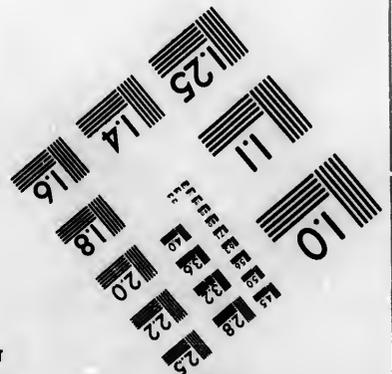
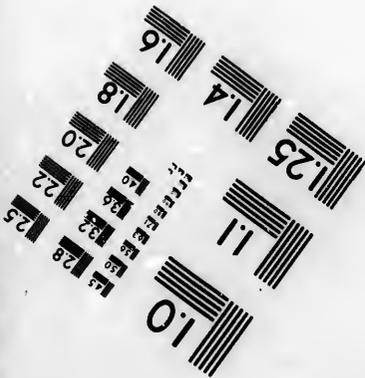
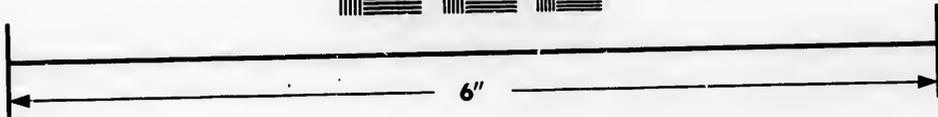
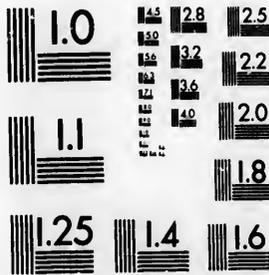


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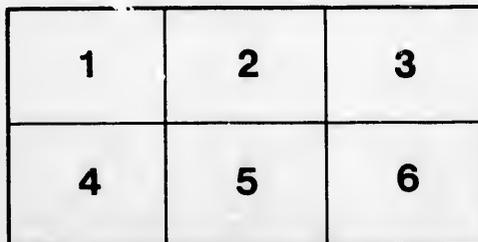
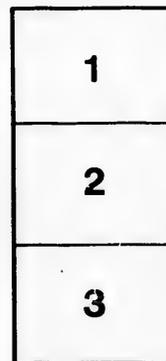
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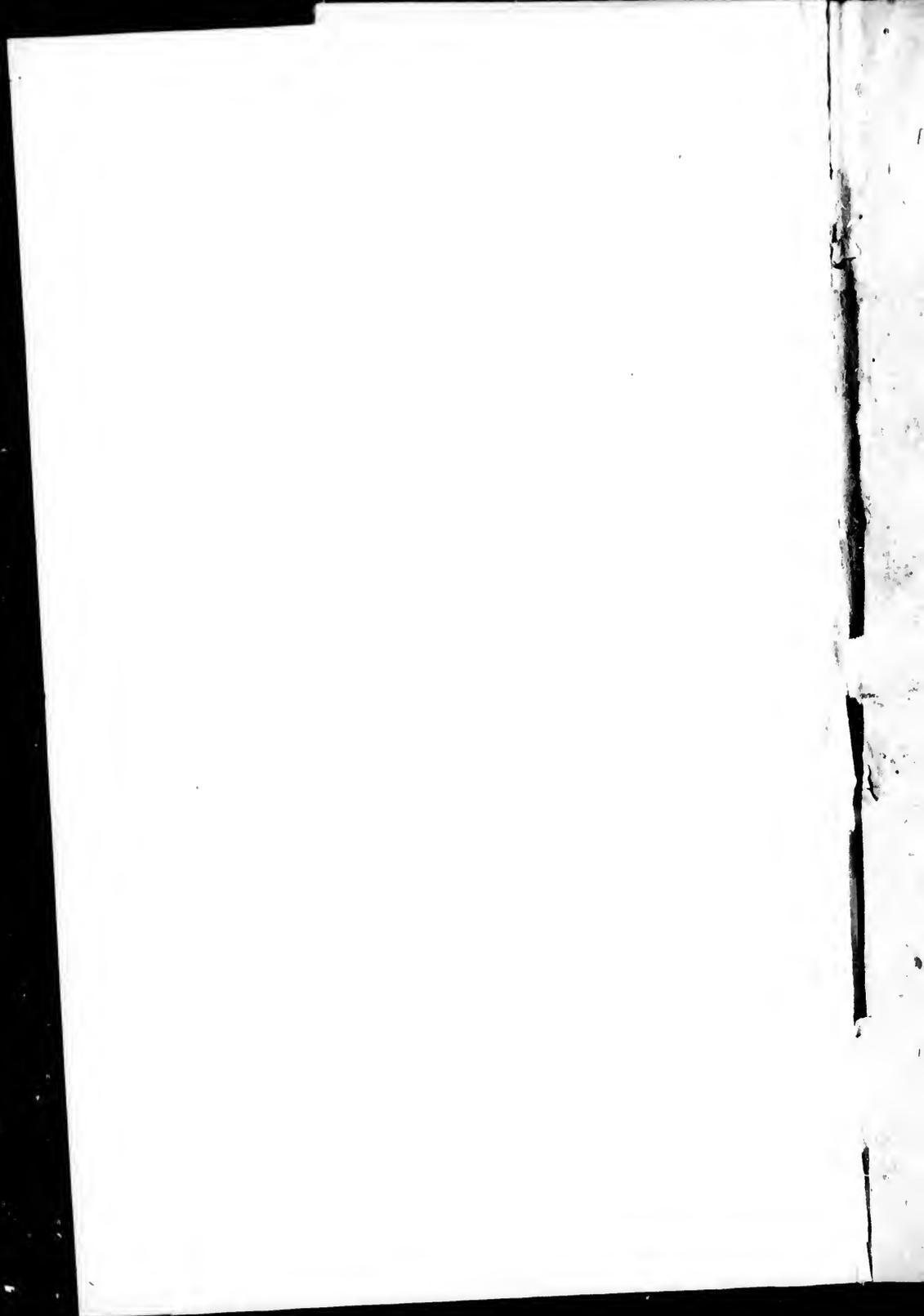
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A FAIR

A C C O U N T

OF THE LATE

Unhappy Disturbance at BOSTON.



THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN SENATE

January 10, 1880

REPORT

OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE

A FAIR
A C C O U N T

OF THE LATE

Unhappy Disturbance

At BOSTON in NEW ENGLAND;

EXTRACTED

From the DEPOSITIONS that have been made
concerning it by PERSONS of all PARTIES.

WITH AN

A P P E N D I X,

CONTAINING

Some AFFIDAVITS and other EVIDENCES relating to this
AFFAIR, not mentioned in the NARRATIVE
of it that has been published at BOSTON.

L O N D O N,

Printed for B. WHITE, in Fleet-street.

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A F A I R
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O F T H E L A T E

Unhappy Disturbance in BOSTON.

WH O E V E R has conversed much with those who have been lately at Boston must know that the arrival of the King's troops at that town in 1768 was exceedingly disgustful to all that part of the people who call themselves *the sons of liberty*, and deny the authority of the British parliament to pass the late acts for imposing duties upon certain articles of trade imported into America, and who certainly form a great majority of the people in that town, though perhaps not of the persons of the best fortunes and most respectable characters in the place. Whether they are right in this opinion, I shall not here inquire. But it ought to be clear beyond the possibility of a doubt on the side of the Americans, in order to justify the violent measures that have been taken at Boston to carry it into practice, which have amounted to
little

little less than a forcible opposition to the execution of those acts of parliament, or, in the language of the statute of treason, a levying war against the King. And in the conduct of this opposition (even if we suppose for a moment that the opposition itself could be justified upon the principles of the law of nature, which in some cases of extreme necessity allows of a resistance against illegal exercises of power), they have not behaved with that openness and candour that would have been suitable to the dignity of their pretensions, but have persecuted both those of their own countrymen who presumed to differ from them in opinion, and the King's troops who were sent thither to preserve the public peace, with the utmost malice and injustice. It has been deemed a crime to affirm that the authority of the British parliament was supreme in all respects throughout all the dominions of the crown of Great Britain, and that a forcible resistance to the acts established by it was unlawful; and those bold and honest men who have ventured to affirm this have been stigmatized by the name of *tories*, as persons insensible of public liberty and devoted to the old exploded doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance. And it has been made a crime of a still blacker die to continue a commercial intercourse with the mother-country, or to refuse to enter into their non-importation agreements, or illegal combinations to distress her trade. And those who have presumed to do so, in the pursuit of their usual
and

and lawful callings, and in compliance with what they took to be their duty to the public as obedient subjects of the crown, have been marked out by advertisements in their public news-papers as traitors and enemies to their country and fit victims to the fury of a licentious and deluded populace. And as to the King's troops, who were sent thither in October 1768, they have been treated by these *sons of liberty* and *well-disposed* persons (as they stile themselves) with a degree of cruelty that could not have been justified, and probably would not have been practised by them, towards prisoners of war of the nation with which we are oftenest at enmity. For they not only, upon the first arrival of these troops at Boston, did every thing in their power to prevent their having quarters assigned them, and to oblige them to continue in camp, though the rigour of the winter-season was beginning to be felt; but they have ever since been traducing them with the most scurrilous and abusive language, and harrassing them with vexatious actions at law for trifling trespasses occasioned by provocations designedly given by themselves in order to draw them into difficulties; and with malicious accusations, oftentimes intirely false and always overcharged; and with every other low and spiteful device that rage and disappointment at the check they received in their designs by the arrival of those regiments at Boston, could suggest. I must add also the perversion of justice in the most flagrant manner in their courts of judicature, so far

far as the juries were concerned in the administration of it, by finding verdicts upon almost any evidence against a soldier, while, if the soldier was the complaining party, no proof was deemed to be sufficient to produce one *for* him. These are facts of such notoriety, that it is presumed the sons of liberty themselves will hardly think fit to deny them; but will rather endeavour to excuse and vindicate their conduct upon the principles of a jesuitical morality and the lawfulness of using any means to obtain so glorious an end as the recovery of public liberty. But if they should deny them, I must refer the reader to the testimony of all the Englishmen, of every rank and profession of life, that have been at Boston within the last two years, for the proof of them. This ill disposition of the inhabitants of Boston towards the King's troops had gone on increasing from the time of their arrival there till the late Unhappy Disturbance by which some of them have lost their lives, and had proceeded to such a length that, as two gentlemen of the 29th regiment, Lieutenant Dickson and Ensign St. Clair, declare in their deposition (which is printed in the Appendix, No. 110.) it was become unsafe for an officer or soldier to walk the streets, and that they had been desired to take care of themselves by an inhabitant of the town, who had heard several of the people say that they would kill all the officers in town, and that after that they should be able to manage the soldiers by giving them land and settling them in the
back

back parts of the province. Such was the temper of the people with respect to the King's troops for some time before the late accident; and it seems to have occasioned a pretty strong degree of resentment in the latter, and perhaps made them not unwilling to embrace any opportunity that chance might offer, consistently with their duty and the law, to take some revenge on those who had so long ill-treated them. That it should have such an effect, is probable in itself from the natural passions of mankind; and that it did produce this natural resentment, may be collected from some of the depositions in the Boston Narrative, particularly those of Mary Thayer and Bartholomew Broaders, Nos. 11 and 38 of the Appendix, supposing those testimonies, which carry in them strong marks of a party bias, deserve in this particular to be believed: but I do not think it can be inferred from their conduct on the 5th of March, or, as the Boston Narrative calls it, the horrid Massacre. The natural desire of defending themselves, and the sense of the duty incumbent upon them in that unhappy moment to repel force by force in order to defend a centinel's post which they were called upon to guard, and which was then attacked by at least an hundred people, armed with bludgeons, sticks, and cutlasses, will be sufficient to account for their firing on the assailants on that occasion without any mixture of revenge. The circumstances of this unfortunate affair, and of the previous quarrel with the rope-makers, which

gave rise to it, so far as they can be collected from the Boston Narrative (to which I refer the reader for them) and those printed at the end of this tract, seem to have been as follows:

