

UNION-HALL.—Yesterday *George Wombwell*, the proprietor of the celebrated lions Nero and Wallace, was brought up before the sitting Magistrate, R. J. CHAMBERS, Esq., charged with having committed an assault on Mr. Ott, a respectable tradesman in the borough of Southwark.

The complainant stated, that on Wednesday last, he went to Peckham-fair, and having seen a placard stating that the celebrated lions Nero and Wallace were exhibited there, he was anxious to behold two animals that excited so much of the public attention down at Warwick, and for that purpose approached the defendant's menagerie, and ascended the steps leading to the "pay-office," where a female (*Mrs. Wombwell*) sat as money-taker, to whom he paid six-pence, the price of admission. On descending the ladder which led to the cage in which Nero was confined, the complainant, after having a good gaze at him, proceeded on in a direction to the left, where he imagined Wallace and the rest of the quadrupeds were enclosed. However, in this he was disappointed, for instead of seeing Wallace, he saw his master, the defendant, who was standing at a little wicket gate, which witness believed was one of the entrances from the fair into the menagerie. The moment he was observed by *Wombwell*, the latter cried out, "Halloa, you Sir, what brings you here? I'll tumble you out neck and crop if you don't make yourself scarce; you have come in here without paying, and be off directly." He assured him that he had paid at the other entrance, and even described to him the splendid dress of the female to whom he handed the money, telling him that this same lady wore a leghorn bonnet with a plume of ostrich feathers in it. *Wombwell* still doubted the truth of his assertion, and persisted in his retiring altogether. Mr. Ott, unwilling to leave, having paid his money, before he saw all the curiosities, asserted his right of remaining, and declared that he would not leave the place until he saw Wallace; upon which *Wombwell* observed, that Wallace should eat him, before he was permitted to have a sight without paying for it. During the altercation between Mr. Ott and the defendant, one of the men employed by the latter hearing the row, took part in it for *Wombwell*, conscious of his having a set of fellows in this service who would act as bull-dogs on an emergency. The moment this man came up, he swore that he would beat Mr. Ott to a mummy if he did not obey the mandate of his master. Mr. Ott, however, treated the intimidations in a similar manner to those preceding them, in order to try to what lengths they would go with him; when *Wombwell* instantly let loose at him, seized him by the collar, and held him tightly while his man struck him right and left in the face, which he cut very severely, particularly the inside of the mouth, which was lacerated against his teeth. While the defendant and his man was shamefully treating him, the former exclaimed, "I was done out of 50l. at the Bartholomew-fair by fellows who rushed in without paying, but I will take care that I am not served in the same way again." They then kicked witness out through the wicket gate into the fair. Mr. Ott added, that after he had received this treatment, he went round to the place where he had paid, accompanied by a friend whom he had met subsequent to the assault, and before this person *Mrs. Wombwell* admitted that she had received witness's entrance money a short time before, and admitted him inside on the second occasion without payment, upon being apprised of the manner in which her husband had treated him. That witness went up to *Wombwell*, and having stated that he now demanded an explanation and apology for the gross manner in which he had been treated, the latter said that he was not disposed to make any apology, and desired him to do his best or his worst, for they was never afraid of the "beaks." Mr. Ott immediately withdrew, and procured a warrant, which was not served on the defendant until Saturday, he being absent at Strood fair.

*Wombwell* in his defence declared that he did not strike Mr. Ott; he certainly thought he had intruded himself into the menagerie without paying, and that was the reason he was put out without ceremony. His man, he acknowledged, had struck Mr. Ott.

The Magistrate, upon holding the defendant to bail, observed, that it had been sworn he held the complainant while his man beat him. "Is this the manner," said Mr. CHAMBERS, "that you treat human beings, to hold them down like your unfortunate wild beasts, and prevent the possibility of their defending themselves, while you and your men brutally ill treat them?"

Newcome, the constable, who was so seriously injured on Wednesday night at Vauxhall-gardens by a man named Reardon, who was employed by the proprietors as a watchman, has, since the outrage, been attended by three medical men, who at present despair of his life, in consequence of the wound inflicted on his head by the blow.