THE BOSTON MASSACRE & CORROBORATION: PRIMARY SOURCE EXCERPT

An account of a late military massacre at Boston, or the consequences of quartering troops in a populous town, March 12, 1770.

[New York: John Holt, 1770]

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On the evening of Monday, being the 5th current, several soldiers of the 29th regiment were seen parading the streets with their drawn cutlasses and abusing and wounding numbers of the [town?]…. The people were immediately alarmed with the report of this horrid massacre, the bells were set a ringing, and great numbers soon assembled at the place where this tragical scene had been acted; their feelings may be better conceived than expressed; and while some were taking care of the dead and wounded, the rest were in consultation what to do in these dreadful circumstances…. Tuesday morning presented a most shocking scene, the blood of our fellow-citizens running like water thro' King-street, and the Merchant's Exchange, the principal spot of the military parade for about 18 months past. Our blood might also be track'd up to the head of Long-Lane, and thro' divers other streets and passages. At eleven o'clock, the inhabitants met at Faneuil-Hall, and after some animated speeches, becoming the occasion, they chose a Committee of 15 respectable Gentlemen, to wait upon the Lieut. Governor in Council, to request of him to issue his orders for the immediate removal of the troops. The Message was in these Words:

“THAT it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting that the inhabitants and soldiery can no longer live together in safety; that nothing can rationally be expected to restore the peace of the town and prevent further blood and carnage, but the immediate removal of the troops; and that we therefore most servently pray his Honour, that his power and influence may be exerted for their instant removal.”

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See https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.10401000/ for full document, or see https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/brittwow/account.html for a longer excerpt from American Memory Timeline.