On Friday the 2d of March last, between ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as three soldiers of the 29th regiment of foot were passing by Mr. John Gray's rope-walk in a peaceable and inoffensive manner, one Green a rope-maker, who was at work there, asked one of the soldiers whether he wanted work; to which the soldier answered that he did; "Then," said Green, "you shall go and clean my necessary-house." (See Samuel Bostwick's evidence, N^o. 23.) This insult provoked the soldier to use a good deal of ill language in return, and to swear that he would have satisfaction for it. Upon this one of the rope-makers, named Nicholas Ferriter, came up to him and tripped up his heels, and, after he was fallen, another of them, named John Wilson, took his sword from him, (which, Ferriter says, appeared naked under his coat,) and carried it into the rope-walks. The soldier then went to Green's barrack, and in about twenty minutes returned with about eight or nine more soldiers, armed with clubs, who began with three or four men in Mr. Gray's warehouse by asking them why they had insulted the soldier aforesaid? These men immediately called out for assistance, upon which they were joined by a number of rope-makers, with whose help they beat off the soldiers. The soldiers upon this returned

turned to their barrack, and in a few minutes appeared again in the rope-walk with a stronger party, making now about thirty or forty, armed with clubs and cutlasses, and headed by a tall negro drummer. This party fell upon the rope-makers near the tar-kettle; but, nine or ten more of the rope-makers coming up to the assistance of their companions, the soldiers were again beat off with considerable bruises, and followed by the rope-makers as far as Green's-lane, when a corporal came and ordered the soldiers into their barracks; and Mr. John Hill, an elderly gentleman of the town, who seems to have been a magistrate, persuaded the rope-makers to go back, and they readily obeyed him.

Hitherto we see no footsteps of a massacre, or intended massacre, of the inhabitants. Some soldiers, having been affronted by the rope-makers, go out to take revenge on them without their military weapons, armed only with clubs, in order to give them a beating. The occasion of the quarrel was sudden, and the duration of it short. No officers, not even the serjeants and corporals, appear to have been concerned in it; and a single corporal had influence enough to put an end to it.

On the next day, Saturday the 3d of March, there happened another fray in Mr. Mac Neil's rope-walk between three grenadiers and six or seven rope-makers, in which the rope-makers had again the advantage.

These contentions heightened the animosities of both parties. The soldiers wished for another engagement to revenge themselves on the rope-makers; and the towns-people seem to have resolved to make use of their vast superiority of numbers, which had given them the advantage in the former encounters, either to destroy the soldiers intirely, or to drive both them and the commissi.oners of the customs out of the town. With this view they seem to have intended to draw the soldiers out of their barracks to a general engagement of the same kind as the former, that is, with sticks and clubs, and to assemble a large mob for that purpose, of which the rope-makers should be the leaders, that it might seem to be only a renewal of the quarrel that had lately happened, and not a general design of the inhabitants to rise upon them. This at least appears to me to have been the plan formed by the towns-people on this occasion, upon a careful perusal of all the evidences relating to this unhappy business, which are submitted to the reader's consideration.

These animosities were considerably heightened by the sudden absence of a serjeant of the 14th regiment on the evening of Saturday the 3d of March, which continued likewise on the following day, Sunday the 4th of March, and gave rise, in that time of jealousy, to a suspicion among the soldiers that he had been murdered by the rope-makers. This suspicion proved to be ill-grounded: but, while it continued, it occasioned

sioned Colonel Carr, the Lieutenant Colonel of the 14th regiment, and his officers, to go, on the Sunday, into Mr. Gray's rope-walk, and search for him in every part of it with the greatest anxiety and diligence, to the surprize, and, it seems, not much to the satisfaction, of Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray upon this went directly to Colonel Dalrymple, (the Lieutenant Colonel of the 29th regiment, and commanding officer of the troops then at Boston,) and related to him what he understood had passed at the rope-walk two days before; to which the Colonel replied that it was much the same as he had heard from his people, and then said that Mr. Gray's man was the aggressor by affronting one of the soldiers by asking him if he wanted work, and then telling him to clean his little-house. Mr. Gray made answer that he would dismiss his journeyman the next morning for that insolent expression, and would further do every thing in his power to prevent his people from giving the soldiers any affront for the future. And Colonel Dalrymple in like manner assured Mr. Gray that he had done, and should do, every thing in his power to keep the soldiers in order and prevent their any more entering Mr. Gray's inclosure. Presently after Colonel Carr came in and asked Colonel Dalrymple what they should do; for that they were daily losing their men; and that three of his grenadiers passing quietly by the rope-walks had been greatly abused, and one of them so much beat that he was likely to die of his

his bruises. He then said that he had been searching for a serjeant who had been murdered.—Upon which Mr. Gray said, “ Yes, Colonel; “ I hear you have been searching for him in my “ rope-walks;” and asked him whether that serjeant had been in the affray there on the Friday? The Colonel replied, “ No; for he was “ seen on the Saturday.” Mr. Gray then asked him how he could think of looking for him in his walks, and said that, if he had applied to him, he would have waited on him and have opened every apartment he had for his satisfaction. This is the substance of Mr. John Gray’s deposition (N^o. 9.) and shews how greatly the suspicions of the officers and soldiers were alarmed by the sudden and unaccountable absence of the serjeant.

On Monday, the 5th of March, the day of the disturbance that proved fatal to some of the inhabitants, about seven o’clock in the evening, numbers of the towns-people of Boston were seen walking in the streets, in several different parties of from about three to six men each, armed with clubs. Mr. John Gillespie, in his deposition, (N^o. 104.) declares that, as he was going to the south end of the town, to meet some friends at a public house, he met several people in the streets in parties of this kind, to the number, as he thinks, of forty or fifty persons; and that while he was sitting with his friends there, several persons of his acquaintance came in to them at different times, and took notice of the numbers

numbers of persons they had seen in the street armed in the above manner; and that about eight o'clock one Mr. Fleming came in and told them that three hundred people were assembled at Liberty-Tree armed with sticks and clubs to beat the soldiers. Mr. Gillespie goes on and says, that about half an hour after eight the bells rung, which he and his company took to be for fire; but they were told by the landlord of the house that it was to collect the mob, Mr. Gillespie upon this resolved to go home, and in his way met numbers of people who were running past him, of whom many were armed with clubs and sticks, and some with other weapons. At the same time a number of people passed by him with two fire-engines, as if there had been a fire in the town. But they were soon told that there was no fire, but that the people were going to fight the soldiers; upon which they immediately quitted the fire-engines, and swore they would go to their assistance. All this happened before the soldiers near the custom-house fired their muskets, which was not till half an hour after nine o'clock; and it shews that the inhabitants had formed, and were preparing to execute, a design of attacking the soldiers on that evening. This account is confirmed by the deposition of William Davies, serjeant-major to the 14th regiment, who declares that, on the same evening about eight o'clock, as he was going towards the north end on regimental business, he saw in the streets a large body of the inhabitants, armed

some

some with fire-arms, and others with cutlasses and bludgeons, crying out, that "they would do for those rascals, the officers and soldiers, that night." This was more than an hour before the firing. He says further, that he returned home about nine o'clock, and as he came near the market-place, he saw a greater number of people than before, tearing up the butchers stalls for clubs, and swearing they would murder the first officer or soldier they should meet with. They then gave three huzzas, and cried, "Now for the bloody-back rascals." And some of them said, "Let us attack the main-guard." Others proposed to attack Smith's barracks; and others said, "Away to the rope-walk." And instantly the mob divided into three divisions, of some hundred men in each division; and the bells at the same time were ringing. The serjeant-major then went to a friend's house and changed his dress: and in repairing from thence to his barrack through the several streets that led to it, he saw several armed towns-people crying out, "Murder, kill all the dogs: for we will have no commissioners nor soldiers in Boston, And damn the scoundrel that first ordered them here. We will soon rid the town of them all:" or words to that effect. And all this he saw and heard before the firing in King's-street. Nothing, as I conceive, can prove more clearly the design of the towns-people to make an attack that evening on the soldiers.

The custom-house and the centry posted there to defend it seem to have been a principal object of the people's fury. For they began to assemble about it in great numbers before it was dark, that is, before seven o'clock, or more than two hours before the extremity of violence that obliged the soldiers to fire. Thomas Lohead, in his deposition, (N^o. 100.) declares, that as he was passing through King's-street, a little before dark, he observed a number of towns-people standing almost close to the centry then on duty at the custom-house, and presently after he saw several of them throwing snow-balls and pieces of ice at him, upon which the centry said, "*Gentlemen, I beg you will let me alone and go away from my post: for, if you do not, you must take the consequences.*" Upon this a gentleman dressed in a red cloak went to the people and spoke to them, and advised them to let the centry alone. They accordingly went to the other side of the street, and there remained. In about an hour after, that is, about eight o'clock, Thomas Lohead had occasion to pass by the same way again, and then observed a number of people standing in the same place as before, armed with sticks and large clubs, who threw snow-balls at him as he passed by, and called him a bloody-back rascal, notwithstanding he said nothing to provoke them.

