



The Ranters

About 12 or 14 of the sect denominated “Ranters” held a meeting in a field at Coate, between 2 and 3 miles from Devizes, on Sunday last, and attracted to the place upwards of 1000 persons. The meeting commenced soon after nine o’clock in the forenoon and continued until four in the afternoon, the Ranters “holding forth” by turns, and betraying the grossest ignorance. One old man, in particular, who was called upon by his brethren, to tell the people what great things the Almighty had done for him, uttered such a jargon of nonsense as was never before listened to. Whilst declaring that “the Lord had come down from his study above, to visit him in his closet,” a person in the crowd publicly charged him with being an old rogue and with having stolen some leather from Mr Paulin of Devizes. Such scenes are calculated to do much mischief, and it is high time that power should be given to parish officers, if they do not already possess it, to put a stop to them. At the conclusion of the ceremony, there was a pitched battle amongst the rabble assembled, whilst the ranters (we are informed) went off singing, “We are all jovial fellows going above the skies.”

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