

said there was no fire, but he understood the soldiers were coming up to cut down liberty tree! then went out to make inquiry; before I had got into King street, met Mr. Walker the ship carpenter, and asked him what the matter was; he said the soldiers had sallied out from Smith's barracks, and had fallen on the inhabitants, and had cut and wounded a number of them, but that they were driven into the barracks; then went to my house to inform Mrs. Payne that it was not fire, apprehending she might be frightened; immediately went out again, there was nobody in the street at all; the sentry at the custom-house was walking as usual, nobody near him; went up towards the town house, where was a number of people and inquired of them what the matter was? They gave me the same account that Mr. Walker did. While I stood there, heard a noise in Cornhill, and presently heard a noise of some people coming up Silsby's alley; at first I imagined it was soldiers, and had some thoughts of retiring up the town house steps, but soon found they were inhabitants. Stood till they came up to me; I believe there might be twenty at the extent; some of the persons had sticks, some had not; believe there were as many with sticks as without; they made a considerable noise, and cried, "where are they? where are they?" There came up a barber's boy, and said the sentry at the custom-house had knocked down a boy belonging to their shop; the people then turned about and went down to the sentry; I was then left as it were alone; I proceeded towards

my own house; met Mr. Spear, the cooper, he said, "do not go away, I am afraid the main guard will come down;" told him I was more afraid of those people that had surrounded the sentry, and desired him, if he had any influence over them, to endeavor to take them off; when directly opposite to the custom-house saw a number of persons going up the steps, and heard a violent knocking at the door; the sentry stood by the box; then retired to my own house, and stood on the sill of my door; remained at my door, and Mr. Harrison Gray came up and stood there talking with me; the people were crying out, "fire! fire! damn you, why do you not fire?" Mr. Gray and I were talking of the foolishness of the people in calling the sentry to fire on them; in about a minute saw a number of soldiers come down from the main guard, and it appeared to me they had their muskets in a horizontal posture; they went towards the custom-house, and shoved the people from the house; at this time Mr. Bethune joined us on my steps at the door, and the noise in the street continued much the same as before, "fire! fire! damn you, fire! why do you not fire?" Soon after this, I thought I heard a gun snap, and said to Mr. Gray, there is a gun snapped, did you not hear it? He said "yes;" immediately a gun went off, I reached to see whether it was loaded with powder, or any body lying dead; heard three more, then there was a pause, and I heard the iron rammers go into their guns, and then there were three more discharged, one after another; it