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From the Washington Globe, Sept. 15.

MR. EATON'S REPLY

To Messrs, Ingham, Branch and Berrien,
OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LATE CABINET.

City of Washington,
September, 1831.

TO THE PUBLIC:

It is with extreme reluctance that I appear before the public, upon a subject purely of a personal character. To me nothing could be more painful than the necessity of bringing into discussion, in the newspapers, any thing which concerns my private and domestic relations. In civilized society, a man's house is his castle, and the circle of his family a sanctuary never to be violated. He who drags before the public its helpless inmates, and subjects them to rude assaults, deserves to be considered worse than a barbarian. Against those who commit such sacrilege, and shun an honorable accountability, the public will justify an appeal, which under other circumstances, might not be considered admissable. I expect not by this effort to silence those who have been assailing all that is dear to me. It may open afresh the fountains of their abuse. It is probable, that the very remorse and shame which an accurately drawn picture may produce, will excite my persecutors to raise clouds of fresh calumnies to break upon me with redoubled fury. Let it all come! my head is uncovered, and my bosom bare.

There is another consideration which would seem to impose silence. These are times of angry political contest, unsuited to dispassionate inquiry. Already have the enemies of the President made use of my private relations to injure and harrass him. In attempting to represent him as devoting his thoughts and his power to further my views and wishes they seek to blind the people to the principles and acts of his administration. They will doubtless seize even upon my humble efforts at self-vindication as means of promoting that design, seriously calculating by their machinations, that the people of the United States may be wrought into a "tempest of passion," and thus induced to forget the signal success of his foreign negotiations, and the unparralleled prosperity, and happiness which, under his administration our country enjoys.

But to all these consequences I submit myself with entire resignation. A portion of the community will at least do me justice. They will perceive that the President is in no need of any developments from me to give proofs of his integrity, and that it is not for his sake paramount duty which I owe to myself and to my family, and which shall be performed. Others may conceive, but I cannot describe, the pain those attacks have inflicted. It was indeed enough that I was assailed in private circles, while I was in office, but retiring from its labors, with a view to sit down at my home, in Tennessee, it was but a reasonable expectation to indulge, that I might escape a repetition of these assaults, and be permitted to enjoy my fireside and friends in peace. But instead of putting an end to this unfeeling war, my resignation served to make my enemies more bold. What before was whispered in dark corners, now glared in the columns of the newspapers. Men who had been my friends—who has received favours at my hands—who had partaken of the hospitilities of my house, and given pledges of friendship at my own board, became my deadliest enemies, while I still confided in them.

I sought that redress which wrongs so wanton and deadly provoked, and which public opinion, under such circumstances, has always justified. It was refused in a way which added insult to injury; and I was then accused by one of the malignant calumniators, as having sought revenge at the head of a band of assassins Not satisfied with privately injuring me in my own and the honor of my household, and shrinking from an honorable and just accountability, these persons have, one after another, come before the public to give countenance and sanction to the calumnies of a reckless press Mr Ingham. Mr. Branch, and Mr. Berrien, with evident concert, and deliberate design, by filling the country with erroneous and discoloured statements, and substituting falsehood for truth have sought to consummate the ruin which their conduct in office so insidiously began.

What can I do? What course adopt? There are persons committed to my charge who are dear to me. I am their only protector. Shall I see them murdered, by men who claim the polish and the culture of civilized life, and not lift my hand and my voice for their rescue? These gentlemen express a desire to preserve their characters, as precious inheritance for their children. Is the good name of a *mother*, of less value to her orphan daughters? Did they forget that she whom so relentlessly they pursue, and who in nothing ever wronged them, has two innocent little children, whose father lies buried on a foreign shore? Had these little ones ever injured them? Were they and their mother so much in the way of these gentlemen that in their malignity they should consent to sap the foundation of their prospect in life! Had they no remorse, in conspiring and seeking to rob them of all that villany and fraud had left them—the inheritance of a mother's good name. And if they could be stimulated in their addresses to the public, by the desire of transmitting to *their* children a spotless honor and an unsullied name, what might not be expected of me, in defence of the slandered wife of my bosom, and her helpless, unprotected children? Attacks on myself, I disregard. A man's character is in his own hands; in his bosom he knows how to protect it. It is by his own acts only, that he can be degraded.—Not so with a female. The innocent and the guilty alike, the envenomed tongue of slander may reach and destroy. It is a withering blast, which can blight the sweetest rose as well as the most noisome weed.

