An 1802 Petition on Dining at Yale College

To the President of Yale College,

Sir,

Sensible of the important purposes for which the Commons were originally designed, and convinced of the salutary consequences of which they might else be pernicious, we cannot but regret the inexpedient practice of so valuable a institution with such exceptions, and with the provision, that the President is ignorant of the conduct of those employed in the Hall, we beg leave respectfully to recommend and submit to his consideration the following facts:

1. We have satisfactory proof that they have in a warrantable manner converted their own deserted article, belonging to the kitchen.
2. They have screwed up a part of our provision in a most palatable manner, which, for a reasonable reward, they have appropriated to the use of individuals.
3. They have continually harboured the low...
To the President of Yale College.

Sir,

Sensible of the important purposes for which the Commons was originally designed, and convinced of the salutary consequences of which they might still be productive, we cannot but regret the unfortunate perversion of so valuable an institution.

With these impressions, and with the presumption that the President is ignorant of the conduct of those employed in the Hall, we beg leave respectfully to remonstrate, and submit to his consideration the following facts.

- 1st. We have satisfactory proof that they have unwarrantably converted to their own use sundry articles belonging to the kitchen.
- 2d. They have served up a part of our provision, in a more palatable manner, which, for a pecuniary reward, they have appropriated to the use of individuals.
- 3d. They have continually harboured the low, riotous, and immoral inhabitants of this town.
4th. They are destitute of cleanliness.
5th. By deserting the hall, for the purpose of prosecuting their own private, they have shamefully neglected the duties of their occupation.
6th. They have in the presence of the more young and inexperienced students, traduced the character of the Authority.
7th. They admit into the hall, to the exclusion of others, those who will furnish them with spiritous liquors.
8th. They have appropriated to their own use much more than an equitable portion of the better provisions provided by the steward.
9th. They are notorious for excessive drinking.
10th. They are openly profane.
11th. They constantly violate the sabbath, by admitting into their company disreputable persons, and by diverting themselves with ludicrous and improper amusements.

It is therefore the unanimous request of the Junior Class that for these and many other improprieties, the President would take into consideration the conduct of the Cooks and make such regulations as he shall think proper.

Isaac C. Bates, Wm. F. Brainard, Jeremiah Evarts, Junius Smith, Committee in behalf of the Class