

that gentleman's lectures on an interesting topic in chemistry, of which he was to offer some new illustration. On my arrival at his lecture-room, the class being already seated, I was unable to procure a seat near to the professor, without more trouble and inconvenience than I was willing either to encounter myself or to impose on others. That I might occupy, therefore, the best position attainable, from which to witness the experiments that were to be performed, I took my station (for I did not sit down) on one of the back and loftiest seats in the room. In his attempted illustrations the professor, as usual, was not very successful; and no sooner was his lecture concluded, than there arose a loud but not a general hiss, which continued a few seconds, and was once or twice repeated.

At first I believed that the mark of disrespect was designed for Dr. Coxe. And so indeed did the professor himself, and was momentarily much disconcerted and agitated by it; and the class itself became highly excited. At length a voice exclaimed: "Caldwell—it is Caldwell that is hissed—not Dr. Coxe." I then advanced into a more conspicuous part of the room, and with a menacing action of my arms toward the place from which the sound had reached me, exclaimed in a calm and contemptuous voice: "I know of but three sorts of vermin that vent their spleen by hissing; an enraged cat, a viper, and a goose; and I knew not till now, that either of them infested this room." On this, from the same quarter came the cry: "Turn him out! turn him out!" And there was immediately around me a party of my own pupils, chiefly from the States of Georgia and Kentucky, to whom I was communicating instruction by lectures and examinations; and who, apprehensive that I might be assaulted, requested me to accompany them out of the room, and they would protect me. My immediate reply, calm and courteous, but as positive as words and manner could make it, was: "I thank you, gentlemen, for your proffered kindness; but I do not need it. I can protect myself." Raising then my voice, so as to be heard throughout the room, I added: "From this spot I will not move, until those insolent fellows shall have left the room, unless they remain in it (looking at my watch) until twelve o'clock, at which time I must leave it myself to make good an engagement. And should any one of them have the audacity to approach me as an assailant, he shall