Although I expect nothing at the hands of those who can violate the laws of social life, and, all the precepts of "holy charity," yet by an exposure of their motives and designs, I may be able to render their future malignity powerless. This induces me to make this appeal to my countrymen, and to their award to trust it. There is in the public mind intuitive honour—a native sense of justice, which revolts at wanton attacks on female character, and in the end will visit the unfeeling with terrible retribution. To these I appeal, and on these only, not in the hope to silence the malignant and the vindictive assailants but to make their attacks to recoil upon themselves.

A place in Gen. Jackson's Cabinet, by me, was never desired. My ambition was satisfied with a seat in the Senate which *thrice* had been kindly bestowed upon me, by my fellow citizens of Tennessee. Distrust in my competency to discharge the duties of one of the Departments and a reluctance to encounter its labors, induced me to prefer my situation in the Senate.

About to enter upon untried scenes, with a limited knowledge of the character and feelings of those by whom he was to be surrounded, the President felt anxious to have near him some of his long tried personal friends, in whom he had entire confidence. He desired that Judge White my colleague in the Senate, or myself, should accept one of the Departments. I urged it upon Judge White, because I considered him better qualified, and better adapted to the station, than myself. He declined it. I then felt it to be my duty to accept the offer of the President. He had just lost the partner of his bosom, and was solitary and disconsolate. As in his kindness he seemed to think I could be serviceable to him, it did not seem consistent with the friendly relations which had long subsisted between us, to leave him at such a moment.

Mr. Van Buren was appointed, because the President had confidence in his talents and integrity, and because he appeared to be the expectation of the country. Mr. Ingham was selected, for the reason that the President was *induced* to believe that the democracy of Pennsylvania desired it. Mr. Barry from a confidence reposed in him by the President, derived from his personal knowledge of his worth and merits. Between the first and last named gentleman and myself, the most cordial friendship has always subsisted; nothing has ever arisen to interrupt in the least our friendly intercourse.

Mr. Branch and myself were born and reared in the same county in North Carolina, educated at the same college and had been associates and friends, in early and in more advanced life. I solicited his appointment as a member of the Cabinet, and at the President's request informed him of the selection. He made no objection—not the least, save on the score of a modest distrust of his competency, and expressed at the time much gratitude towards the President, and exhibited much good feeling towards myself.

With Mr. Berrien I had been on terms of intimacy, and supposing him to be a man of talents and honor, was pleased that he was selected. The President requested me to confer with him in relation to his acceptance. At that time we were in habits of the kindest intercourse. He seemed highly flattered by this manifestation of the President's confidence except intimating a possible interference with his private business. The next day he informed me that he would accept, which reply I communicated to the President.

I met all the members of the Cabinet as friends, personal and political, to whom was assigned the high destiny, by harmony of feeling among themselves, of giving unity of design and vigor of action to the administration of General Jackson. In the same light I am sure, did he consider us. In the singlessness of his heart and the ardor of his patriotism, suspected not that there was amongst us any other object, than, by our cordial support, to enable him in the Cabinet, as he had done in the field, "to fill the measure of his country's glory." Far otherwise were the feelings and purposes of Messrs. Ingham, Branch and Berrien, as in the course of this exposition will I believe, satisfactorily and fully appear.

Mr. Berrien in a late address to the public says:

"The announciation of the names of the intended Cabinet seemed, to me, however to "present an insuperable bar to my acceptance "of the office which was tendered to me. I "thought I foresaw clearly the evils which "have too obviously resulted from the selection. A gentleman high in the confidence "of the President.—whom he consulted, expressed his decided conviction, founded on "a long and intimate knowledge of the Presi"dent's character, that he would himself speedily see, and correct the evil.' I yielded to "those suggestions, and took my seat in the Ca"binet."

A writer in the Telegraph, of the 14th July, last, believed to be Mr. Berrien, speaking in behalf of Mr. Ingham, makes the following remarks:

"Pending the organization of the Cabinet, the President was informed by several persons of high standing, and those his strong party supporters, that there were objections to Major Eaton, which would lead to difficulties not likely to be removed." "It was not necessary for Mr. Ingham to take any part in the affair. Every one knew that public sentiment would in due time, concentrate on what was amiss, and correct it."