About nine o'clock Edward Hills, being among the mob near the town-house at Boston, when the bells were set a ringing to bring the

people together, heard some of them say, they would go down to the custom-house, where there was a centry placed, and would take him off his post. Upon this Mr. Hills went immediately to the main-guard to acquaint the soldiers with what he had heard. In the mean time the mob surrounded the centry, and began to attack him by striking at him with clubs, swearing they would be revenged on the soldiers. The centry defended himself, as well as he could, with his bayonet, and desired them to keep off, saying, "*He durst not quit his post; and that, if they did not desist, he must call the guard.*" They did not however desist, but pelted him with sticks and large pieces of ice picked up from the streets. This obliged him to retreat to the door of the custom-house, where, getting upon the steps of it, he loaded his musket in the sight of the people, and, after he had loaded it, he struck the butt-end of it against the steps three or four times, hoping, as it should seem, that the sight of the danger they were running, if they pressed upon him any further, would induce the people to keep off, (See Thomas Cain's deposition, N^o. 46.) But it had not this effect; for the people assembled in greater numbers, and set him at defiance, crying, "*Fire, fire, and be damned.*" And some of them drew quite near to him; Mr. Knox says, within the distance of ten feet: upon which he snapped his piece upon them, but did not fire it, endeavouring again to frighten them from approaching any nearer to him. Mr. Knox
upon

upon this went up to him, and told him that, "if he fired, he died;" to which he bravely answered, "*that he did not care, and that, if they touched him, he would fire;*" which it is generally understood to be the duty of every centinel to do that is attacked upon his post. The people however continued to defy him, telling him to fire and be damned: upon which Mr. Knox, who seems to have done every thing in his power to prevent mischief on this occasion, went to the people, and endeavoured to keep them from going up; but without success. (See Mr. Knox's deposition, N^o. 55.) The centry, being thus hard pressed, knocked at the custom-house door very hard for assistance: and in a few minutes a party of twelve soldiers, headed by Captain Preston, came to him from the main-guard, with their arms in a horizontal posture, and their bayonets fixed. They drew up immediately before the door of the custom-house with their faces towards the people, and held their guns breast high, in order to defend the centinel; and Captain Preston stood before them near the ends of their guns. Mr. Richard Palmes at this time went up to the captain, and asked him if the soldiers guns were loaded; to which the captain answered that they were loaded with powder and ball. Mr. Palmes then said to him, "*I hope you do not intend they shall fire upon the inhabitants;*" to which he answered, "*by no means,*" which indeed might have been concluded from the position he had chosen to stand

in, directly before the muzzles of their guns. (See Mr. Palmes's depositions, N^o. 53 and 112.) But the people continued to insult and defy this party of soldiers in the same manner as they had done the single centinel, pelting them with sticks and balls of ice, and calling out to them, "*Damn you, you rascals; fire. You dare not fire. Fire, and be damned.*" These expressions were frequently repeated; during which time Captain Preston spoke often to the mob, desiring them to be quiet and disperse; for that, if they continued their attack upon him and his party, he should be obliged to fire upon them. But his humane endeavours were to no purpose. The people continued their attack upon the soldiers, till they were provoked beyond all patience. A large stick, or, as Mr. Palmes says, a piece of ice, that was thrown at a grenadier on the right of the party, struck him with violence and made him stagger, upon which both he and the soldier next him fired their pieces without any order from Captain Preston for that purpose, (See John Hickling's deposition, N^o. 73, and Thomas Greenwood's depositions, N^o. 96 and 111, and Richard Palmes's depositions, N^o. 53 and 112.) and soon after the rest of the party did the same; by which three men were killed on the spot, and eight wounded, of whom two have since died of their wounds. Presently after the last gun was fired off, Captain Preston sprung before the soldiers, and waving his sword or stick, said, "*Damn ye, rascals, what did ye fire*
for ?"

“for?” and struck up the gun of one of the soldiers who was loading again; whereupon they seemed confounded, and fired no more. (See William Wyat’s deposition, N^o. 54.)

This is the whole of what the Boston Narrative calls *the horrid Massacre*. How far it deserves that appellation, let the unprejudiced reader judge. For my part, I cannot but think it a very gross abuse of language, and highly injurious to the unhappy officer and soldiers who were concerned in this affair, to call it by the same name that has heretofore been used to describe such wanton, unnecessary, and premeditated acts of general destruction as the slaughter of the Protestants of France in the year 1572, and of the Protestants of Ireland in 1641; to which a resistance made by twelve soldiers against more than an hundred people armed with sticks and bludgeons, in defence of a post which it was their duty to defend, seems to me to bear no resemblance.

I shall mention but slightly what happened after the soldiers had fired, as it is not material to the justification of their conduct in the act of firing, which is the ground for charging them with the perpetration of a horrid massacre. As soon as the firing was over, all the bells of the town were set a ringing, (whereas before the firing only one of them had been rung,) and the inhabitants gathered together in vastly greater numbers than before; and on the other hand the soldiers drew out from their barracks in proper order,

order, and stood under arms to defend themselves against any further assaults, which there was then great reason to apprehend. And now indeed dreadful evils might have ensued, and a slaughter, less improperly to be stiled a massacre than the former, might in a few minutes have been committed, if the principal persons of both parties had not immediately interposed their authority and influence to prevent any further mischief. But by the endeavours of the worthy Lieutenant-governor Hutchinson and the council of the province on the one part, and of the commanding officers of the two regiments on the other, the people were persuaded to disperse, and the soldiers to retire to their barracks.

After this account of the foregoing unfortunate transaction, (which, when the reader shall have compared it with the depositions from which it is extracted, I flatter myself, he will judge to be a fair one ;) I presume that no-impartial person will be inclined to consider either the officer or soldiers who were concerned in it as guilty of wilful murder of malice afore-thought. Whether their conduct can be wholly justified in point of law upon the principles of self-defence and the obligations of military duty, I will not take upon me to determine: I leave to others the discussion of those nice points of law. But if they cannot be intirely justified, they ought at least to be considered as persons who have been provoked by repeated insults and attacks to commit a rash and hasty act of violence, and consequently

as being intitled, in a legal view, to the benefit of their clergy, and, in a moral view, to the compassion, rather than the indignation, of their countrymen. May the people of Boston, in whose hands they now are, be inclined to think of them in this manner, and regain the good opinion of their fellow subjects of Great Britain by so honourable an instance of their justice and moderation!

In the Boston Narrative of this affair there is an attempt to make it believed that some guns were fired upon the people from the windows of the custom-house. But this is so very improbable in itself, and so ill supported by proof, that I imagine few of the readers of that account will give any credit to it.

However, lest the confidence with which this charge is brought should mislead any person into a belief that it is true, I will venture to subjoin a few observations on the weakness of the evidence by which it is supported.

In the first place, some of the witnesses mentioned in the Boston Narrative say, they saw the flashes of guns at the custom-house.

This deserves little or no regard: for in the hurry and confusion of that time it must have been almost impossible to distinguish with exactness the places and heights from which the flashes came. The soldiers stood just at the custom-house door, and the flashes of their guns might naturally enough seem to a hasty observer to come from the custom-house itself.

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In the next place, some stress is laid on the directions of three of the balls, as collected from the holes made by them in the houses into which they entered. Now these directions, as they were taken by Mr. Andrews, (see his deposition, N^o. 93.) are just such as one would suppose they should be from guns fired by men standing before the custom-house door; and the two latter of them are found to range breast-high, that is, at much the same height as they would have ranged if they had been fired from the ground-floor of the custom-house itself, supposing that floor to be nearly upon the same level with the street. They consequently could not be fired from the windows up one pair of stairs, as they are said to have been in the charge. Further, the second ball is found to range breast-high from the ground, and between two of the windows of the custom-house; consequently it could not have been fired from either of them, but by some person without the custom-house standing between those two windows. And for a like reason the first ball could not be fired from a window in the custom-house, because it ranges below the stool of the westernmost lower chamber window: for if it had been fired from that window, it must have ranged above the stool of it.

The last and strongest evidence that is brought in support of this charge is that of Charlotte Bourgate, Mr. Edward Manwaring's indented servant. This indeed would be very material, if he were a person that deserved any credit, and
if

if his testimony was not invalidated by contrary evidence of the strongest kind. For he has positively charged Mr. Manwaring with firing off a gun out of the window. But he has confessed in this very deposition, (see N^o. 58.) that he had denied before a justice of the peace every word of its contents after he had first sworn that they were true, though he then (more than a fortnight after the affair, to wit, March 23, when the soldiers were gone out of the town and the people were in possession of every thing) thought fit to swear to them a second time. Such a witness destroys his own credit, if he ever had any; which, it seems, this boy, from the sadness of his character, never had. But, to come to a more particular examination of the contents of his deposition; he says in the first place, that there were four or five men in the custom-house, (whom he does not name, and therefore does not pretend to have known) at the time of the soldiers firing, who went up stairs and pulled and haled him after them—that one of them, a tall man, loaded a gun twice, and gave it to him to fire, and forced him by threats of immediate violence to fire it off twice out of the window—that he did not fire it against the people who were assembled near the custom-house, but sideways up the street—and secondly, that Mr. Manwaring and Mr. Monroe were both in the custom-house at the time of this firing, and that Mr. Manwaring fired off a gun himself out of the window.

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This is the substance of that boy's evidence. Now, if the first part of it was true, of the tall man's forcing him to fire the gun off twice, it would not be much worth inquiring into, as it would relate only to persons unknown, and, we might well presume, not belonging to the custom-house. For, if they had belonged to it, this boy, who is a servant of Mr. Manwaring, who has an employment in the customs, must in all probability have known them. But it is a strange and incredible story. For if the tall man, as the story supposes, meant to do the people mischief, why did he not fire off the gun himself rather than force the boy to do it, especially when he observed that the boy had fired the first time sideways up the street instead of directly forwards upon the people? I know no way of accounting for this, if we admit the fact to be true, but by supposing that some of the inhabitants themselves had thrust themselves into the custom-house, and had forced the boy to fire a gun out of the window for the sake of charging the custom-house officers with having had a hand in the destruction of the inhabitants that evening, but at the same time had taken care that he should fire in such a direction as not to do them any real mischief. But 'tis more probable that the whole fact is false, and therefore needs no explanation; for there were in the house at the same time Mr. Hammond Green, who, as this boy says, let him in, and three women, Elizabeth Avery, Mary Rogers, and Ann Green.

Of

Of these four persons Hammond Green alone has been examined: and he says in his deposition, (N^o. 95.) that he went up stairs into the lower west chamber, and saw the guns fired by the soldiers: but says not a word about the four or five men and the boy, Charlotte Bourgate, whom they forced to fire off a gun twice out of the window, which he could not but have known if it had happened. He says also, that the three women before-mentioned, Elizabeth Avery, Mary Rogers, and Ann Green, were up stairs likewise at the time of the soldiers firing. They therefore must likewise have seen these four or five men and the boy Charlotte Bourgate, and have known of his firing the gun, if it was true that he had done so. But it has not been thought fit to examine them, or at least to publish their depositions.

As to the other part of this boy's charge, to wit, that Mr. Manwaring and Mr. Monroe were both present at the custom-house at the time of the soldiers firing, and that Mr. Manwaring did himself fire a gun out of the window, this is proved to be utterly false, and even impossible, by the deposition of Michael Angelo Warwell, (N^o. 122.) who declares, that these gentlemen were at that time at a distance from the custom-house, to wit, in Mr. Manwaring's lodgings in Back-street, and had been there from seven o'clock in the evening, that is, more than two hours before the soldiers fired, and continued there till half an hour after ten o'clock, when,

the tumult occasioned by the firing being subsided, Mr. Monroe ventured to leave Mr. Manwaring's lodgings and go home. Mr. Manwaring continued in his own lodgings the whole night.

