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Title: Letter from Albert Slape to James Munroe

Date: February 4, 1856

Location: I-CowdreyM-1955-1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
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respectfully asking them to re-
-consider the matter and re-in-
-state them and they treated it
with scorn now we have sent
one in having ourselves pledged
that "we will not attend any
College duty, until they are re-
-instated to their former positions"
and this is signed by all the
F. Class excepting four or five, by
all the Sophs. excepting four, all
the Juniors excepting 6 or 8, and
all the Seniors excepting 3 or 4.
The Faculty are determined to
maintain authority, and the stu-
-dents are bound to carry their
point. both are determined. Living
Marshall says before they retract
every Hall shall be vacant, not
a student remain. The students
are all getting ready to leave
for home each regarding his
signature to that paper as good
as his oath. Such is the affair,
and the crisis has not even yet
arrived. but I do not fear it

Dickinson College
Feb 4th 1836

Dear Munroe

Most gladly do
I "reprobate" your welcome
epistle, and would have ^{been} very
happy had I had the oppor-
-tunity of doing it before, but
never mind the past, it is now
a very fit time to answer your
letter, as you wished me to keep
you posted in college affairs
I will give you a little dis-
-cription of the way in which
matters and things are con-
-ducted in Old Dickinson. Our
Class forever! Great excitement
in Old Dickinson!! Students in
direct rebellion, one hundred
on the point of leaving for their
homes!! &c Such is the present

- write more. give my love to - demand and also tell me "Lib" of -
dissatisfied, I am very much
pleased with some things in
College life, while in other things
I am perfectly disgusted. I
like the fellows very much.
but I have already learned, as
you kindly advised me, not
to trust too much to outward
appearances, although I believe
that most of them are true and
honorable, yet I know human
nature is capable of such deceit
and such dishonesty, that it is
always best not to take a friend
until he has proved himself one
although I am, by my own nature
more liable to trust one, than
to suspect him yet the know-
ledge of this will serve to keep
my eyes open. you will please
excuse the haste of this letter,
but as I wish you to get the
news from the seat of war, at
the earliest date possible. I send
it as soon as possible. Knowing that
you will not think I have slight-
ed your letter in answering it so quick-
ly but have done it from the press of time.

if they refuse to act honorably.
I will willingly "take up my
bed and walk" and if so you
will see me in Pennington Hall
Seminary as soon as I can get there
until next year when I will make
a strike for Wesleyan University,
but I do not apprehend any
thing so serious I think the
Faculty will surrender them if so
we will go on in our accus-
tomed manner "biting Latin stems
and digging Greek roots". I tell
you Monroe we have a bully
Class numbering about fifty
and they are all tip top fel-
-lows. Study hard and care for no-
-body. Here I have been surru-
-ing on all this nonsense and
have not pretended to answer your
letter but you will excuse me for
my mind naturally runs on this

state of affairs in this, your
honored and beloved Institution.
I don't suppose the walls of East
College ever saw such a rebel-
-ion, at least as it is said by
many, but now as I have your
Curiosity sufficiently aroused
perhaps you would like to know
the cause of all this. Well, now,
just go up in your room and
sit down like a good boy and
I will tell you all supposing
you have taken my advice &
are now safely seated in your
room I will commence by
saying, Proff Tiffany's black-
-board, on a certain night about
a week ago was thought by
some person or persons to stand
greatly in need of a coat of Tar
(it being a very cold night) and ac-
-cordingly it was put on. and as
our Class had a very hard see-

statement that morning they had the
presumption to accuse us of do-
-ing it, accordingly four members
from Our Class (J. M. C. Hulse, J.
J. Maglaphlin, C. Hepburn &
H. Lane) after much peeping
and prying by the Faculty were
openly accused of "tarring the bo-
-ard" and without any substan-
-tial evidence they have been dis-
-missed. Such is the case in a
few words. They are, at least two
of them, an innocent '76 & '76. I
know that the Freshman Class
the Junior & the Senior Classes
as well as our Class were very
well represented upon that
very interesting occasion and
next from all the College, these
four have been selected and
with no more proof than atta-
-ches itself to any one of the others.
We sent a Petition to the Faculty

which is the current topic I
will refrain from boresing you
any more about it but just re-
-uest you to keep me on the
subject and for particulars I
refer you to the "Baltimore Sun"
"Baltimore Clipper" or the "N. Y. Her-
-ald" (if ~~the~~ all is true) I have
not yet visited Porters and I am
very much obliged to you for
your kind letter of introduction,
and modesty will certainly com-
-pel me to blush of your flattering
letter when I present it. a D
should have said, before I pre-
-sent it. I have met Miss Sallie
on the streets several times, and
am very much pleased with
the appearance of the lady.
I take your advice in reference
to those "fine looking young ladies
whom we often see on the streets"
I have already had several por-
-

trats sent out to me, but as I do
not intend making their ac-
-quaintance I have not been par-
-ticular about remembering them,
and so cannot tell for the
names of a single one, except-
-ing one whom the fellows call
the "Black Swan" or the "Campus
walker" — there are a great
many fellows who visit P's
so many that it is said Miss
Fanny is engaged for church
for the next three weeks and
by different gentlemen. I was
much amused by that affe-
-ctionate letter from Clara Mon-
-tiner and anticipate much
sport for you both, in reference
to a certain article (which in a
letter is unmentionable). I would
nearly add, it has appeared, you
understand what I mean. I
am sorry I have none, but I was

letter was dated
2/4/1.856



John A. Munroe A.B.
Permington
N.Y.

