

the evil disposition and abusive behavior of many of the soldiers toward them; and the most peaceable among them had found it necessary to arm themselves with heavy walking sticks, as weapons of defense when they went abroad. This was the occasion of the appearance of sticks in the hands of many of the citizens, as has been stated; and which was nothing more than might have been expected on any other night.

In order to draw this affair to one point of view, you will consider the account given you of the affray at the ropewalks, at four or five different times, a few days before, in some of which three of the prisoners at the bar were present; and which began in consequence of abuse from one of the soldiers, and before the unseemly answer was given by a workman, one of the citizens of the town. The testimony of Col. H., a magistrate, and several others, goes to show that the behavior of those soldiers was so riotous, barbarous, ungoverned and ungovernable, as to fill the minds of the inhabitants with alarming prospects; which, when added to their conduct on the unhappy evening, would naturally give rise to all that appearance. There can be no doubt, but that the collection of people, which was seen that night, was occasioned by many different causes. It is in evidence, that it was a bright moonlight evening; the pleasantness of which, increased by a new fallen snow, induced many persons to be walking the streets; hearing of the outrages committed by the soldiers, they stopped to see and inquire into the matter. And some of them might join those who had been abused, and make preparation to defend themselves. Such were those who had been abused at the barracks, and ran down to Dock Square and began to pull the legs from the butcher's stalls, as testified by some of the witnesses introduced by the counsel for the prisoners. Great numbers were also brought by the cry of fire and ringing of bells; which, it appears, was repeated by the soldiers as well as by some of the inhabitants. Upon this, many came out of their houses with bags and buckets, as usual in case of fire; and as they collected, asked where the