This charge therefore against the people at the custom-house must be looked upon as an idle, ill-grounded accusation, proceeding solely from the prejudices of the inhabitants of Boston against the commissioners of the customs and every body that has any connection with them, which dispose them to imagine and believe every thing that may tend to their disadvantage.

F I N I S.

APPENDIX,

A P P E N D I X,

CONTAINING

SEVERAL DEPOSITIONS, &c.

S I R,

(No. 97.)

April 22, 1770.

THE following circumstances relative to the conduct of the Bostonians, I take the liberty of communicating to you, since I cannot attend you this evening agreeable to your desire. They are facts that I can swear to, if necessary.

The latter end of October, 1769, I arrived at Boston, being soon after the landing of the troops; the numberless insults they received I could not but take notice of. From my acquaintance with the sons of liberty (as they term themselves) among whom I lived, I could easily perceive their disaffection to government, as well from their unwarrantable proceedings, as the unguarded expressions they would drop in conversation. Some time before the disturbance bred by the ropemakers, it was customary with many of the inhabitants in an evening to arm themselves with pistols, cutlasses, and bludgeons, under a pretence that they had been frequently molested by the soldiers. That on the second and third of March last, before the general assault of the fifth, one Gray, and another person, both ropemakers, met an acquaintance of mine, an high son of liberty, and told him that they expected to die to-morrow, they did not care how soon, as it was in a good cause; for that they, as well as several of their profession, with the assistance of some noted North-End bruisers, were determined the following day to attack the soldiers. That they (the ropemakers) were well prepared, and certain there would be bloody work; and concluded with asking him whether he would not attend as a spectator, advising him to arm himself in case of the worst; that Gray and his companion were both of them armed

with desperate bludgeons. People in general at that time talked of the expected engagement; and many declared that should a townsman be killed in the fray, not a soldier should survive three hours. On the Monday following, being the fifth of the month, as I was returning from a visit, a little after nine o'clock in the evening, I heard a bell ring, which I imagined to be the usual signal for fire; but perceiving no light in the air, I readily concluded from the forementioned circumstances, that the designed attack of the ropemakers had taken place. It was not long before I was convinced of the justness of my conjecture, by the repeated huzzas of a large mob collected before the town-house, armed with clubs, &c. I enquired of several the cause of the disturbance; all the answer I could get was, "Damn the rascals (meaning the soldiers); we'll murder every dog of them." Upon this I walked towards the guard-house, where I heard some men, towns-men I took them to be, tell the officer of the guard, that if he did not send relief to the centry at the custom-house, he certainly would be killed, for that he was attacked in a most violent manner. That immediately on the discharge of a few muskets, which instantly proved fatal to three of them, the before-mentioned Gray and another worthless fellow in particular; upon this most of the bells in town were set a ringing, and continued so a long while without intermission; and the voice of the people was, "To arms, to arms." I saw numbers with arms, and many loading them, declaring seemingly with a satisfaction, "That now the soldiers had done for themselves, it was all they wanted, and that it was the happiest night America ever knew." And I firmly believe, that had not the troops left the town, they would have fired the Beacon, and put the whole of them to death. And that, to my knowledge, notice was accordingly given to the country inhabitants to hold themselves in readiness for a massacre, and that four or five hundred people from Roxbury sent word into town, that they were ready at a minute's warning. A great number from Charles Town, &c. did the same, resolved, as they must die, to die like men. Furthermore, I am confident, it is the determined resolution of the sons of liberty to oppose the landing of any of his Majesty's troops in future, and that they are (if people in this world ever were) ripe for rebellion.

I don't recollect any thing further at present material. Should be glad of your opinion of these minutes.

I am, Sir,

with great respect,

Your much obliged, and most obedient,

THOMAS PRYCE.

JOHN

(No. 98.)

JOHN INMAN'S Evidence.

ON Monday night, the 5th of March, 1770, I came into King-street with Mr. Bridgham, and saw several people, as it were, conversing on the occasion of the bells ringing, which I understood was to give an alarm on account of fire; it was but a few minutes before I saw a guard of soldiers come down the street and place themselves by the custom-house; very soon after they came, I heard them charging their guns, as I understood by the noise of their ram-rods. The people in the street called to the soldiers to fire, as I stood by Mr. Edward Davis's door, which is on the opposite side of the street. Can declare no further particulars than already mentioned.

(No. 99.)

I William Davies, serjeant major in his Majesty's 14th regiment of foot, do depose, that on Monday the 5th of March, 1770, in the evening, about eight o'clock, I was going towards the North-End on regimental business, I then saw in the street a large body of inhabitants, some with fire arms, others with cutlasses and bludgeons, saying they would do for those rascals, officers and soldiers this night. The deponent seeing so large a mob stept aside till they had passed him; in his return home about nine o'clock, and coming near the market-place, he saw a larger number than before, tearing up the butchers stalls for clubs, swearing they would murder the first officer or soldier they met, giving three huzzas, "Now for the bloody-back rascals;" and immediately I heard several voices, some saying, "Let us attack the main guard;" another said, "Smith's barracks;" and others said, "Away to the rope-walk; and instantly the mob divided into three divisions, of some hundreds in each. At that time I heard the bells a ringing. The deponent then went to a friend's house, and changed his dress, and in repairing from thence to his barracks through the different streets, he saw several armed towns-people, crying out, "Murder, kill all the dogs, for we will have no commissioners or soldiers in Boston; and damn the scoundrel that first ordered them here: we will soon rid the town of them all; or words to that effect." The deponent farther says, that he saw and heard all he has here declared before he heard the muskets go off in King-street.

W. DAVIES.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13, 1770.

Sworn before me JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 100.)

THOMAS LOCHEAD, soldier, in his Majesty's 14th regiment of foot, and servant to Capt. Edmund Mason, being duly sworn, depose, that on Monday evening, 5th of March, 1770, as he was passing through King-street a little before dark, observed a number of towns-

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towns-people standing almost close to the century, then on duty at the custom-house; presently he saw several of them throw snow-balls and pieces of ice at him, upon which the centry then said, "Gentlemen, I beg you will let me alone and go away from my post, for if you do not, you must take the consequence of it;" upon that a gentleman dressed in a red cloak, went to the people and spoke to them, but what he said to them the deponent did not hear; however they, meaning the people, made answer to the gentleman at the same time, pointing at the centry and custom-house, "That it was only a protection for whores, rogues, and thieves." The people then went to the other side of the street, almost opposite to the custom-house, where they remained; the deponent then went home, and in about an hour after, having some business to do for his master, passing King-street again, he observed many people standing exactly in the same place as before-mentioned, but thinks not so many as at first; however, several of them had in their hands large clubs and sticks; as the deponent was passing by they threw snow-balls, at the same time calling him a bloody back lobster, notwithstanding he said nothing to them, but went away about his business.

THOMAS LOCHEAD.

Suffolk, st. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 101.)

Boston, 14th March, 1770.

I Alexander Mall, ensign of the 29th regiment quartered at Boston, do depose and swear, that being in my barrack-room, at Smith's barrack, near which two companies of the said regiment are quartered, between the hours of eight and nine in the evening of the 5th instant, I was alarmed by a noise in the street, and informed that two soldiers, servants to officers of that barrack, had been beaten and abused in the street by some towns-people as they returned home quietly. That one of them would be murdered by the aforesaid people, near the barrack-whither they had pursued them. That the deponent immediately went out with some other officers, and brought him in with some others who had come to his help, who were much cut and wounded. That the mob followed us, came up to the door of the officers house, brandishing their clubs and other weapons over our heads, most grossly threatened and abused both officers and soldiers, though the latter were in their barracks, and the officers did every thing to quiet their minds. That one of the mob, notwithstanding, made a stroke at the deponent at his own door, when he assured them that no soldier should stir out of his barrack. That the mob still continued their abuse and threats till they heard another mob near Faneuil Hall, on which they went off, swearing they would either murder or drive every soldier out of town, as there was but

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four hundred, and they could spare five thousand. I do further depose, that being at South End that evening, I observed a number of people armed with different weapons waiking the streets. That from this appearance, together with the information of some of the inhabitants, the deponent believes a scheme had been concerted to attack the soldiery. The deponent further says, that since he has been quartered in town, he has received the most unufferable abuse from some of the inhabitants; and that it was arrived to such a length of late, that it was not safe for any of the military profession to be in the street after dark. Further the deponent says not.

ALEXANDER MALL,
Ensign, 29th Regiment.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 14, 1770:

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 102.)

I Samuel Leslie, captain in his Majesty's 14th regiment of foot, do swear, that about half an hour after nine o'clock on Monday night the 5th of March, 1770, I heard a bell of the old brick house (almost opposite to which I lodge) ring violently, and almost instantly after the streets were full of people, but particularly the streets where the main guard was posted; the mob immediately began to abuse the soldiers in the grossest terms, calling them without ceasing, "Fire, you rascals, fire; no, you cowardly dogs, you dare not fire," or words to that purpose; and in short used every kind of abusive and provoking language towards them that could be thought of; all which the soldiers bore patiently for some time, but at length I heard the report of four or five muskets go off, upon which I immediately retired to the soldiers barracks, through a tumultuous crowd of people.

SAMUEL LESLIE.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 103.)

