

51
Dartmouth College Sep^r 20th 1782.

May it please your Honors.

The trustees of this College now convened are much affected with a sense of the cruel abuses and sufferings of the College in its rights and interests at the present crisis with regard to the unhappy affairs of Landaff; of which you are not ignorant. We have been in peaceable possession of that township for several years under a title which we always supposed indisputable; and it was certainly so esteemed by the late Governor when he made us the grant. We have been at great expence in the improvements of lands, erecting houses, mills &c in that place, as well as in the improvement of other donations made to the Seminary; and all with a view and sincere desire that the Institution might be a great and peculiar emolument and blessing to this State and extensively so to these new plantations and to the world.

The design we are sure your Honor must approve as laudable and important and any obstruction of it must be a grief to you as well as to us. Yet within a few days past a number of evil minded persons (whom we are sorry to esteem enemies to the interest of learning and the good order of the community) have in opposition to human reason and the laws of the State made forcible entry and seizure on the town of Landaff (the donation of which was a principal motive of the location of the college)

to the

to the great terror and disturbance of the industrious and peaceable inhabitants, whereby they are much injured in their properties and the College in danger of being defrauded of a valuable part of its revenue, and it is apprehended that many alarming consequences may follow.

We therefore most earnestly make application to your Honors the Council of Safety as a board having full powers in the recess of the General Assembly to restrain all disorders and quiet all disturbances of this nature - we apply to your Honors as our political fathers, as the peculiar friends and supporters of righteousness and peace, as the eminent friends of religion and learning, that you would in your great wisdom and goodness immediately interpose with the whole weight of your authority to suppress and quiet the cruel disorders abovementioned, that your Honors will by no means leave those matters to run through a long and tedious course of common law, when (as we humbly conceive) you have full power to regulate and quiet those disturbances in a far more eligible and expeditious manner.

We earnestly intreat your Honors to think with great attention and compassion on the vast importance of this infant though very growing seminary of literature; to think of the signal hand of the Most High towards it from its beginning to this day, to think with all the compassion and goodness of your benevolent hearts

on

on the gloomy embarrassments now thrown around it,
and how much you have in your power to do in favor of
that which the Deity himself delights in, and which has
ever engrossed the attention of the great the learned and
the good.

Your Honors will please to consider that we have in this matter
no private interest or advantage; we labor, we toil, we journey,
we spend our substance without reward. We have nothing in
view but the advancement of learning and religion, and
the highest good of mankind. We cannot endure to see this
most promising Seminary crushed in its early rising
youth; and our good political fathers must be affected
in like manner at the thought of it.

Your Honors well know the special privileges that belong
to all institutions of this nature, and how necessary it is
that those in civil power are nursing fathers to them at all
times. You are also sensible that certain privileged persons
are now under an unprecedented arrest and made State
prisoners.

We leave it with the reverend Doctor Whitaker to give
your Honors more particular information with regard to
the abuses and troubles we now labour under; and confide
in your wisdom goodness and firm attachment to the interests
of learning and religion and the good order of the State.
We have the honor to be, with great esteem and respect

Your most obedient and humble Servants

The President and Trustees of Dartmouth College

By order of the Board

Hon^{ble} Council of Safety
for the State of New Hampshire.

Berza Woodward Secy

Dartmouth 20th Dec

N^o 1

~~See the following~~

[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]