

Monday 18th May 1800

My dear Watson,

"Chen. fugaces, Posthume, Posthuma,
"Saburum am."

If time, so precious to man, is lost, thus, uselessly or, life shortens, each moment, what must be the reflections of one who has sacrificed to Idleness, so great a part his life? But where, will he find consolation, when, so soon as he proposes, he has effected a resolution, and is employing himself in a manner, which may redound to his advantage, he is inclined to believe or to fear, at least, that his time is quite mispent?

Your time has been spent (or perhaps mispent) in trying to become a Lawyer. You are disappointed with your "progress" you are not pleased with being "very fat". All this, I suppose however, may be attributed, to that universal cause, which operates to make every one discontent, with his own lot, and we may ask, with Horace, "Qui fit, Macenas, ut nemo?"

The unfortunate disturbance, which took place, last winter, between the students, and professors of this College, if not fairly and circumstantially represented, might induce people not acquainted, then yourself with the professors, to draw unfavorable and unjust conclusions. That you may do justice to both parties, I will give ^{you} a relation of facts. You are ^{angry} ^{at} ^{the} ^{beginning}, but the storm spent its rage against the rocks

But to the narrative. — A student by the name of Smith, who by the by, is a very small man, had been repeatedly insulted, by the old post-master, Davis. Smith conceiving, that he had no other method of revenge, determined, (after he had taken a few glasses of wine) to repay Davis in his own coin. Accordingly, went to the P. Office, at night, whilst I was deciphering the papers, and indulged himself, in the most unrestrained and immoderate abuse of D. During this abuse, and unknown to Smith, Brachan was in the P. Office, & consequently, witness of S.'s conduct. Davis complained, in the morning, to the President, and Smith was summoned, before the society. Brachan gave in testimony, that S. made use of the most profane and obscene language, he ever heard. I plead guilty, but justified on the ground of a previous insult, and desired the professors to proceed. When they discovered, that he was resolved to justify his conduct, they did proceed to vote an expulsion. Mr. Tucker was no otherwise acting, I believe, than in examining the witness, and declaring his opinion. The ^{students} were then very much agitated, and did not hesitate to express the conduct of the professors, and particularly of Mr. Tucker. Some of them declared, that if the sentence were not revoked they would publish the injustice of the expulsion; and indeed, others went so far as to declare, that they would break the judges windows, if the expulsion were continued. A meeting of the students, was however held, to decide on some mode of proceeding to order to obtain a repeal of the decree. At this time a committee of five was appointed to address the professors. An address was drawn up, containing, a statement of the facts which would result to the object of their disapprobation, & des-

clarification of the injustice of the sentence, and paying a
penal throp. This was sent first to the Bishop, together with
depositions, to prove his previous inept, accompanied by a
letter from Smith acknowledging, that altho he had just
cause of resentment against Davis, he had chosen an Impro-
per time of expaying this resentment. After reading these
papers, the Bishop sent for me, and declared that he was
anxious, if possible, to revoke the sentence, but that he thought
the address of the Students calculated rather to confirm,
than to procure a revincement of, the decree. He expressed
a good deal of concern for Smith, and said that he was
of opinion, that if a proper address was sent on by the Stu-
dents, stating the general good conduct of S. (which they
might have done) and, besides acknowledge the impro-
prietly of his conduct and promise future good behaviour
the sentence might yet be repealed. Another Meeting was
called, and another address prepared, and rejected. The for-
mer was then sent to the other professors. Mr. Tucker had
the same opinion of it with the Bishop. They both de-
clared, that they would vote for its being thrown under
the table if it came before the Society. The professors had
a second and a third meeting on the occasion, and at length
determined to let the business drop and S. remain a student.
You have now a statement of the facts. I will only in jus-
tice to myself, ^{say} that during the transaction, I uniformly
opposed every measure, which would implicate the propriety
of the professors conduct. You will now be enabled to judge
of the conduct both of professors and Students.
Your observations on the motives which should influence