In the Telegraph of the 28th July, probably by the same writer, it is asked:

By whose advice was it, that Judge McLean was arranged to the War Department, before the Cabinet was announced, in order to remove the "malign influence," which even then threatened the dissolution of the party? It was by the personal, political and long-tried friends of the President, that advice was given and it was by the same advice that these gentlemen retained their seats in the Cabinet in the confident hope that the President would sooner or later see his error and correct it."

These extracts carry on their face evidence of a common origin. If not penned by the same hand, they must have sprung from the same councils—were all written with the same views and same object, and disclosed with sufficient clearness to whom I am indebted for the long covert, and at last, open attacks upon me and my household, as well as their purpose. Certain gentlemen, who styled themselves the "personal, political, and long tried friends of the President," undertook, it seems, without his knowledge or consent, to arrange and fix his cabinet. I, who had been his particular friend and associate for twenty years, who had adhered to him "throughout good report, and through evil report," during two bitter contests for the Presidency, and who, against my wishes, was selected as a member of his cabinet, was to be set aside as unworthy, in the estimation of these gentlemen, to associate with him, or to participate in his councils. This secret cabal of exclusive friends advised Mr. Berrien to accept a seat in the cabinet under the secret expectation that I would be driven from it. By the same personr, Judge M'Lean was arranged to the War Department, their object being expressly to get rid of me. They advised Messrs. Ingham, Branch and Berrien, to cleave fast to their hold which they did, even under alleged "indignity and insult" too, in the "confident hope that the President would speedily see and correct the evil."

Without the President's knowledge, and without mine, this cabal of "personal, political, and long tried friends," were thus endeavoring to controul all the cabinet arrangements, and secretly to place around the President men of their selection and stamp. It was not for him to select his own counsellors, or decide who were his "personal, political, and long tried friends"—men who had supported him only when they had lost all hope of Mr. Calhoun—who had joined his standard only when their favorite candidate had disappeared from the contest, and who had supported him as a secondary choice—Your Inghams, Berriens, and others, were now arrogating to become his exclusive counsellors, and to thrust from his presence as unworthy of his trust and confidence, those who had supported him for his own sake—who attachment were cemented by years of confidential intercourse—whose faith and energies were pledged to his support, and whose hopes were all concentrated in the success and prosperity of his administration.

Mr. Branch was made the instrument of abler heads, and attempted to become a manager in this business. In his recent letter, he mentions a call which he made on the President previous to my nomination to the Senate, at which he arrogantly represented that my selection would be improper and unfortunate, and gave his reasons, which appear to have related solely to my family. He also states he then came to advise me against accepting a place in the cabinet, admitting that the charges made against my family were false, but representing "what use the opposition would make of it," and that "the enemies of the President would not fail to make a handle of it." He says that he placed Mrs. Jackson and Mrs Eaton on the same footing, and desired to save the President "from recollections which would be painful and distressing." Mr. Branch has a treacherous recollection.—He kept no note book, or, like his co partner, Mr. Ingham, he has accommodated his notes to emergencies. I can put him right in this affair, not doubting his admission of the truth of the narration I offer, if honor be left him, although he may deny the motives which I feel persuaded influenced him at the time.

Failing in the attempt to prevent my appointment, and to dissuade or rather deter me from accepting, Mr. Branch was next made the instrument of a piece of secret management, having in view the same result.

It was suggested to the President after the first arrangement of the Cabinet was made, that Mr. M'Lean entertained objections against remaining in the Post Office Department. It gratify *him*, by placing him in another Department, if he could do so with a proper regard to others previously selected. This, it seems, taken in connexion with my known repugnance, under any circumstances, to undertake the labors of that Department, furnished a hint to those who wished my exclusion from the Cabinet of which they hastened to avail themselves.

Mr. Branch declared that the President *might place him where he pleased; he should be satisfied;* and proposed to me, that we should, if the President approved it, assent to the placing of Mr. McLean in either of the Departments assigned to us, as he might choose, to which I assented. The War, Navy, and Post Office Departments, were then considered open to re-assignment, according to the will of the President. The result was Mr. McLean was arranged to the War Department, Mr. Branch to the Post Office, and myself to the Navy Department. This did not meet the object. Mr. Branch made unexpected difficulties, and at the desire of those who proposed the change, the original arrangement was restored.

I suspected no other than a fair and honest motive in all this; but we are now informed, through the expositions recently made in the Telegraph, that all Mr. Branch's movements originated in the "advice" of certain "personal, political and long tried friends of the President," given with a view, as is now expressly stated, *"to remove"* me from the Cabinet.

