



11  
Brunswick April 9<sup>th</sup> Friday evening

All have gone to bed, and I have thrown aside [?] to engage in an occupation far more congenial to my own feeling, that of answering your entertaining letters. I will answer all your charges against me in the first place, my letters you say are short, I ask what a student can find to fill up a sheet of paper with, except the relation of college scraps if such an overblown expression may be used. As to the other I shall not answer u; for you know our opinions are somewhat different upon the infallibility of the christian scriptures

Perhaps you may have heard of the unhappy circumstances which have lately occurred, but as you may have been misinformed I will give you a relation of the whole—

On fast day William Brown drank so much egg poff that he was obliged to leave the meeting house in sermon time in a state of ——— Mr Mead in the afternoon very imprudently & insultingly alluded to this circumstance in his sermon which produced an instantaneous burst of indignation from a considerable number of the students, who scraped him —

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society  
Date: April 9, 1823  
Description: George Pierce on Bowdoin incident

But it was not to end here, the next day the senior class chose a committee to wait upon Mr Mead & request him to state what were his intentions for so doing & require of him some acknowledgment in behalf of the party injured, but they obtained no satisfaction, they then drew up a petition to the government requesting leave to attend public worship in the chapel, which was signed by all the students except 15 to which the government has not yet returned an answer, this petition I signed, not from any bad feelings toward Mead but because I prefer the preaching of any on the government to his ———

In the mean time the parish together with Mead made a great noise against the proceedings of the students and threatened to bring the affair before the civil authority if the government did not act upon it immediately. Brown was called on and reprimanded for his conduct on Saturday & was to wait for his sentence the next week. On Monday night some person committed an act as daring as it was infamous, they hung Mead in effigy upon the haystacks and in his pocket was found a ridiculous song entitled, "The last words & dying confession of the Rev Pirate Ora Mead," who was first scraped by the students and afterwards left by them, who before composed the greatest part of his congregation. The next day Brown was sent off on a what conditions I know not. The government are exerting themselves to find out ~~wether~~ who hung the effigy it is doubtful wether they succeed ———

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of all these ab[?] transactions I would have you distinctly to understand that I took no part - excepting, I signed the petition to attend meeting in the chapel which I do not regret —

It is a time of great anxiety & exultation in college & in town those students scraped are willing to make an acknowledgment to the congregation but not to Mead, the indignation of the students in general is great & I fear the same will be acted over on Sunday ensuing for last Sunday Mead took the petition to exchange with Ellingwood of Bath, but a breach is made between the town & college which will not be easily closed

I have read this term 2 vol of Bertram's American Revolution, and vol. 9 read last term. I am now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> vol of Lorenzo De Medici's [page torn] is the most interesting biographical work I ever read, Lorenzo was a striking instance of the union of the social virtues with the most profound learning & civil talents. He was possessed of many virtues which were rarely found in the age in which he lived

Nancy has a daughter for which I am sorry. I congratulate you on the new dignity which has been lately been conferred upon you by the inhabitants of Gorham & hope your influence will be as extensive in Gorham as our fathers is in Baldwin.

The exhibition will be on the third ~~day~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~Monday~~ <sup>Monday</sup> of May —

From your affectionate Brother  
George

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