Stamp cancelled by post office

Albert H. Slape to James Andrew Munroe, Feb. 4, 1856

Dickinson College
Feb 4th 1856

Dear Munroe

Most gladly do I reciprocate your welcome epistle, and would have been very happy had I had the opportunity of doing it before, but never mind the past. It is now a very fit time to answer your letter, as you wished me to keep you posted in college affairs. I will give you a little description of the way in which matters and things are conducted in Old Dickinson. Our Class forever! Great excitement in Old Dickinson!! Students in direct rebellion, one hundred on the point of leaving for their homes!! &c. Such is the present

state of affairs in this, your honored and beloved Institution. I don't suppose the walls of East College ever saw such a rebellion, at least so it is said by many but now as I have your curiosity sufficiently aroused perhaps you would like to know the cause of all this. Well, now, just go up in your room and sit down like a good boy and I will tell you all. Supposing you have taken my advice & are now safely seated in your room I will commence by saying, Proff Tiffany's blackboard, on a certain night about a week ago was thought by some person or persons to stand greatly in need of a coat of tar (it being a very cold night) and accordingly it was put on. And as our class had a very hard rec-

itation that morning, they had the presumption to accuse us of doing it. Accordingly four members from Our Class (J. M. C Hulsey, J. Maglaughlin, C. Hepburn, & H. Lane) after much peeping and prying by the Faculty were openly accused of "tarring the board" and without any substantial evidence they have been dismissed. Such is the case in a few words. They are, at least two of them, are innocent – H. and H. I know that the Freshman Class, The Junior & the Senior Classes as well as our class were very well represented, upon that very interesting occasion and yet from all the college, these four have been selected and with no more proof than attaches itself to any one of the others. We sent a Petition to the Faculty

respectfully asking them to reconsider the matter and reinstate them and they treated it with scorn. Now we have sent one in having ourselves pledged that "we will not attend any college duty, until they are reinstated to their former positions" and this is signed by all the F. Class excepting four or five, by all the Soph's excepting four, all the Juniors excepting 6 or 8, and all the Seniors excepting 3 or 4. The faculty are determined to maintain authority, and the students are bound to carry their point. Both are determined. Jimmy Marshall says before they retract every Hall shall be vacant, not a student remain. The students are all getting ready to leave for home each regarding his signature to that paper as good as his oath. Such is the affair, and the crisis has not even yet arrived, but I do not fear it

if they refuse to act honorably. I will willingly “take up my bed and walk” and if so you will see me in Pennington Male Seminary as soon as I can get there until next year when I will make a strike for Wesleyan University, but I do not apprehend any thing so serious. I think the faculty will reinstate them, if so we will go on in our accustomed manner “biting latin stems and digging Greek roots.” I tell you Munroe we have a bully class numbering about fifty and they are all tip top fellows. Study hard and care for nobody. Here I have been running over all this nonsense and have not pretended to answer your letter but you will excuse me for my mind naturally rans on this

which is the current topic. I will refrain from boring you any more about it but just request you to keep mum on the subject and for particulars I refer you to the “Baltimore Sun,” “Baltimore Clipper,” or the “N.Y. Herald” (if all is true). I have not yet visited Porter’s and I am very much obliged to you for your kind letter of introduction, and modesty will certainly compel me to seal your flattering letter when I present it. As I should have said, before I present it. I have met Miss Sallie on the streets several times, and am very much pleased with the appearance of the lady. I take your advice in reference to those “fine looking young ladies whom we often see on the streets.” I have already had several poin-

ted out to me, but as I do not intend making their acquaintance I have not been particular about remembering them and so cannot tell you the names of a single one, excepting one whom the fellows call the “Black Swan” or the “Campus Walker” – There are a great many fellows who visit P’s so many that it is said Miss Fanny is engaged for church for the next three weeks and by different gentlemen. I was much amused by that affectionate letter from Clara Mortimer and anticipate much sport for you both, in reference to a certain article, (which in a letter is unmentionable). I would merely add, it has appeared. You understand what I mean. I am sorry I have none, but I was

disappointed. I am very much pleased with some things in college life while in these things, I am perfectly disgusted. I like the fellows very much, but I have already learned, as you kindly advised me, not to trust too much to outward seeming, although I believe that most of them are true and honorable, yet I know human nature is capable of such deceit and such dishonesty, that it is always best not to take a friend until he has proved himself one. Although I am, by my own nature more liable to trust one, than to suspect him, yet the knowledge of this will serve to keep my eyes open. You will please excuse the haste of this letter, but as I wish you to get the news from the seat of war, at the earliest date possible, knowing that you will not think I have slighted your letter in answering it so quickly but have done it from the press of time. Write soon, give my love to Leonard and also “tell me “lots”” Slape