At length the Cabinet was formed. Mr. Berrien expressly says, that he entered it, only because he expected "the President himself would speedily see and correct the evil" of my appointment; and that he clearly "foresaw the evils which have resulted from the selection. His declaration is no doubt true.—No prophets foresee future events, so precisely and so certainly, as those, who having the means in their own control, are determined to bring them to pass. Foreseeing the evils, he must have foreseen, that he and his associate friends intended to use the influence and consequence which office gave, to accomplish their expectations—the persecution of my family—the attempt to degrade me, and all the arts which subsequently they have employed to procure my removal.

How could so much be foreseen, if it had not been predetermined? No prophecy could have been so confidently relied on, if it had not been resolved, by a cabal of the President's pretended "friends," with a view to concentrate *public opinion*, that I and my family should be proscribed from intercourse, with that portion of society over which they and their families had, or could have influence — Not a doubt is left on my mind, that before the nomination of the Cabinet to the Senate, the means of operating on public opinion, and forcing the President to exclude me, devised, arranged, and fixed upon, by and with the knowledge and approbation of Messrs. Ingham and Berrien, if not of Mr. Branch; and the means to be employed under their boasted sense of honor—an honor which in their bosoms inspired an earnest desire to transmit to their children, "an unsullied, good name" were, the abuse and slander of a mother, with two innocent daughters, whose good name was blended with hers, and in attacks upon my integrity and honor. Did they reason themselves into the belief, that the inheritance of a parent's good name, was of no value, only as it regarded their children; and that whether others lived or perished, was not material, if they and theirs were safe.

Did I merit such course of treatment from Mr. Berrien? We had served together for several years in the Senate of the United States. He was invited to, and was present at my marriage, six or eight weeks before. We were in habits of daily friendly intercourse, on my part, free and unrestrained, and, as I supposed equally so on his. He professed to be my friend, and such I thought him. Was it honorable then, and was it just, to hide from me all the *"evils"* which he *"foresaw"* and suffer me to run blindly upon inextricable difficulties? Should he not have warned me, that not "the opposition"—not "the enemies of the President" merely, as Mr. Branch states, but his friends—"his personal, and political, long tried friends,"—aye, even those whom he had selected as members of his Cabinet, viewed my selection as an evil, and intended to use it to distract his councils, embarrass his administration, and provide for a successor? Had Mr. Berrien frankly informed me, that he and his associates considered my appointment "an insuperable bar" to their acceptance, an issue would at once been tendered. I should have desired the President to excuse me, and given him my reasons, and then, for the sake of harmony, he would have discharged either me or them. But all was concealed from me, and only so far as the probable course of the opposition, the enemies of the President, was advised and warned. I was not taught to expect, that in Ingham, Branch and Berrien, I should find these very enemies, who smiling upon him, and me, with unqualified professions of devotion and friendship. Against their assaults, it was hence impossible to guard. Again, I ask, was it just or honorable in Mr. Berrien entertaining the views which he has recently avowed, to conceal them from me, and thus lead me blindly forward upon a mine which he knew was prepared for my destruction?

However he may excuse himself for his practiced concealment towards me, yet was he bound in duty to the President and to the country, to communicate his views frankly and fully to him. He knew the importance, nay absolute necessity, of entire harmony in the Cabinet, and that the views of the President, in relation to the reformation of the government, and *some interests* of the country, could not be accomplished without it. Mr. Berrien knew, that the President had a right to expect unity of feeling and action amongst those whom he had selected as his counsellors; and that in justice to himself, and to the people who had elected him, he would not knowingly constitute a Cabinet of disordant materials. Yet *"clearly foreseeing all the evils which have resulted,"* he concealed his feelings and his views, and suffered a Cabinet to be formed, between whose friendly association, and cordial co-operation, there was an *"insuperable bar,"* which *he* clearly saw; but which the President did not. By this concealment, and want of candor, he suffered his friend and benefactor to be led into error, in the very first step of his administration, and which, in common with other enemies, he is now attempting to wield to his destruction. On whom ought the responsibility of organizing such a Cabinet to rest? On the *confiding* friend, who, judging of men by their professions, selected those as its members whom he believed to be friendly to the success of his administration; or to those deceitful individuals, who, foreseeing all the evils which have resulted, kept them concealed from the President, and entered his Cabinet only because they expected such discord and division to arise, that *"public sentiment would concentrate"* upon one of their colleagues, and force his removal.

