

REBELLION-AT PRINCETON.

Extract of a Letter from Princeton, N. J. dated Jan. 23, 1817.

"Have you heard that *Satan has fallen like lightning from Heaven* upon this college? I mean have you heard of the dreadful scenes through which we have been passing for several days? I will mention some of the particulars. Some difficulty seems to have existed between the Faculty and Students, for a considerable time. The students, it appears, have supposed that the lessons assigned them were of an unreasonable length, and that their requests requests that they might be abridged were treated a little too unceremoniously. They at length became very much exasperated, and last Saturday about fifty or sixty of them entered into a combination to alarm and insult the government. Accordingly about 1 o'clock Sunday morning, they assembled as silently as possible, fastened the outside doors, also the doors of the tutors, and those students who were not engaged in the conspiracy, and then raised a shout which was heard in almost every part of the town. Mr. Slack, the professor who lived nearest the college, immediately went to quell the disturbance, but found the doors all fastened. He, however, succeeded in climbing through a window, and he was no sooner discovered to be among them than the watch word "scupper" was given, and every man scampered to his room, and left the professor groping in the dark. Sunday and Monday college was comparatively quiet. On Tuesday a report was in circulation that the students had determined to blow up and burn the college, the next night. To anticipate the execution of this plan, the faculty assembled to examine the affair of Saturday night, and selected about 15 of the most suspicious characters and dismissed them. Several of them, however, were innocent, and the circumstance of their being unjustly dismissed, increased the opposition, and rendered the league which had been formed against the government, still more formidable. A paper went among them, which was subscribed by about a hundred who thus obligated themselves to resist the authority of college at any expense or hazard whatever. The *standard of rebellion* was now raised, all the college exercises were suspended, the students had taken possession of the college, and began to shout REBELLION. Just before night a meeting was held by the students in the prayer hall, and a committee appointed to remonstrate against the decision of the Faculty, and to request, or rather I believe, command, that the persons who had been dismissed should be restored, intimating at the same time that some heavy judgments were in store for them if they refused to comply. Yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, the Faculty announced to them in a very decided and peremptory manner, that they should not listen to any of their propositions. They repeated their remonstrances but without success. They then retired to the college, fastened all the outside doors, and placed large sticks of wood in the windows, which they threatened to throw upon the first person who attempted to open the doors. Almost every student was provided with a dirk and pair of pistols, beside a cask of powder they had obtained, nobody knows how, and by which it was supposed they would blow up the college. The college resounded with the most horrid yells which can be conceived. Now and then, they were to be seen coming out of the windows, marching about the college yard, brandishing their clubs, and dirks, uttering the most dreadful profanity, and performing all the horrid feats which you would expect from a company of mad Indians. The whole town was in a constant alarm all day. About 6 o'clock Col. Beatty's house was discovered to be on fire, but it had made so little progress that we found no difficulty in extinguishing it. Within 15 minutes we were alarmed a second time by the smell of smoke, and upon examination found that a fire had been kindled in the cellar, though it appeared to have been communicated but a few minutes before, and was also easily extinguished. No person in particular is suspected, though there is reason to believe that it was done, either by the instigation of the students or some incendiary, who wished to avail himself of an opportunity to plunder. The streets were patrolled as they have been several nights by 30

or 40 men, and the inhabitants were every moment anticipating the alarm of fire, till about 12 o'clock when it was actually given. The students had set fire to the college, but it had made so little progress that it was extinguished immediately. Before light the college was deserted by nearly all the rebels; seven only have been arrested. Several have left town with permission who were not engaged in the rebellion, and about 30 I suppose remain. After a complete purgation is made perhaps there may be 50 left. I went over the college this morning surveying the desolations. The doors and windows are nearly all broken, the furniture dashed to pieces, and REBELLION written on the walls every where. Mr. Saunders, one of the tutors, has, I am informed lost all his sermons and other valuable papers. The trustees are now in session, but their decision is not yet published. The government of college will be able fairly to establish their authority, but the injury to the institution must be incalculable. In the midst of all such convulsions, how consoling to reflect that "the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."