

Riots in Edinburgh

Transcript of a page of a letter from the Earl of Mar to Sir David Nairn, dated 26 October 1706 (NRS reference GD124/15/449/44)

Transcript:

...& the Jacobites exclaiming ev[er]y where against it, frights the Commonalty so, that their inclinations are very much altered of late & speak openly ag[ain]st the Union. When we were coming to the vote it was whispered to us that there was a rable at the doors & were pressing to be in & had knock'd down some of the Guards, this was told my L[or]d Marishall too, who tho[ugh] he opposes yet acted very handsomly in this, for he proposed to adjourn the Debate it being then late, I seconded him & it was done accordingly & the Com[missione]r adjourned the parl[iament] till yesterday. Had the Mob got in, it was too probable that the consequence that the consequence wou'd have been tragicall.

When we came out of the house, we found the Parl[iament] Closs full of mob, the Com[missione]r & severals w[i]t[h] him went to the Abbay & the D[uke] of Hamilton went to the D[uke] of Athole's w[hi]ch is in the Land Market. The wholle mob & rable followed him, he was in his Chair w[i]t[h] the Glasses down & was huzza'd all the way. He stay'd not long at the D[uke] of Athole's but went down the Streets to his Lodgings in the Abbay accompanied in the same manner. My L[or]d Montrose chanced to be coming up the Street in his Coach, the mob commanded the Coach to stop, but the Coachman drove

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The Union of 1707

on, some of the mob call'd to Montrose if he was against the
union God bless him, but if for it God damn him;
however he went on. When the D[uke] of Hamilton & the mob
came to the Abbay Gate the Guards stopt them from coming
in to the Court, so they went back to the Town in ane up-
roar & went streight to Sir Pat[rick] Johnston's house who
you know had been Provost last year & one of our Treaters.
They assaulted his house, broke his Windows & did what
they could to beat open his door giving him names & calling
out that they would massacre him for being a betrayer &
seller of his Country.

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