

designed to prove to you, that on the evening of the 5th of March, the town was in a general commotion; that vast numbers of people were seen coming from all parts of the town, armed with clubs and sticks of various sizes, and some with guns; and that they assembled at and near King street; that fire was cried, and the bells rung to increase the collection; and from all this you might be induced to believe that there was a general design, in a great number of the inhabitants, to attack the soldiers: That it was the inhabitants who began the disorders of the evening, and that all the evils and mischiefs of it, were the effects of their disorderly conduct. But, if we will recollect the evidence, we shall find, that previous to all this collection a number of soldiers had come out of their barracks, armed with clubs, bayonets, cutlasses and instruments of divers kinds, and in the most disorderly and outrageous manner were ravaging the streets, assaulting every one they met, and even running out of their way to assault and endanger the lives of some of the most peaceable inhabitants who were standing at their own doors, and who neither did nor said any thing to them—and even vented their inhumanity on a little boy of twelve years of age—that some of them were conspiring and threatening to blow up Liberty tree in the same manner as had been lately done at New York; an account of which had just arrived. Consider also the testimony of a Colonel and others, who declare the outrageous appearance, behavior and threatening of the soldiers, at other times and places the same evening—and of those who give an account of the affray at Murray's barracks, where eighteen or twenty soldiers rushed out with cutlasses, etc., attacking all who came in their way, struck several persons, and cut an oyster-man on the shoulder, of whose testimony we are deprived by reason of his absence. This was probably the beginning of the affair at the barracks, of which so much has been said. There are yet other witnesses, to whose testimony I might refer, that you may consider in what light that transaction ought justly to be viewed; but I forbear.

The inhabitants, for a long time, had been fully sensible of