

ARMING OF THE CHARTISTS IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

[From the *Times*.]

For some time past the Chartists at Aberdeen and neighbourhood have been busily engaged reorganizing their forces. The first public meeting that excited any interest in the mind of the populace was convened to elect a delegate to the National Convention. This was a great gathering. After long discussion, and a division, a delegate was chosen, who declared that if Government should prevent the Convention from carrying the Charter to the House of Commons, he would be the first to resist the tyranny, and if moral force failed, to cry, "Up with the barricades." While this delegate was in London the idea occurred to his constituents that they ought to set about instituting "a National Guard." A meeting was held, and it was resolved to open a fund for the purchase of arms and organize a series of meetings for the enrolment of members. The first of these meetings came off the other day, when the Lords of Session were here on circuit. A great demonstration was made. The Chartists walked in procession from their hall in front of the Court-house, and onwards to the open square in the Castle-street, through which the military would have to pass, about 9 o'clock, to escort Lords Moncrieff and Cockburn from the Court to their hotel. A great multitude assembled in the Castle-street, and speeches of a highly declamatory character were delivered. The military passed along at half-past 9 o'clock. The evening was fine; the moonlight was clear; and as the troops passed by the hustings they were loudly cheered. The cheers were repeated on their return, and soon after the meeting quietly dispersed.

On Monday night there was another great demonstration. On this occasion the city was placarded with bills, announcing that Mr. E. Jones and Mr. Adams would be present from the London Convention, and that Doctor Hunter, of Edinburgh, would also address the meeting. At 6 o'clock the "National Guard" met in the Hall, and having been joined by the other Chartists and the Deputation, marched in procession to the Castle-street, attended by a band of music. A car followed, decorated with the tri-coloured flag. Other banners with the old mottoes were carried in the procession. At 7 o'clock the Chairman opened the proceedings in the midst of a very large concourse of people. He stated that the object of the meeting was "to take into consideration the present alarming state of the country, the recent proceedings of the Government, and the measures necessary for the redemption of the country;" and that Mr. Jones, Mr. Adams, and Dr. Hunter, would address the multitude.

The speech of the evening was that of Mr. Jones. He gave a lengthened account of the proceedings of the Convention, defended the Chartist petition from the aspersions cast on it by the committee of the House of Commons, admitted that there had been errors committed in obtaining signatures, but argued that all that had been said and done to bring it into disrepute could not shake the fact, that it afforded an expression of popular feeling which was entitled to a far higher consideration at the hands of the representatives of the nation, so called, than it had received. He stated that the Convention had been dissolved—that the delegates were now arousing the country—that a memorial to the Queen in furtherance of the Charter would be signed by the working-classes—that if this resource failed them, monster meetings would be held, and if the Parliament and the Crown should refuse to listen to the demands of these meetings, their last and only resort would be to arms.

About 9 o'clock the meeting adjourned to Union-hall, where nearly a thousand persons congregated. The business was of a practical character. The Committee of the "National Guard" reported that upwards of 500 members were now enrolled, that they had been in correspondence with some of the Birmingham gun manufacturers, and that one of them had offered to supply guns and bayonets, if taken in large quantities, at 12s. 6d. each. The letter containing this offer was read and loudly applauded. The Committee left it to the meeting to say how this offer was to be dealt with. Mr. Jones expressed his gratification that the Chartists of Aberdeen had taken the lead in this matter; the business-like way in which they had organized the "National Guard" did them the highest honour. If every town of equal size in the kingdom would follow the example thus set by Aberdeen, the people would soon be able to compel the Government to concede their demands. Other speakers followed, and it was ultimately resolved to order a gun and bayonet (cost 12s. 6d.) for each member forthwith. Soon after the meeting broke up.