CAPT. Edmund Mason, of his Majesty's 14th regiment of foot; deposeth, that on Monday night the 5th of March, 1770, as he was in his dwelling house in Court Square, situated about 90 yards or less from King-street, and but a small distance between the main yard and custom-house, about twenty minutes after nine o'clock, heard a great noise and huzzaing in King-street, which from the sound appeared to me somewhere about the custom-house, and a very few minutes after another huzza, but many more voices than at first; suspecting some of the towns-people were attacking the centry on duty at the custom-house; which the deponent has often seen, was

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a getting up to go to the window, but had scarce got there, until I heard them shouting, huzzaing, and making a prodigious noise; at the same time observed several people running past the front of the house into King-street, many of them armed with large clubs and sticks, threatening something, but what the deponent did not hear; upon which more still passing by, saying, "Damn the rascals, damn them all;" abusing both the officers and soldiers, neither of whom I saw; presently there was a grand huzza, and from the voices must have been great numbers collected together. I then heard them cry, "Down with them repeatedly for a set of bloody back rascals, we will do for them all;" and in an instant the bells began to ring, as if an alarm for fire. Remaining most of the time at the window, saw more people pass by armed as before, some crying out "Fire;" but others said, "You fools, it's no fire;" then said, "Damn the rascals all, we will soon drive them;" upon which I ran up stairs in order to look out, to see if there really was a fire, but found it only a finesse, heard a prodigious huzzaing, and often repeated, the bells ringing all this time, when I heard the people crying out, "Damn you all, fire, fire, why don't you fire, we dare you to fire, knock them down, murder them all;" and in an instant saw the flash of three pieces before the report, and immediately after three more went off to the best of my memory; the people then gave another huzza, though but a faint one; others came running into the square before the house, crying out, "Murder, murder;" the soldiers had fired amongst them, and had killed several dead on the spot; I then run down stairs to see for my servant, whom I found a-bed, on which I desired he would get up directly and go to the barracks. I then went up stairs again, soon after he came and told me that his arms, &c. were at the barracks, upon which I countermanded the former orders, having heard the threats against both the officers and soldiers; and from the numbers that were all this time about the house, did not think it safe either to stir out myself or let my servant, having frequently tried but without success. My servant told me that he suspected something would happen one time or other, as he himself had seen the centry at the custom-house pelted at by a number of people that evening before dark: being at the front door, saw Mr. Nathaniel Hard, my next door neighbour, I called him in, and asked how the affair began; but he made answer he did not exactly know, but that for his part thought the people were all run mad, and going headlong to destruction; that the soldiers had fired upon them, meaning the people, and killed three dead on the spot; that they insisted upon the officers being given up to them. As the governor and council were then sitting, I told him my situation, with my intention of trying to get to the barracks, but he advised me against it, as the people seemed very much irritated, therefore took his advice,

vice, and remained at home until day-break that morning. Further the deponent sayeth not.

EDMUND MASON, Capt.
14th Regiment.

Suffolk, st. Boston, March 14th, 1770.

Sworn before, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 104.)

I John Gillispie do testify as follows; that on Monday the 5th of March, I went to the south end of Boston to meet some friends about seven o'clock in the evening, and on the way I met several people armed with clubs and sticks, amounting to about 40 or 50, in different parties, from three to six in each; several friends came in after at different times, and took notice to us of the numbers they saw as above; Mr. Heming came to us at about three o'clock, and told us that 300 people were assembling at Liberty-Tree, I think he said, armed with sticks and clubs to beat the soldiers: about half after eight the bells rang, and we thought it for fire, but the landlord said it was to collect the mob; I resolved to go home, and in my way numbers of people ran past me, some with clubs and sticks, some otherwise; Mr. Fleming's man said, he heard the soldiers and the towns-people were fighting; two engines passing by us with a number of people, were told there was no fire, but only the people going to fight the soldiers; immediately they quitted the engines, and swore by God they would go to their assistance; on coming near the end of King-street, I saw a great number of people passing and re-passing, they were going to break the windows (as I learned next day) of the meeting-house, to get in and ring the bell; about nine, or a little after, I heard the shots fired, and was informed some people were killed; some time after I looked up Queen-street, and saw about 50 or 60 people, some swearing with bitter imprecations, and exciting others to go and knock their brains out, meaning the soldiers; others made reply, what can we do? "What is in our power to do?" some time after I looked out and saw much the same number, immediately five or six officers came by, some of the people cry'd, "Knock them down, knock them down;" but others begged for God's sake to let them alone; another officer coming by some time after, they cry'd out, "Knock him down;" but one or two people begged of them not to meddle with him.

JOHN GILLISPIE.

March 12, 1770.

Sworn to, before JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 105.)

T Edward Hill, late servant to Mr. George Spooner, merchant, of Boston, being of full age and duly sworn, do depose and say, that I was among the mob near the town-house in Boston, on Monday the 5th of March instant, about nine o'clock at night, when the bells were set a ringing by order of the towns men (as I do believe) in order to bring the people together. I saw some of them armed with sticks, and heard some of them say they would go down to the custom-house, where there was a centry placed, and they would take him off his place. Hearing this, I went to the main guard, and acquainted the soldiers with what I heard. I heard the serjeant of the guard order a party of men to conduct the officer of the guard to his post; I staid thereabout till I saw Capt. Preston and another officer join the guard; then I saw Capt. Preston with a party of men go towards the custom-house; then, as I went towards the post-office, I heard the report of two muskets, fired as if from the custom-house; upon this I returned and went towards the custom-house with a number of towns-men; while I was on the way thither, I heard the report of three or four muskets more; when I went down, I saw the people carrying off for dead one or two men; and then I saw a man lying on his back with a gore of blood by him, who, as I afterwards learned, was a Mulatto, upon which I heard the towns-people cry out to the soldiers who stood at the custom-house, "Fire, damn you, fire, we defy you to fire;" whereon one of the soldiers of that party, thus provoked, turned out of the ranks a little, took up his musket, and was going to fire, when Capt. Preston took him by the arm and hindered him from firing. It was after the firing beforementioned was over, according to the best of my knowledge, that I heard the drum beating to arms. I saw several officers of the 14th regiment running towards their barracks, and some of the towns-people running after them, crying, "Knock them down, sons of bitches." As I was running after some of these officers; I had in my hand a small stick, which somebody pursuing the officers asked me to let him have. I refused, saying, I wanted it myself. He took hold of the stick, and endeavoured in vain to take it from me; a crowd of people coming up, and walking faster than I did, threw me down. As I got up again, some of them asked, "What son of a bitch was that?" and one of them made a thrust at me with a blade, which I took to be a cut and thrust sword, and by the thrust cut through my jacket on the left breast about six inches; then I run down to the barracks of the 14th regiment, where I remained all night. And further the deponent saith not.

EDWARD HILL,

Suffolk, ss. Boston, March 15, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No.

(No. 106.)

THOMAS BUCKLEY, lieutenant, and Thomas Steele, ensign, both in his Majesty's 29th regiment of foot, being duly sworn, depose, that they the deponents were in the officers barrack, called Smyth's, behind which is barracks where two companies of the 29th regiment were quartered; that about 9 o'clock at night, they were alarmed by a noise in the street; that by the time they got down stairs, they saw a foldier very much wounded, having a severe wound in his head, and one of his fingers almost cut off, who said the towns-people were murdering some soldiers in the street. As soon as the deponents understood what was going on, they made the soldiers return to their barracks, some of whom were much wounded. That the inhabitants followed the soldiers, threatening and insulting them in the grossest manner, even to the steps of the barracks, where the officers were keeping the soldiers in, they brandishing their weapons over the officers heads, and making of many threats. That the deponents made use of many arguments to make the mob disperse, telling them, "that no soldiers should stir out of the barrack;" all of which was ineffectual, till there was heard the noise of another mob. On which they went off, flourishing their weapons, and swearing they would kill us all. They farther depose, that from their seeing numbers of the inhabitants armed before this affair happened, and their immediately ringing a number of bells to alarm the town, they had reason to believe they had formed a design to attack the soldiery. The deponents further say, that since they have been in Boston they have been frequently insulted, and of late they have gone so far as to render it unsafe for officer or soldier to walk the streets after dark.

THOMAS BUCKLEY. THOMAS STEELE.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 107.)

I Paul Minchin, lieutenant in his Majesty's 29th regiment of foot, do swear, that on Monday the 5th of March 1770, being in my quarters, about 9 o'clock at night, I got up and went to the street door, and there saw some towns-people and soldiers fighting in the narrow lane opposite the street door, and in a moment after, I heard some of the towns-people call out "Liberty, liberty, fire, fire;" and then the streets filled with inhabitants. Lieutenant Dixon, and myself, in a little time after got the soldiers, who were engaged with a number of the inhabitants, into their barracks, upon which several of the towns-people seemed very outrageous, and abused the officers and soldiers in the most insulting manner, damning and calling them "bloody-back scoundrels," making use of a good deal of such abusive language; several of them threatened us, and flourishing their weapons

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over our heads, which made me expect to be knocked down every moment, on which lieutenant Dixon and I found it necessary to take every precaution to prevent the towns-people from entering the barrack yard, as they declared they would have revenge of them, and also to hinder any of the soldiers to pass into the streets, as many of them were much wounded by the inhabitants, which made me try every expedient I could think of to prevent farther mischief.

Signed, PAUL MINCHIN,
Lieutenant in the 29th regiment.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 108.)

I John Goldfinch, captain lieutenant in his Majesty's 14th regiment of foot, do hereby depose, that on Monday the 5th instant, about the hour of nine in the evening, as I was going to my barrack, I heard a great disturbance near the barracks of the 29th regiment. I went to see the occasion of it, and found that a few of that corps were defending themselves in a narrow passage leading to their barracks against a great number of the inhabitants; with some difficulty and danger, as the people of the town were pelting them with stones and other things, I got to the head of those men of the 29th regiment, and prevailed on them to go to their barracks, which they readily did, although insulted in the most opprobrious manner by the inhabitants, who followed them to the gate of the barracks, calling them "rascals and cowards," still pelting them with stones, daring them to come out and fight them; but lieutenant Dixon, and other officers of the said corps, who were at the barracks, exerted themselves so much, that they prevented any accident happening, as they kept the soldiers within the gates. When the people of the town saw that they could not gain their point by drawing the men off their duty, they went to the main guard; and within a few minutes, I heard the drum of the said guard beat to arms, on which I went to the barracks where some of the officers of the 14th regiment were quartered, told them of it, and desired them to go with me and join the regiment: directly lieutenant Martear, second lieutenant Napier, ensign Laurie, and ensign Hallwood, went with me part of the way, but by some mistake, owing to the disturbance in the streets, we divided, which had not happened above a minute before I was surrounded by a great number of inhabitants, the greatest part of which threatened to murder me, which I firmly believe would have been the case, as they were armed with bludgeons and cudgels, and endeavouring to strike at me, saying "They would soon get rid of the soldiers in the same manner." I got clear of this party by being known to one or two, who let me pass them untouched. I had not gone from them but a small distance, when six or seven men rushed out from behind a house, and knocked me down; the stroke was so sudden, and not

seeing

seeing my enemies directly, had not time to defend myself; on the recovery of my senses, (which were taken away by the violence of the blow, which took place a little below my right temple,) I saw the above six or seven people standing over me, all armed with bludgeons, saying, "Repeat the blow; murder the scoundrel, he is one of them," which I am certain would have been the case, if there had not come by that instant three officers servants, who were going to join their regiment, on which the inhabitants made off, and I went with the said servants, and joined my corps.

JOHN GOLDFINCH,

Captain lieutenant of the 14th regiment of foot.

Suffolk, st. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 109.)

I John Weir, surgeon's mate in the 14th regiment, depose, that on Monday the fifth of March, being in an house in Cornhill, about forty yards from the main guard, about 9 o'clock at night, I heard a great noise in King-street, as of a mob fighting with sticks; upon going to a window that fronted the street, observed a number of men running towards King-street, and immediately a few returned, crying, "Ring the alarm bell," and went into a meeting house opposite the window where I was, and rang the bell as if for fire. I then left the window, and sat down in a back parlour; about fifteen minutes after, I heard the report of five or six muskets, which seemed to come from the main guard; I then returned to the same window, and saw the people, in great numbers, running from King-street, crying, "Murder, help." A party stoop under the window where I stood, and seemed to consult with one person what to do; and I heard them say, "Let us fire the beacon, and alarm the country;" another cried, "Let us wait till day-light, and kill every one of the dogs." Immediately a drum beat to arms; I ran to the main guard, where captain Preston was forming some men of the 29th regiment. I asked him if any person was killed, he said, "Three were killed dead, and more wounded; that the mob had brought it on themselves, by attacking the soldiers", I then left him, and joined my own regiment.

