

North-Carolina Free Press.

Whole No. 377.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Tuesday, November 15, 1831.

Vol. VIII—No. 13.

The "North-Carolina Free Press,"

BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at *Two Dollars and Fifty Cents* per year, if paid in advance—or, *Three Dollars*, at the expiration of the year. For any period less than a year, *Twenty-five Cents* per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity.

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POLITICAL.

Mr. Calhoun's Reply to Major Eaton.

From the Pendleton Messenger.

Major Eaton has in his late address gratuitously dragged my name into his controversy with a part of his associates in the late administration. The station which he recently occupied, and the relation in which he is well known to stand to the head of the executive branch of the government, are calculated to give more weight to his representations, at least with many, than what belongs to the anonymous communications of the day; yet I could not have deemed his statement worthy of my notice had he confined himself to the vague insinuations, which constitute the great body of his address, as far as it relates to me. To give color to his general charges, he has ventured in a few instances to descend into detail, and to give statements of facts, but in a manner wholly erroneous; which however, might be received by the public as true, were I to remain silent. They have, in fact, been already so received in some respectable quarters. I am thus compelled in self defence to correct the errors of his statements, as far as they concern me. The occurrences, which are the subject of his address, are of a character to render me solicitous, that the part I took in relation to them, should be presented in the light in which truth and justice require. The memory of them will probably out live the present day, and a decent regard for the opinions of those who are to succeed us, naturally makes me desirous that I should not seem to have any other connection with events little calculated to do credit to the history of the day, than what I in reality had.

It is impossible to doubt, that the main drift of Major Eaton's address is to hold me up as the real author of all the discord, which is alleged to have prevailed in the late Cabinet, and to which he endeavors to trace its dissolution, and which he would have the public believe, originated in a low and miserable squabble on my part, in relation to the succession to the Presidential chair.

With this view, and in order to give a political aspect to the refusal of Mrs. Calhoun to visit Mrs. Eaton, he states that she and myself called in the first instance on him and Mrs. Eaton, during their absence at Philadelphia, intending it to be inferred, that in declining intercourse afterwards, we were ac-

tuated by political motives, and not by considerations connected with duty. Unfortunately for Major Eaton his statement is not correct. Mrs. Calhoun never called on Mrs. Eaton at the time he states, nor at any other time before, or since, nor did she ever leave her card for her, nor authorize any one to do so; and she is entirely ignorant through what channel, or by what agency her card could come into his and Mrs. Eaton's possession; to which, I add, that it was not done with my agency, or with my consent or knowledge. If Major Eaton had reflected, he would have seen that there must have been, to say the least, an imposition somewhere. He states, that our visit took place while they were in Philadelphia, and, of course, preceded their call, which, as he represents, took place after their return, and which he must know, according to the usage that governs intercourse at the place, could not occur. The Secretaries and their families invariably make the first call on the Vice-President and his family; and in conformity with this rule, Major Eaton had called on me, on my arrival at Washington—before his marriage, which I afterwards returned, and, not finding him at home, left my card. This was probably, while he was absent at Philadelphia, and was the only intercourse I had with him, as far as I can recollect, during the whole session, except what took place in the Senate chamber, or when we casually met at parties.

This is not the first time that Mrs. Calhoun has contradicted the statement that she had visited Mrs. Eaton. It was reported at the time, that she had visited Mrs. Eaton, and that her card had been left. She then, on all suitable occasions, contradicted it, as directly and pointedly, as she now does, and in particular to two ladies from Tennessee, (wives of members) who then resided in an adjoining boarding-house.

The erroneous statement of Maj. E. compels me to give a correct version of what actually occurred; but which I never intended to intrude on the public, and now state with great reluctance, even in self defence. When he and Mrs. Eaton made their visit, I was not at home, as he states, and did not return till after they had retired. When I returned, Mrs. Calhoun mentioned, they had been there, and said she would not have known who Mrs. Eaton was, had she not been with Mrs. Eaton, as the servant had not announced their names. She of course treated them with civility. She could not with propriety do otherwise. The relation, which Mrs. Eaton bore to the society of Washington, became the subject of some general remarks. The next morning she informed me that she had made up her mind not to return her visit. She said, that she considered herself in the light of a stranger in the place; that she knew nothing of Mrs. Eaton, or the truth, or falsehood of the imputation on her character; and that she conceived it to be the duty of Mrs. Eaton,

if innocent, to open her intercourse with the ladies who resided in the place, and who had the best means of forming a correct opinion of her conduct, and not with those who, like herself, had no means of forming a correct judgment. I replied, that I approved of her decision, though I foresaw the difficulties in which it would probably involve me; but that I viewed the question involved as paramount to all political considerations, and was prepared to meet the consequences, as to myself, be they what they might.

