

## The Boston Riot of 1835, Newspaper Article

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Excerpted from the *Hampshire Gazette*, October 28, 1835.

### The Boston Riot

The riotous proceedings on Wednesday of last week in our literary emporium seem to require of the public press something more than a bare detail of facts. From the tone of most of the Boston papers, we should suppose that much credit was due to the mob for their gentlemanly conduct and dignified demeanor, rather than that a flagrant outrage upon personal liberty had been committed.

The moving cause of the rout was a notice given by certain ladies that the *female* abolition society would hold a meeting at their room in Washington Street. The Centinel says, it being expected that Thompson would address the meeting, a large body of *respectable* citizens assembled to prevent it...The Boston Gazette says that Garrison was protected by the four walls of prison 'just in season to save him from a fate he well deserved, and which no one can contemplate without a shudder!'...All the Boston papers that we have seen attribute more blame to the abolitionists than to the 'respectable' mob, except the Courier and Post...

In defense of Garrison we do not now speak. Admitting him to be a hot-headed enthusiast, a notoriety hunter and all that his enemies represent him, it is enough to know, in order to condemn the conduct of the gentleman rioters, that he is an American citizen, and that there is no pretending that he has committed any offence against the laws of the land or morality...In the land of the free, in one of its most refined cities, in sight of the building where liberty was first cradled, in open and broad day, citizens calling themselves 'respectable', to the number of five thousand, roused by the notice for a meeting of females, have assembled in riot, and hunted down...an innocent, terror-stricken man, whose greatest offence is, that he has used that liberty which God had given him, and which the constitution has guaranteed to him, in wrestling in behalf of the oppressed...

Away with this prating about the freedom and the equality of men, and constitutional principles, so long as three millions of people are held in fetters, and he who raises his voice for them with that liberty of speech wherewith the constitution has made him free, is hunted down like a wild beast, escapes death at the hands of an infuriated mob only by crawling for refuge into the cell of one who may have forfeited his life by crimes, and there thanks his Maker for the protection afforded him in the dank vapors of a dungeon.

### Source

*Hampshire Gazette*, October 28, 1835. [A weekly newspaper published at Northampton, Massachusetts.] Edited by Old Sturbridge Village.