JOHN WEIR.

Suffolk, st. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 110.)

I HUGH DICKSON, lieutenant, and David St. Clair, ensign, both in his Majesty's 29th regiment of foot, being duly sworn, depose that on the 5th of March, 1770, about nine o'clock, P. M. they were in the officers barracks called Smith's, behind which two companies of the 29th regiment were quartered; they were alarmed by a noise in the street, on which they ran to the window, and saw some

soldiers

soldiers running out of the barrack, saying "The towns-people were murdering some soldiers;" they immediately went down stairs, and were met at the door by a soldier much wounded, he having received a severe wound on the head, and had two of his fingers cut, one of them almost off, who told them that he was attacked as he was coming quietly home by some towns-people, and that there was another officer's servant in the street whom he believed they would murder; the noise at some little distance still continuing, they went up to the place, and found a few soldiers engaged with a number of people, and blows passing on both sides; they interfered, and as soon as possible got the soldiers into their barracks, several of them being much wounded, followed by a large mob, who insulted and made use of many threatening and abusive speeches to both officers and soldiers, even followed them close up to the door, and brandished their clubs over the heads of the officers who were at that time keeping the soldiers in the barracks, and doing every thing in their power to persuade the towns-people to disperse, the deponents and some other officers assuring them upon their honours that no soldier should leave his barrack that night to molest any one; all of which was ineffectual, they still continuing their abuse till they heard the shouting of another mob at some distance, and some shots fired, on which they huzza'd and went off, saying, "That's right, they have fired, now we will kill them all." The deponents further say, that they have great reason to believe the towns-people had a premeditated design to attack the soldiers, from such a number of them assembling in so short a time, armed with bludgeons, and most of the bells in town being set ringing in order to alarm the inhabitants. They further say, that since they have been in Boston they have been frequently insulted and abused; and of late the inhabitants have proceeded to such lengths, as, in their own opinions, to render it very unsafe for an officer or soldier to walk the streets at night. The deponents say farther, that an inhabitant of the town desired them to take care of themselves, for she had heard several of the inhabitants say, "That they would kill all the officers in town, and after that they could very well manage the soldiers, by giving them land, and settling them in the back parts of the province."

H. DICKSON.
DAVID ST. CLAIR.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13th, 1770.
Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. III.)

Boston, 12th March, 1770.

THOMAS GREENWOOD, an inhabitant (being duly sworn) says, that on Monday night the 5th instant, being at the south part of the town, he about nine o'clock was alarmed by the ringing of

of bells, and a cry of fire, on which he immediately ran and assisted in bringing a fire-engine towards King-street, where it was reported the fire was; but on coming near Dr. Sewall's meeting-house, they were met by several people, who told them it was no fire, but the soldiers and inhabitants fighting in King-street, and desired them to go back immediately for their arms; on hearing this, he hastened to the place, and on coming to the corner of the street where the main guard is, he fell in with a great crowd of people huzzaing, and most of them armed with clubs, challenging the main guard to come out and fight them, "damning them for bloody back rascals, that they were now enough for them, and that they dare not turn out." After some time, finding they could not provoke the main guard to fight with them, they retired from thence, and went to attack the centinel at the custom-house, at which time the deponent followed them close, and saw them surround the centry, whom they immediately began to attack, striking at him with clubs, swearing they would be revenged on the soldiers; the centry defended himself with his bayonet, and desired them to keep off, "saying he durst not quit his post, and if they did not desist must call the guard;" they immediately began to pelt him with sticks and large pieces of ice picked up from the street, which obliged the centry to retreat to the door of the custom-house, and call to the guard for assistance, a party of which coming immediately, were attacked in the same manner with clubs and balls of ice; the people at the same time calling out to them, "Damn you, you rascals, fire; you dare not fire; fire and be damn'd; why don't you fire?" These expressions were frequently repeated, during which time the officer who commanded the party (whom the deponent did not know, but has since heard it was Capt. Preston) spoke often to the mob, desiring them to be quiet and disperse, for if they continued their attack upon him and his party, he should be obliged to fire upon them; just at this time a grenadier on the right of the party was struck with a large stick thrown at him, which made him stagger; as soon as he recovered, he and the soldier next him both fell, and soon after five or six more, on which he the deponent saw several people drop, and the rest ran away, but returned soon after to carry off those who were killed and wounded; which as soon as done, the deponent left King-street, and saw nothing further of what passed that night.

THOMAS GREENWOOD.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 112.)

I Richard Palms, of Boston, of lawful age, testify and say, that between the hours of nine and ten o'clock last Monday evening, the 5th instant, I heard one of the bells ring, which I thought was

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for fire; I went towards where I thought it was, and was told that the soldiers were abusing the inhabitants; I asked where the soldiers were, and was answered in King street, and that there was a rumpus at the custom-house door; as soon as I got there I saw Capt. Preston at the head of six or eight soldiers; the soldiers had their guns breast high, with their bayonets fixed. I went immediately to Capt. Preston, and asked him if the soldiers guns were loaded; his answer was, "They were loaded with powder and ball;" I then asked him if he intended they should fire on the inhabitants, his answer to me was, "By no means." I did not hear him tell the soldiers not to fire, nor did I hear him speak to them. I saw a piece of ice fall among the soldiers; immediately upon this the soldier upon his right hand fired his gun, that instant I heard the word "Fire," but by whom I know not; the soldier at his left hand fired next, and the others one after another, as fast as they could. I turned myself to my left, and saw one man dead, upon which I struck at the soldier who first fired the gun, and hit his left arm or hand, which made his gun fall; I then struck at Capt. Preston, and thought I hit his head, but he says I hit his arm; on my making the stroke at him I fell on my right knee. I saw the soldier that fired the first fire going to push his bayonet at me, upon which I threw my stick at his head; he gave back, and gave me an opportunity to jump out of his way, or must have been run through the body. I directly passed through Exchange-lane, and so up the next by Mr. Kent's office, and saw three people on the ground, and saw Mr. Gridley, with several other persons, carrying Mr. Morton's apprentice up to the prison house. I followed him, and saw he had a ball shot through his breast; at my return, found the soldiers were gone to the main guard, &c.

Signed,

RICHARD PALMS.

(No. 113.)

I James Basset, lieutenant in his Majesty's 29th regiment of foot, do declare, that Monday the 5th day of March, 1770, I was officer of the main guard; in the evening I went to my quarters, which is about one hundred yards distant, and about nine o'clock was alarmed with ringing of bells, and cry of fire; immediately Capt. Preston, who was the Captain of the day, and I, went on the top of the house to see in what part of the town the fire was; but was soon called down, and acquainted that a file of men was at the door, who informed us that there was a great mob at the main guard, on which Capt. Preston and I repaired to the guard; on our coming there, a number of inhabitants informed us, that the centry at the custom-house would certainly be murdered if we did not send a party of men to his relief, on which Capt. Preston ordered the guard to turn out,
and

and immediately he marched with twelve men to the relief of the centry, and I remained before the guard.

JAMES BASSET,
Lieutenant 29th regiment.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 114.)

S I R,

AT your request I now sit down to give you the particulars of Monday evening, the 5th instant. I shall endeavour to divest myself of prejudice, and relate that unhappy affair with the utmost impartiality. I have already given in to several juries of inquest two depositions, not altogether alike in words, but the same in substance, and this is similar to them both, and is as follows. I being in King-street that evening, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, saw a centry that was placed at the custom-house loading his musket, and swore, to a number of persons that were passing from Royal-Exchange-lane to Quaker-lane, "if they molested him he would fire among them," which occasioned numbers to gather round him, some of whom huzz'd, and told him "to fire and be damn'd." Immediately on this I saw Capt. Preston with a number of soldiers coming from the guard-house to the custom-house with their bayonets charged, who soon formed into half a circle, and began without any provocation to push their bayonets at the people, one of which went through my coat, for which Capt. Preston reprimanded him, and then told Capt. Preston it would be prudent for him to retire and take his men with him; for in case they molested the people I feared the consequences would be bad. He reply'd, "he would do the best he could," or words to that effect:

At this time I heard a person ask Capt. Preston "whether they were loaded;" he reply'd, "they were;" he then asked "whether he intended they should fire?" he answered, "by no means." Also I saw some of the soldiers to appearance load their muskets, which induced me to say to Capt. Preston, "For God's sake, don't let your men fire." He reply'd, "They shall not." At this instant I saw a cake of ice, or snow-ball, strike a grenadier upon the right of the detachment; upon which he levelled his piece and fired; Capt. Preston left me directly, and I heard the word "Fire" several times; which I supposed was uttered by the soldiers, upon which all or most of them fired and loaded. I then retired down Royal-Exchange-lane, and returned in about three or four minutes; I saw the body of a person, called Michael Johnson, lying dead on the ground, which I supposed to be in consequence of their firing; I now told Capt. Preston the fatal effects of their firing, and begged he would retire, as his life was in danger; on

which he said, "Centries, leave your posts, and retire to the main guard; which they immediately did."

SAMUEL BLISS.

Sworn, &c. &c.

March 13th, 1770.

(No. 115.)

I William Brown, junior, lieutenant in the 14th regiment of foot, do swear, that on the evening of Monday the 5th of March, 1770, being in company with lieutenant Mattear, ensigns Napier and Hallwood, in the quarters appropriated for part of the officers of the 14th regiment, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, I was alarmed with an extraordinary ringing of bells, and the words "Turn out," which continued some time, and then ceased a little; but on the bells beginning to ring again, and hearing the drum beat to arms, I prepared to go to the barracks; at this time, captain lieutenant Goldfinch coming in, the gentlemen then ready went along with him, leaving lieutenant Ross and myself, who presently followed. All along Queen's-street, and King-street, we were pursued by a number of people with clubs and sticks, calling out, "Here goes two more; kill them, kill them;" on turning into Quakers', I received a blow across the neck with a stick thrown at me, another being aimed, passed with great violence, and numbers rushing in, I was separated from lieutenant Ross, and followed with the cries, "Down with him, kill him, kill him," and other opprobrious language, to the middle of Green's-lane, where they left me; from thence I got safe to the barracks.

WILLIAM BROWN, junior,
Lieutenant of the 14th regiment.

Suffolk, St. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 116.)

