Sam[ue]l Parsons

To His Grace
The Duke of Newcastle

Ne C 5021 - Letter from Mr. Musters, Colwick, Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 16 Oct. 1831

Colwick Oct[obe]r 16th 1831

My Lord Duke

I think it a duty I owe by my Family, & Public, to inform you as Lord Lieutenant of this County of the apathy displayed by the Authorities, as regards my property at [p. 2] Colwick during the outrages that have been committed.

My Butler Watson being at Snenton a place between this House & Nottingham on the [illegible] upon ~~his~~ seeing the Mob & hearing they were coming down to destroy my Houses proceeded instantly to the [p. 3] Police Office at Nottingham for assistance, where he saw Col[one]l Thackwell of the 15th who he applied to

for 6 or 10 men & requested they might go down with him as quick as they could. Col[one]l Thackwell said, he should be very happy & would go immediately, if he was allowed, but my good [p. 4] Fellow, hear what the Mayor is now saying, which was, that he would not let one of the men or Military leave the Town. He then went to Col[one]l Wildman & Mr Norton two County Magistrates, who would render him no assistance and to Mr Rolleston but their Troops were where? from Monday when these [p. 5] outrages were committed untill Friday evening last, with the exception of Mr Gell & his Brother who got sworn in Especial Constables & came down on Monday evening to take Mrs Musters my Daughter & Mad[emoi]selle Du Fey away as I and my eldest son were in the North - neither Constable, Yeoman or Private of any Regiment has been near Colwick, I hope the contents of this letter will plead my excuses for troubling your Grace. I remain your Graces

Ob[edient] Humble Ser[vant]
John Musters

[written crossways]

I am happy to add, we took the first man who broke open my House & home, he's safe in the County Gaol, & I got a Clue yesterday to the Person who first set fire to your Graces Property at the Castle & hope he will be shortly be accused.

Ne C 5026 - Letter from a 'Freeholder of the County', Nottinghamshire, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 19 Oct. 1831

My Lord Duke,

On Sunday, the Mayor permitted a troop of the 15th Dragoons to go to Derby, though great inflammation was shewn, and in the evening many houses were attacked. He then called by handbill, a public meeting; and on Monday morning, Ten Thousand People were assembled by it, in a state of great inflammation, they were exhorted by the handbill, and the speakers, that 'England expects every man to do his duty' which in the meaning of the great Admiral who first used it, was 'Burn, Sink, and Destroy, all who oppose you'.

At this meeting, two County Magistrates attended, Mr Norton, and Col[one]l Wildman, and were most active at it. After the meeting they joined others in the farce, of some occult mysteries, to which the addition of a Holocaust was an admirable finale, and this at a moment, when they knew the Mob were setting off to burn Colwick Hall, and having treated every application for assistance, with marked indifference. The Castle and Colwick Hall were accordingly suffered to be burnt, though 20 soldiers at either place would have saved them; and when the Mob were [p. 2] going to the Castle, there were 40 soldiers in readiness, and within 300 yards of the Castle Gate. On Tuesday morning it was publickly ammounced that Lowe's Mill at Beeston was to be burnt; for the Mob spoke of it, with as much indifference, as if they had been going to a Race, and information was taken by one of Lord Middleton's scouts, and others, to the Magistrates and troops of Yeomanry in Wollaton Park, that the Mob were leaving Nottingham, to burn the Mill at Beeston, 4 miles off, taking the turnpike road, and passing the two Gates of Wollaton Park. The appearance of 20 Soldiers in either place, would have frustrated the intention, or the like number at the Mill, would have saved it, and more than ample time was given, for the Soldiers to have been there, half an hour before it was attacked; but no troops were permitted to leave Wollaton Park: and though depredations were made on the return of the Mob, on the neighbouring houses in sight of the troops, no attempt was made to protect them; and no Soldier appearing on the road, the Mob in their Wantonness, broke the Park Gate, upon which the Troops promptly appeared, and dispersed them in

a moment, taking many Prisoners; which shows how easily, and completely, all the places burnt might have been saved.

As a freeholder of the County I call upon your Grace [p. 3] to enquire into the conduct of the Magistrates in these affairs, and also into that of Col. Wildman, on his neglect, or refusal, to call out the troops of Yeomanry under his command.

Nottingham October 19th 1831

Ne C 5030 - Letter from an anonymous 'Friend', Nottingham, to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; 25 Oct. 1831

My Lord Duke

It is the Opinion of several here that had the people who keeps your Lodge apprised the Justices or Military your Castle would have been saved. They must have heard and seen the tumultuous manner the mob conducted themselves on Sunday evening and next day, 8 or 10 of the Regulars from the Barracks would have prevented it. If Your Grace thinks the above worth notice. They are not worthy to be trusted any more.

A Friend

Please excuse my name as the Letter might miscarry and I be liable to receive some private injury.

Nottingham. Oct[obe]r 25. 1831

Ne C 5052 - Schedule of prisoners committed to trial, sent to Henry, 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne; n.d. (c.1831)

Schedule of Prisoners Committed to take their Trials charged with being concerned in the riots &c near Nottingham on the 10th and 11th October 1831 and the subsequent Acts of Incendiarism

No. 1	George Hearson	Committed on the Capital Charge of Firing a Mill at Beeston and also committed Capittally for breaking into Colwick Hall and setting it on Fire. Both strong cases	
2	Adam Wagstaff	Strong Case	Firing the Mill at Beeston
3	George Beck	Ditto	Ditto
4	William Hitchcock	Ditto	Ditto
5	Thomas Smith	Breaking into and setting Fire to Colwick Hall	Strong Case
6	Samuel Spencer	Ditto	Ditto
7	Henry King	Ditto	Ditto
8	Valentine Marshall	Ditto	Ditto
9	Thomas Whitaker	Ditto	Ditto
10	Samuel Binks	Ditto	Ditto
11	Charles Berkins	Ditto	Ditto
12	Joseph Shaw	Ditto. And also for firing Nottm Castle	Ditto
13	William Freeman	Stealing Jewellry from Colwick Hall	Ditto
14	Elizabeth Hunt	Receiving ditto knowing it to be stolen	Ditto

15	Thomas Carlin the Elder	Setting Fire to Nottingham Castle	
16	Thos Carlin the Younger	Ditto	
17	Robert Cutts	Ditto	Ditto
18	Joseph Woodward	Firing a Hovel &c at Normanton	Ditto
19	Thomas Ters	Firing a Stock &c at Plumtree	Ditto
20	Aaron Booth	Riot near Wollaton Park. detained for want of sureties	
21	William Green	Ditto	Ditto
22	John Forman	Ditto. Discharged on Recognizance to appear when called on and afterwards again apprehended on the charge below	
23	Richard Bramston	Ditto. Ditto as to being discharged on Recognizance	

In Custody for further Examination -

John Forman	Firing the Mill at Beeston
Henry Linley	Ditto
John Armstrong	Ditto and at Colwick