The questions so gravely raised and discussed in the public newspapers about visiting—leaving a card, and invitations to "large parties" or small ones, in this city, cannot but appear matters of derision to the American people. Who calls upon his neighbor, or invites him to eat and drink with him, and who does not, is a matter of no concern to the people; and to them, it must appear ridiculous, that statesmen and Cabinet counsellors, have thought it necessary to disturb them with matters so trifling But even these have been rendered of some importance, as developing the motives of men, and accounting for events of higher importance. And in this view is it, that I am about to introduce such a topic, and beg to be pardoned for doing so.

After my marriage in January 1829, my wife and myself visited Philadelphia, and were absent from Washington two weeks.—Amongst those who had called in our absence to visit and pay us the customary congratulations, were Mr and Mrs. Calhoun—their cards had been left. In cities, leaving at a neighbor's house, a card—a small piece of pasteboard with the name upon it, is called a visit. Not long afterwards, we called at Mr. Calhoun's lodging to return the civility. After sending in our names, we were invited up to the Vice President's parlor, where Mrs. Calhoun was alone, and received us with much politeness.—We spent a short time, quite agreeably, and took our leave. Afterwards these calls were not repeated on either side. This was a short time before it was understood who would compose the cabinet of Gen. Jackson.

Another trifling incident is worthy of note. When it was ascertained certainly that I would be Secretary of War, Mr. Calhoun requested the appointment of one of his friends as my Chief Clerk. To another gentleman who made the same request, I made a promise to comply with Mr. Calhoun's wishes. Considerations not thought of at the time, induced me to change my determination; in consequence of which, I declined to make the appointment, and sent an explanation to the gentleman, to whom I had given the promise. None was offered to Mr. Calhoun, for none was asked, and to him no promise had been made. From that time he broke off all the intercourse with me, official as well as private.

Soon after the Cabinet was organized, indications of those secret views which Mr. Berrien now openly avows, began to manifest themselves. The motive was not apparent, yet was it sufficiently evident, that there was a settled design to put a ban on my family, and render my position at Washington disagreeable to me. This was to be promoted by all the influence and importance which high station conferred on some of my colleagues. Confederacies were formed, and efforts made to awaken prejudices. To give countenance to confederates, and to aid their efforts, old slanders were revived, and new ones circulated. Families coming to the city, were beset on the way, and on their arrival. No means which ingenuity could invent, or malice make use of, were left untried to give tone to public sentiment,—"to make it concentrate" and force the President to separate me from his councils. Hope gave the assurance that in a little while he would see public opinion concentrated and would "speedily correct the evil."

Let me not be misunderstood. I never complained of any one, for not associating with me or my family. It is the right of every man, and of every woman, to visit whom they please. To see my house filled with unwilling or reluctant visiters, constrained to call by the command of power, could never be desired by me. Happily, I was never dependent on such authority for friends, associates and visiters. Always, when my doors were open, at "large parties," and at social calls, I met friends, with cordial hearts and happy faces, who evinced by their frank and open demeanor that they came of their own volition, and not through hope of reward, or fear of punishment. It is true I did not meet some of my colleagues, or their families, nor some of their associates of the same political stamp; but I met ladies and gentlemen quite as respectable, and equally as agreeable. If, as is true, I and my family were not invited to the houses of Messrs. Ingham, Branch and Berrien, so neither were they invited to mine, and in this we were equal; and neither, as I conceive, had a right to complain.

Mr. Berrien's family never did refuse to visit with mine, for they never had the opportunity. Custom required when they came to the city, being last in their arrival, that we should first call on them, if we desired their acquaintance; but we never did call.

How ridiculous does this single fact render Mr. Berrien's publication, which he has set forth with such grave formality. He had ascertained the sense of society here, he says, and he conformed to it in this matter, when in fact he never had an opportunity to conform to, or depart from it. He maintainen that the President threatened to dismiss him, because he would not compel his family to visit where he did not choose they should, when in fact they never had an opportunity to visit there. Throughout, he presents me and my family as craving the society of his, which he haughtily refused, when, in fact the first, the natural and the usual advance, on our part, had never been made.

It will be seen, then, that had the President set out to regulate the intercourse of society, and to direct its social relations, he ought to have begun with me, not Mr. Berrien. He must have threatened to dismiss me if I did not compel my family first to call on his and leave a card. What! force Mr. Berrien, under such circumstances, to force his family upon us! The President certainly ought first to have forced us to give them an opportunity to decline our acquaintance. To force together unwilling people, and particularly to begin with the wrong person, would indeed appear an odd and strange procedure.

