

BOSTON, *Wednesday*, Nov. 15.

(14) On Sunday, previous to the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court, at Taunton, Gen. Cobb received information that the mob intended an opposition. In consequence of this, the night following, he directed fifteen or twenty men to take possession of the Court-House, and secure the field piece. Also called upon the same Militia, who had so effectually supported the Court of Common Pleas, to make their appearance once more on the present occasion. They arrived in season; and consisted of two or three companies from Bridgewater, under the Command of Col. Orr; two companies from Raynham—a town celebrated for its unanimous attachment to Government, lead on by their Captains Hall and Washburn; a spirited Volunteer company from Rehoboth, headed by Lieutenants Peake and Curnenter;—and a Volunteer

company from Taunton, under Capt. Williams. The mob assembled on Tuesday, but under such apprehension, they did not chool to approach nearer than a mile and a half of the scene of action. Pearle, one of their leaders, returned in the evening, advising the rest, before he withdrew, to disperse; telling them he had been deceived relative to the disposition of the County; if they persisted it would certainly terminate in disgrace. However, a David Valentine, who pretended to the principal command, had influence enough to prevent this; and sent into every town of the County and other towns adjacent for a reinforcement. On Wednesday about two o'clock in the afternoon; they ventured to shew themselves on the Green in front of the Militia under the command of Valentine. Their numbers were 144 armed, and about 36 unarmed. The Militia at this time were reinforced by a large company from the south of Taunton, under Capt. Townsend, and two companies from Dighton under the Captains Walker and Talbot. The mob appeared to have an inclination to march into the rear of the militia, but the bayonets which were ready to receive them, and charging the field piece in their sight soon brought them to their senses; and they retreated to a proper distance. They had foolishly imagined that some of the militia would join them; but instead of that some of their own party withdrew and went over to the militia.— Valentine then asked permission to wait on the Court, which was granted: He there presented a petition signed only by himself in behalf of the County of Bristol, that all civil actions might be continued to the next Term. He no sooner presented this than he was seized with a panick and discovered an inclination to withdraw without an answer. But his Honour the Chief Justice called after him *stop man* with an authority, that occasioned his instant return. He was then reprimanded for his folly and presumption, in such a manner; that he has since confessed *he shrunk into nothing, and seemed to himself dropping through the floor of the Court House, which would have been a relief to him had it taken place.* He after this joined his party, and sometime in the evening they all dispersed and were heard of no more. The militia were not dismissed until Friday in the afternoon when the business of the Court was over. They justly derived to themselves great honour and applause for their order, regularity and firmness. They one and all acted from principle—from a thorough conviction that they were securing the good and happiness of their Country;—and held the mob in such detestation, that they solemnly declared, if the national vengeance slumbered on, and did not reach them in a Constitutional way, they themselves would execute it in that complete; and exemplary manner that very few hereafter in the County of Bristol would be disposed to disturb the Common Peace, and thus daringly insult the majesty of the people.

(15) The town of Paxton, in Worcester county; has passed the following instruction, which was communicated to the gentleman who is the subject of them, viz. "To Hezekiah Ward, Esq; Sir, whereas this town has received information that you, by some means or other, obtained a seat in the House of Representatives at the last Session of the General Court, which is contrary to the known voice of a large majority of the qualified voters in town-meeting, assembled the 15th day of May last; at which meeting you was present: We therefore advise, instruct, and strictly enjoin it upon you, by no means to attend upon, or take a seat in the said House, as Representative for the town of Paxton; as the town has no services in that house for you to perform, and would by no means be at any cost for the attendance of any Representative the present year, as it was the voice of a large majority to send none."

(16) The towns of Great-Barrington, Stockbridge, and several others, we are told; have signified their disapprobation of County Conventions, by voting not to appoint any delegates to represent them therein.

(17) The following is a copy of a letter, sent by Daniel Shays, leader of the mob in the county of Hampshire, to the Selectmen of East-Springfield—extracted from a Connecticut paper of the 6th inst. "Pelham, Oct. 16th, 1786.

"Gentlemen,  
"Information having been received that the General Court, are about adopting measures to bring the leaders of the late risings of the people to *coadign* punishment, you are requested to assemble immediately all the inhabitants of your town, and

provide that the town is furnished with a militia, on, the militia with arms, and organized with officers agreeable to law. "I am your's,  
(Copy) Signed, DANIEL SHAYS.