I Henry Hallwood, ensign in the 14th regiment of foot, do swear, that on Monday the 5th of March, 1770, being in my quarters, between the hours of 9 and 10 at night, I was alarmed by the bells ringing, (the alarm usual in cases of fire) and a great noise in the streets; that in a few minutes afterwards, captain lieutenant Goldfinch came into the quarters where I was, and said, "The drums were beating to arms;" upon which I went out, with captain lieutenant Goldfinch, lieutenant Mattear, second lieutenant Napier, and ensign Laurie, and that in going through the streets, we were much insulted and threatened, by the people, calling out, "There they go; kill them, damn them, kill them," and that, being obliged to make the best of our way to the regiment, which was at some distance from our quarters, we accomplished it with much difficulty and danger, having

had

had a great number of clubs and sticks both thrown at us, and likewise struck at with them; that one of those sticks struck me in retreating, which threw me on my back, where I lay at the mercy of two or three of those fellows, who were striking at me with large clubs, crying out at the same time, "Kill him, kill him," and repeatedly desired me to deliver up my sword with which I defended myself, until the above-mentioned gentlemen came to my assistance; when they joined me, we cleared our way with our swords to the barracks.

HENRY HALLWOOD,
Ensign.

Suffolk, st. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 117.)

I William Napier, Ensign in the 14th regiment of foot, do swear, that on Monday the 5th of March, 1770, being in my quarters, between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock at night, was alarmed with bells ringing as they usually do for fire, and a great noise in the streets; in a few minutes after, captain lieutenant Goldfinch of the 14th regiment of foot came into the house and said, that the drum was beating to arms, upon which I went out, in order to join my regiment, along with captain lieutenant Goldfinch, lieutenant Mattear, ensigns Lawrie and Hallwood, all of the 14th regiment of foot, I was much abused and threatened by the town's-people; upon seeing them have large sticks and some firelocks, I drew my sword to defend myself, as they had made several blows at me, and calling out, "There they go; damn them, stop them, murder them, and kill them;" soon after I saw Ensign Lawrie of the 14th regiment knocked down by a blow which he received from a townsman; on my running up to his assistance they made off; on going a little farther I observed Ensign Hallwood lying on his back, and a man just going to strike him. I run up and made a cut at him with my sword, upon which they moved off; then we joined our regiment.

WILLIAM NAPIER,
Ensign of the 14th regiment.

Suffolk, st. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 118.)

LIEUTENANT Alexander Ross of the 14th regiment of foot, declares, that on Monday night the 5th of March, 1770, he was in the barrack room, and at a little past 9 o'clock the same night heard the bells ring (as if for fire) and some persons running past, crying, "Turn out, turn out;" on hearing such an unusual alarm,

alarm, the deponent opened his window, enquiring the cause of such disturbance; was answered by a woman who lives opposite, that it was to raise the inhabitants against the soldiers; a short time after, captain lieutenant Goldfinch, of the above mentioned regiment, call'd out, "the drum beat to arms;" upon which the deponent immediately ran to his sword, and on coming down stairs met with lieutenant Brown of the said regiment, who was also going out to join it; whose barracks is about a quarter of a mile distant from the place where the said lieutenant Brown and the deponent then was; shortly after entering the street, several persons called out, "There goes two of the villains; knock them down, kill them," which was evidently intended for the said lieutenant Brown and the deponent; upon entering Quaker-Lane on the way to the regiment, the deponent received a blow upon the shoulders, with a stick or some other weapon, which was thrown at him by some of those men who came running after them, crying out, "Stop the villains, kill them, murder them, kill every soldier you meet." On going a little farther, several blows were aimed at them, with clubs, sticks, &c. which providentially escaped both; but the deponent was parted from the said Lieutenant Brown in the hurry and confusion both was in when attacked by such numbers endeavouring to murder them, after which the deponent was pursued by numbers in like manner, crying, "Kill him, murder him;" but upon getting nigher the regiment, they left off the pursuit.

ALEXANDER ROSS.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 119.)

I Daniel Mattear, lieutenant in the 14th regiment of foot, being duly sworn, depose, that on Monday evening, the 5th of March, 1770, betwixt 9 and 10 o'clock, I was in my barrack room, in company with lieutenant Brown, jun. ensign Napier, and ensign Hallwood of the same regiment, when I heard the fire bells ringing, and some of the inhabitants running past the door, crying, "Turn out," repeatedly; about half an hour afterwards, captain lieutenant Goldfinch of the said regiment came and informed me the drum was beating to arms, and desired I would immediately follow him to the regiment, which was about a quarter of a mile from the house where I live; upon which I took a brace of pistols, and, in company with captain lieutenant Goldfinch, ensigns Napier, Hallwood, and Laurie, went to join the regiment. In our way we passed a number of the inhabitants, who made a great noise on seeing us and used some very threatening language, but the particular expressions I do not recollect; and on going on farther, eight or nine men came running after me with clubs in their hands, threatening to knock me down and

and murder me ; upon which I presented a pistol at them, and told them I would shoot the first man that struck me. They then retired a little, and I proceeded towards the regiment ; but had not gone far before I saw ensign Hallwood on the ground, and two or three men standing over him with clubs in their hands ; I then called ensign Napier, who was a little before me, to hasten with me to ensign Hallwood's assistance, and on our coming up, the men who had knocked him down went to one side of the street, and we proceeded to the regiment.

DANIEL MATTEAR,

Captain of the 14th regiment of foot.

Suffolk, ss. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 120.)

I Andrew Lawrie, Ensign in the 14th regiment of foot, do swear, that on Monday last, the 5th of March, 1770, being in my quarters, between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock at night, I was alarmed with the bells ringing as they usually do for fire, and a great noise in the streets ; in a few minutes after, Captain lieutenant Goldfinch of the 14th regiment came into the house, and said, the drum was beating to arms ; upon which I went out, with captain lieutenant Goldfinch, lieutenant Mattear, 2d lieutenant Napier, and ensign Hallwood, all of the 14th regiment of foot ; and was much abused and threatened by the inhabitants, who had taken large sticks, and some of them musquets ; that, in going to join my regiment, which was at some distance, the inhabitants call'd out, " There they go ; damn them, kill them, murder them, stop them and kill them, &c." and I was then struck several times ; at last I received a blow with a stick which brought me to the ground, where I defended myself with my sword as well as I could, until 2d lieutenant Napier came to my assistance ; upon which they made off ; and going a little farther, I saw ensign Hallwood down, and three people striking at him with clubs and large bludgeons ; but on our coming up to his assistance, the people run away, and we joined our regiment.

ANDREW LAWRIE,

Ensign of the 14th regiment of foot.

Suffolk, ss. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 121.)

I Henry Dougan, acting surgeon of the 29th regiment, testify, that on Wednesday the 7th of March inst. between the hours of 9 and 10 at night, coming from the north-end of the town, passing by a number of people, inhabitants, armed with fire arms and clubs, one

one of them damn'd my foul and said, "I was a foldier;" another said, "I looked more like an officer, and that if I was either they would immediately sacrifice me;" another said, "he would soon discover if I belonged to the army;" upon which he came up to me and lifted my great coat to examine my drefs; finding me in colour'd cloaths, told the people, "I was neither foldier nor officer." I heard them repeatedly say, "they had but one life to lose, and that they were willing to lose it for their country;" and also said, "that Mr. Hancock said he had but one life, that he would lose it for his country, and why should not they? that they would oppose the troops, and prevent them taking the damn'd bougers out of jail."

HENRY DOUGAN.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 14th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 122.)

I James Vibart, lieutenant in the 29th regiment of foot, being duly sworn, do depose and say, that I have been many times insulted and abused in the streets of Boston, but most particularly on the 12th day of March instant, about 8 o'clock in the evening, as I was returning home from the coffee-house to my lodgings, I then received a blow from some person unknown with a stick or other weapon on my head, which wounded me on two places, and brought me to the ground, where I lay senseless some time. And I do further depose, that I did not at that time, or before the blow, speak a word, or give the least offence or provocation whatsoever, to any one for such treatment.

JAMES VIBART.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 14th, 1770.

Sworn before me, JAMES MURRAY, J. P.

(No. 123.)

Messieurs EDES & GILL,

Gentlemen,

AS the villainy of my servant (who is a boy under age, without principle, sense, or education, and indeed unacquainted with our language) has subjected myself and one of my friends to a suspicion that we were concerned in the unhappy transaction of Monday the 5th instant, I thought it necessary to publish the following affidavit as an additional (till further) proof of my innocence, and the extreme injury done my sentiments and reputation.

I am, Gentlemen,

16th March,
1770.

Your humble servant,

EDWARD MANWARING.

On

On Monday the 5th of this present March, 1770, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, I called upon Mr. Edward Manwaring, at his lodgings in Back-street, Boston, and immediately proceeded with him and Mr. John Monroe, to the house of Mr. Brown in Charlestown, to settle an affair between the said Brown and one Dr. Brown in Boston, relative to a horse which the last mentioned Brown had hired of the aforesaid Brown in Charlestown, where we staid till something after six in the evening, and returned to Mr. Manwaring's lodgings about seven, and sat ourselves down to spend the evening with him, which we accordingly did. About an hour and half after our arrival at the said Manwaring's lodgings, we heard the cry of fire in the street, and thereupon ran to the windows to be informed where it was, when some person made answer at the south-end; others in the street were also enquiring where it was, and they were answered "that they would soon see," and other expressions to the same purpose, which made us conclude, that something more was in the case than fire alone; on which we came to a resolution not to stir from the said Manwaring's apartment; soon after this determination, we were confirmed more in our former opinion by a noise in the street, and some people saying "four out of five were killed," which words, though we did not know the meaning of, fully satisfied us there was something more than fire. On this occasion Mr. Manwaring's boy several times attempted to go into the street to join the multitude, and once had got as far as the gate next the street, when Mr. Monroe fetched him back, and shut the gate after him. After this, Mr. Manwaring kept the said boy in his the said Manwaring's own room, being determined not to trust the said boy out of his sight. Then we, the said Edward Manwaring, John Monroe, myself, and Mrs. Hudson the landlady of the house, who was afraid to stay in her own apartment alone; I say, we the aforesaid persons sat over a bottle or two of mull'd wine 'till half an hour after ten, when the tumult seemed to be subsided, and Mr. Monroe proposed to go to his own lodgings, which Mr. Manwaring would have persuaded him from, apprehending there might be danger in so doing; but he persevered in the resolution of going, and went accordingly, but told us at parting, that if any tumult still remained he would immediately return, but if he did not return we might depend upon it all was quiet, and he did not return that night. After this, myself, Mr. Manwaring and Mrs. Hudson (and the boy still in company) remained together till about twelve the same night, when he left us to go to her own bed. After this, myself, Mr. Manwaring, and his boy sat up together about three hours longer; it being then too late for my returning to my own lodgings, Mr. Manwaring proposed my sleeping with him, which I accordingly did in the same bed, and the boy was ordered to go to his bed, which he accordingly

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did, it being in the same room. These particulars I could not suppress, in justice to Mr. Manwaring and Mr. Monroe.