In the autumn of 1829, new attacks began to be made, in whispers, on my integrity. It was said I had conspired with my wife's first husband, Mr. Timberlake, to defraud the government of large sums of money. Other attempts to get rid of me, having failed, I was now to be presented as being in the default to the government, through fraud practised on it. Mr. Timberlake had been a Purser in the Navy, and this charge was based upon a reported deficiency in his accounts with the public; and on a private letter of mine, detained in the 4th Auditor's office, showing that on my suggestion, he had remitted money to me. Copies of my *private confidential letters* to him had been taken from the office, that I might not escape through apprehended indulgence and favor, on the part of Mr. Kendall. Matters were considered well arranged, and the proof complete to show that this delinquincy was wholly occasioned by remittances of money to me, and which was yet in my possession. Such were the whispers circulated through the society of this place. But a close investigation, which occupied some time, showed that Timberlake's account had been deprived through a series of shocking frauds, of credits to the amount of from 12 to $20,000, and that justly he was largely a creditor, not a debtor, to the government.—But with mutilated books—abstract of accounts missing, and the inventory gone from the Department, his family can only appeal, under all the circumstances, to the justice and honor of the country, for redress.

While slander held it, open days and midnight round of whisper on this subject, I received from some malignant being, who subscribed himself Iago, the following note:

"*Sir:* I have written a letter to Mr. Ken"dall about the money he paid for O'Neal "houses You know what I mean. Revenge "is sweet, and I have you in my power, and "I will roast you, and boil you, and bake you; "and I hope you may live to prolong my plea"sure. Lay not the flattering unction to your "soul, that you can escape me. I would not "that death or any evil thing should take you "from my grasp for half the world."

Who the writer of this fiendish note is, I have never ascertained. I cannot turn my thoughts on any enemy so implacable, that he would be unwilling the man he hated should find repose in death. Yet it is in character with acts of those whose forecast pointed to the means, by which the evil of my selection, as member of the Cabinet, was to be made apparent, and the President forced "speedily to see and correct the evil." If I could have been driven from all respectable society, or had fixed upon me collusion and fraud, in obtaining the funds of the Government, then would the Cabinet have been relieved of my presence, and the prophecy of Mr. Berrien completely fulfilled.

Congress had now commenced its first session after the inauguration of the President. The recommendations in his message had been received with uncommon applause. But it was soon perceived, that little, in furtherance of his views, was to be expected from some of the political gentlemen who were professing regard to the administration. Movements amongst some of my colleagues with others in the same political interests, indicated a disposition again to wage against me, a war of exclusion Rumours of a combination to force me from the Cabinet, attracted the President's attention. He suscepted that a portion of his Cabinet had entered it, in disguise, and had fomented some of the mischief he had encountered; and accordingly determined, if it should appear that they were guilty of such duplicity, and had combined to harrass and drive out one of their colleagues, they should share the fate they were preparing for another. While reflecting on the course proper to be adopted, Col. Richard M. Johnson called on a visit; and to him he disclosed his difficulties and intentions. Col. Johnson entertained a better opinion of these gentlemen than to believe they harbored hostile views towards me, or had entered into a combination to expel me from the Cabinet.—Accordingly he solicited the consent of the President to converse with them as a friend, that by ascertaining the suspicions entertained to be incorrect, he might relieve them from the imputation. He had no other authority or permission than this: The mission was of his own seeking; he was actuated solely by a desire to maintain harmony; and if he could, to be of service to these gentlemen. Whether he spoke upon politics—religion—philosophy—ladies' cards—invitations to large parties or small—social or political intercourse—all, all was upon his own responsibility, and upon his own authority. Through him the President made no proposition, no requisition, and no threat. For myself I know nothing of it.

It is a little remarkable, that neither of the three gentlemen, in their published statements, speak of any proposition as coming directly from the President, which was considered at all insulting or improper.—Though they insist, that Col. Johnson was authorised to threaten, and did threaten them; yet not one pretends, that *directly* the President insinuated any thing of the kind to either. "It is strange, passing strange," that Col. Johnson, a man of known integrity and honor, should deny this—strange, that when they met the President, he breathed to them nothing like it—and yet stranger still, that in defiance of these proofs, and these circumstances, they still insist, that they were insulted! Who now will wonder that the Cabinet was changed, or who maintain that it ought to have been longer continued? No sooner had Mr. Branch stated, that Col. Johnson had threatened their dismissal, than it was promptly denied by the President, who said he would forthwith send for Col. Johnson; and for that purpose called a servant. Why did the messenger not go? Mr. Branch explains! "It is unnecessary to send for Col. Johnson; for your word is sufficient?" Then, Mr. Branch received it as true—told it, no doubt to his colleagues—and yet do they come before the public boldly to assert as true, what then was given up as a mistake—an entire misconception on their part. Content with the explanation offered at the time, convinced of the incorrectness of their impressions, these gentlemen now assert their displeasure and discontent, and at the end of fifteen months, come out and maintain that to be true, which before had been given up as a false and incorrect impression. As for myself, I can say, and do truly say, that I never uttered, or brought to the consideration of the President, any complaint in reference to myself.—I was always content to keep the redress of my own wrongs and injuries in my own hands, and to ask the aid and assistance of no one, in or out of power. No intimation was ever had by me that Col. Johnson intendeded to make such inquiry; nor did I know that he had made it. The lofty sense of honor entertained by General Jackson would never permit him to compromit the honor of his friends. He has not compromitted mine; and yet he would have done it, had he used his authority to extort courtesy in my behalf from Messrs. Ingham, Branch and Berrien. But why reason about it? If the disavowal of the President, established even by his accusers, who so lately were his professing friends—if to confront Mr. Branch with Colonel Johnson, and which alone was prevented by a declaration that he (Mr. Branch) was entirely satisfied—if the assertion of Colonel Johnson, that he had no authority to communicate any such thing—did not communicate it, and so informed the parties at the time—if all this be not sufficient to prove the falsity of the statements which these gentlemen, in their malignity, have so recklessly hazarded before the public, then would it not be believed, "though one arose from the dead."

By their conduct at that time, my colleagues manifested that nothing had been required of them, which, as is now asserted, they considered dishonorable. If they had believed so—if, after conversing with the President, they thought he had exacted of them that to which, as honorable men, they could not conform, they should have immediately tendered their resignations. To suppose they could do otherwise, is to presume that for the sake of office they were willing tamely to submit to the "indignity and outrage" of which they now complain. Through the concealments by which they imposed themselves on the President, their conduct towards me, and especially Mr. Ingham's notebook, in which, being a confidential adviser and in one sense a part of his family, he noted down, if he is to be believed, the free, the private and familiar conversations of the President for future use, present spectacles of human degradation at which honorable minds would revolt; yet, I cannot suppose that they would remain in the Cabinet, under a consciousness that hourly they might be exposed to the same indignity, involving their personal honor, and the honour of their families. It is utterly impossible that gentlemen now apparently so sensitive, could have submitted themselves to such a state of things, without complaint, for fifteen months. By their remaining in the Cabinet so long after the "indignity and outrage" of which they now complain, I must conclude that the President had not insulted them by any dishonorable and improper requisitions, or else that they loved their offices better than their honor, and that their present violence is caused only by the loss of them.

But in relation to Mr. Branch, I have something even better than Mr. Ingham's note-book to prove what actually were his feelings towards the President at and about the very time when this pretended indignity of Colonel Johnson was offered. It is a letter addressed by Mr. Branch to the President, in his own hand writing, on the 20th January, 1830, and which on the same day was inclosed to me, in the hope that a reconciliation might take place between us. Agreeably to Mr. Ingham's note-book, it was on "Wednesday the 27th day of Jaunary, 1830," that this alleged "indignity and outrage" was offered. Of course this letter was written but two days after, and on the identical day when Mr. Branch, feeling himself deeply afflicted at the communication made to him by Colonel Johnson, called, as he states, to see the President; and when, as he says, "the President's feelings were too much enlisted to weigh any reasons which might be offered."—And were Mr. Branch's feelings too much enlisted "to weigh any reasons?" Was he, as we are told was the case with all three of the gentlemen, indignant at the outrage? Let the letter speak for itself, and show how deeply, and how like an insulted and wounded man he could write at this instant of excitement, when honor and feeling, through the instrumentality of Colonel Johnson, had been rudely trodden under foot.

"NAVY DEPARTMENT, January 29, 1830.

"Dear Sir: I have received your note of yes"terday's date, and do most cheerfully accept

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