MICHAEL ANGELO WARWELL.

15 March, 1770.

THE above named Michael Angelo Warwell above-named made oath to the truth of the above-written affidavit, taken at the request of the above-named Edward Manwaring, to perpetuate the remembrance of the thing.

Suffolk, s^t. Boston, March 15th, 1770.

Before R^t. DANA, J. P. and of the Quorum.

EDM. QUINCY,—J. Pacis.

(No. 124.)

At a Council held at the Council Chamber in Boston, upon Tuesday the 6th Day of March, 1770.

P R E S E N T.

HIS HONOUR the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Mr. Danforth,
Mr. Erving,
Mr. Hubbard,
Mr. Gray,

Mr. Russell,
Mr. Tyler,
Mr. Pitts,
Mr. Dexter.

THE town having been put into great disorder and confusion the last evening, by means of the king's troops firing upon the inhabitants, whereby three or four of them have been killed, and divers others wounded, his honour the lieutenant-governor ordered a council to be notified: The council being met, his honour opened to them the occasion, whereupon they advised him to send notice to colonel Dalrymple, the commanding officer of the troops, and to lieutenant-colonel Carr of the 29th, that the lieutenant-governor and council were now assembled on this unhappy occasion, and would be glad they would attend in council, while the matter was under discussion, and afford them such light as was in their power, respecting the affair under consideration. The commanding officers of the two regiments attended accordingly, when, in their presence, divers gentlemen of the council informed his honour the lieutenant-governor, That the people of this and some of the neighbouring towns were so exasperated and incensed on account of the inhuman and barbarous destruction of a number of the inhabitants by the troops, that they apprehended imminent danger of further bloodshed, unless the troops were forthwith removed from the body of the town, which in their opinion was the only method to prevent it.

While these matters were under debate in council, a committee from the town of Boston then assembled in town-meeting waited

on

on his honour the lieutenant-governor, most fervently praying. That his power and influence may be exerted for the immediate removal of the troops, as nothing less could rationally be expected to restore the peace of the town, and prevent bloodshed and carnage. No question was put to the council; but the several gentlemen of the council present expressed their sense of the necessity of the immediate removal of the troops from the town; and after they had conferred with colonel Dalrymple and colonel Carr upon the subject, his honour gave the following answer to the committee of the town, the same having been first read to the council, viz.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM extremely sorry for the unhappy differences between the inhabitants and the troops, and especially for the action of the last evening; and I have exerted myself upon the occasion, that a due inquiry be made, and that the law may have its course. I have in council consulted with the commanding officers of the two regiments which are in town: They have their orders from the general at New-York; it is not in my power to countermand his orders. The council have desired that the regiments may be removed to the castle. From the particular concern which the 29th regiment has had in these differences, colonel Dalrymple, who is the commanding officer of the troops, has signified to me, that that regiment shall be placed in the barracks at the castle, until he can send to the general and receive his further orders concerning both the regiments; and he has given me assurance that the main guard shall be removed, and the 14th regiment shall be so disposed, and laid under such restraint, that all future differences may be prevented.

The council was then adjourned to the afternoon, and being met, his honour received a second message from the town by a committee appointed for the purpose, in the words following, viz.

Voted, That a committee be appointed to wait on his honour the lieutenant-governor, and acquaint him, that it is the opinion of this meeting, consisting of near 3000 people, that his honour's reply is by no means satisfactory, and that nothing will satisfy the town, less than a total and immediate removal of the troops.

His honour the lieutenant-governor laid before the board the foregoing message of the town presented to him this afternoon, and then addressed them as follows, viz.

Gentlemen of the council, I lay before you a vote of the town of Boston, which I have just now received from them; and I now ask your advice what you judge necessary to be done upon it.

The council thereupon expressed themselves to be unanimously of opinion, That it was absolutely necessary for his Majesty's service, the good order of the town, and the peace of the province, that the

troops should be immediately removed out of the town of Boston ; and thereupon advised his honour to communicate this advice to colonel Dalrymple, and to pray that he would order the troops down to Castle William.

The following is the first message from the town of Boston, referred to in the foregoing proceedings in council, viz.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, at Faneuil-hall, March 6, 1770.

Voted, That it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that the inhabitants and soldiery can no longer dwell together in safety ; that nothing can rationally be expected to restore the peace of the town, and prevent blood and carnage, but the immediate removal of the troops ; and that Thomas Cushing, John Hancock, Joshua Hanshaw, Samuel Adams, Henderson Inches, Samuel Pemberton, Doctor Benjamin Church, John Ruddock, William Phillips, Ezekiel Goldthwait, Benjamin Auslin, Samuel Auslin, William Molineaux, Jonathan Mason, and Joseph Jackson, be a committee to wait upon his honour the lieutenant-governor, in the name of the inhabitants, and most fervently pray his honour, that his power and influence may be exerted for their instant removal.

N. B. Lieutenant-colonel Dalrymple of the 14th regiment, lieutenant colonel Carr of the 29th, and captain Caldwell, of his Majesty's ship Rose, were present in council, during the greater part of the forenoon, and the whole of the afternoon, while the foregoing proceedings were had in council.

The foregoing are true copies from the council-minutes.

Attest. JOHN COTTON, Secretary.



T. HUTCHINSON.

By the Honourable THOMAS HUTCHINSON, Esq; Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over his Majesty's Province of Massachusetts - Bay in New-England.

I Do hereby certify that Foster Hutchinson, Esq; is one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay abovesaid, and that full Faith and Credit is and ought to be given to his Acts and Attestations (as on the annexed Paper) both in Court and without.

In Testimony whereof I have caused the Public Seal of the aforesaid Province to be hereunto affixed this 13th Day of March 1770.—
In the tenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

By his Honour's Command,
JOHN COTTON, D. Sec'.

Province of the
Massachusetts-Bay, }

March 5, 1770.

THE lieutenant-governor having summoned a council to consider what was proper to be done in the state of disorder and confusion the people are at present in, occasioned by the troops firing upon the inhabitants the last evening, thereby killing three or four persons and wounding others: Previous to the debate, moved, That lieutenant-colonel Dalrymple and lieutenant-colonel Carr, might have notice to attend in council if they saw fit. They attended accordingly, when the matter was largely discussed in council; and while this was doing, a committee of the town desired to be admitted, who came in and delivered a message, declaring it to be the unanimous opinion of the meeting, that nothing can rationally be expected to restore the peace of the town, and prevent blood and carnage, but the immediate removal of the troops. The committee withdrew while the matter was debated in council; and colonel Dalrymple having signified

fied to the lieutenant-governor, that he was willing the 29th regiment, who had rendered themselves in a special manner obnoxious to the people by the concern they had in this unhappy affair, should be placed in the barracks at the castle, till he could receive orders from the general; the lieutenant-governor acquainted the committee accordingly, and the council was adjourned to the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the lieutenant-governor received another message from the town, acquainting him that it was the opinion of the meeting, consisting of near 3000 people, that nothing but a total and immediate removal of the troops would satisfy the town; and Mr. Adams, one of the committee, told colonel Dalrymple, That if he could remove the 29th regiment, he could also remove the 14th, and that it was at his peril if he did not. The lieutenant-governor laid the answer of the town before the board, who, after fully debating the matter, unanimously advised him to pray colonel Dalrymple to order the troops down to Castle William.

Previous to this advice, Mr. Tyler had said, "That it was not such people as had formerly pulled down the lieutenant-governor's house which conducted the present measures, but that they were people of the best characters among us — men of estates, and men of religion: That they had formed their plan, and that this was a part of it to remove the troops out of town, and after that the commissioners: That it was impossible the troops should remain in town; that the people would come in from the neighbouring towns, and that there would be 10,000 men to effect the removal of the troops, and that they would probably be destroyed by the people — should it be called rebellion — should it incur the loss of our charter, or be the consequence what it would." Divers other gentlemen adopted what Mr. Tyler had said, by referring expressly to it, and thereupon excusing themselves from enlarging. Mr. Russell of Charlestown and Mr. Dexter of Dedham, confirmed what he said respecting the present temper and disposition of the neighbouring towns; every gentleman spoke on the occasion, and unanimously expressed their sense of the necessity of the immediate removal of the troops from the town, and advised his honour to pray that colonel Dalrymple would order the troops down to Castle William; one gentleman *, to enforce it, said, "That the lieutenant-governor had asked the advice of the council, and they had unanimously advised him to a measure; which advice, in his opinion, laid the lieutenant-governor under an obligation to act agreeably thereto." Another gentleman † pressed his compliance with greater earnestness, and told him, "That if after this any mischief should ensue, by means of his declining to join with them, the whole blame must fall upon

* Mr. Grey.

† Capt. Erving.

him; but that if he joined with them, and colonel Dalrymple, after that, should refuse to remove the troops, the blame would then lie at his door." The lieutenant-governor all along declared, that he had no authority over the troops; yet as the council knew, by what had passed, that upon this desire colonel Dalrymple would consent to remove them. He, on this emergency, told the council, he would comply with their advice, and would desire it of him accordingly; and the colonel declared, "That upon receiving a letter from the lieutenant-governor to that purpose, he would do it." These declarations were made to the towns-committee, and were by them said to be reported to the town, still assembled in town-meeting; whereupon the minds of the people appeared to be quieted.

The council was adjourned to the next morning, to see the minutes made by the secretary of this day's proceedings set in order, as well as to do some other business that had been assigned over to that time.

The secretary, in his draft, expressed what had been said in debate, in these terms. — "Divers gentlemen of the council informed his honour the lieutenant-governor, They were of opinion, that it was the determination of the people to have the troops removed from the town; and that this was not the sense of the inhabitants of the town of Boston only, but of other towns in the neighbourhood, who stood ready to come in, in order to effect this purpose, be the consequence of it what it may; unless they shall be withdrawn by the commanding officers, which, in their opinion, was the only method to prevent the effusion of blood, and, in all probability, the destruction of his Majesty's troops, who must be overpowered by numbers, which would not be less than ten to one."

This form was allowed strictly to express the truth, but that it would not stand well on the council records. One of the gentlemen on the board prepared an amendment, as in the words following, — "That the people of this, and some of the neighbouring towns, were so exasperated and incensed, on account of the inhuman and barbarous destruction of a number of the inhabitants by the troops, that they apprehended imminent danger of further bloodshed, unless the troops were forthwith removed from the body of the town, which, in their opinion, was the only method to prevent it."—This amendment was substituted, and the minutes of the whole proceedings set in order and agreed to.

ANDREW OLIVER.

Suffolk, ff. Boston, March 13th, 1770.

ANDREW OLIVER, Esq; made oath before me the
subscriber, one of his Majesty's justices for this county, that
the foregoing by him subscribed was true.

FOSTER HUTCHINSON.

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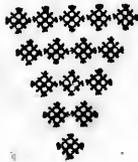
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