So far from political motives having any influence in the course adopted, could they have been permitted to have any weight in the question, the very reverse course would have been pursued. The road to favor and patronage lay directly before me, could I have been base enough to tread it. The intimate relation between Gen. Jackson and Major Eaton, was well known, as well as the interest that the former took in Mrs. Eaton's case; but, as degraded as I would have felt myself, had I sought power in that direction, I would not have considered the infamy less had we adopted the course we did, from any other motive. It was not, in fact, a question of the exclusion of one already admitted into society, but the admission of one already excluded. Before her marriage, while she was Mrs. Timberlake, she had not been admitted into the society of Washington; and the real question was, whether her marriage with Maj. Eaton, should open the door already closed on her, or, in other words, whether official rank and patronage should, or should not, prove paramount to that censorship, which the sex exercises over itself; and, on which, all must acknowledge, the purity and dignity of the female character mainly depend. Had the case been different, had a scheme been formed to exclude Mrs. Eaton, with political views, as is insinuated, the folly would have been equalled only by its profligacy. Happily for our country, this important censorship is too high and too pure to be influenced by any political considerations whatever. It is equally beyond the scope of power, or influence, to exclude the virtuous and unsuspected female from society, as experience has found it is, to raise the suspected to that elevation. This point may now be considered settled, unless, indeed, the public should permit the fruits of the great victory that has been achieved, in favor of the morals of the country, by the high minded independence and virtue of the ladies of Washington, to be lost by perverted and false representations of the real question at issue.

With the same view, and not much less erroneously, Major Eaton has given a statement of my application to him in favor of a friend for the place of Chief Clerk, in the War Department. He has so drawn up his statement, as to make an impression, that I suspended all official intercourse with him, because he refused to comply with my application. The fact

is far otherwise. It is true, that at the request of my friend, who was also a warm and devoted friend of Gen. Jackson, and had suffered from his attachment to him, I did present his name to Maj. Eaton, and that I had no official intercourse with him afterwards; but for a very different reason from what he alleges; a reason which every individual, who has even a moderate share of self-respect, must deem amply sufficient, as a brief statement of the facts will prove: The application was made, not at the early period he states, (which was necessary to make the impression he intends) when it was known he was to be appointed Secretary of War, but after he was appointed, and took possession of his office, and, if it be material, long after Mrs. Calhoun had declined to return Mrs. Eaton's visit. I called at his office a day or two before I left the city; I informed him, that I called at the request of my friend, simply to state my impression of his qualification, and not to urge his claim. After I had stated my impression in my friend's favor, he told me, he was well satisfied with his qualifications, but that he had offered the place to another gentleman, whom he named, but informing me, at the same time, if he should decline, my friend would receive the appointment. I remarked, that the person to whom he had offered the place, was perfectly qualified, and that I could not say a word to weaken his claim. Besides his qualifications, his relation with me, was at least as intimate and friendly, as his, whose name I had presented, and as between them, it could not possibly be a source of offence, that the former was selected; which, all who know me, will admit, when I say the gentleman selected, was Col. Gadsden. The next day, I received a letter from Governor Hamilton, then a member of Congress, to whom Maj. Eaton alludes, as my friend, stating that he had made application to Major Eaton in favor of the person for whom I had applied, with the favorable result of his application. On the strength of this as well as his promise to me, I wrote to my friend enclosing Gov. Hamilton's letter and informed him he might expect the appointment with confidence, as I felt almost certain that Col. Gadsden would decline the office. He did decline, but contrary to promise, another person was appointed, without giving me any explanation, then, or since. It was this breach of promise, remaining still unexplained, which interposed a barrier on my part to farther official intercourse between us; and not, as Major Eaton represents, the mere refusal to grant the appointment, which of itself would never have had the least effect with me. If there should be any doubt as to the promise, or the time of the application, the letter of Gov. Hamilton to me, and mine to my friend, both of which I suppose to be in existence, will establish the correctness of my statement.

But it seems that I am to be held responsible for the suppo-

sed feuds of the late Cabinet, and its dissolution, because, as Major Eaton states, an ardent friend of the Vice-President said in 1829, that Major Eaton is not the friend of Mr. Calhoun. It would have been much more satisfactory, if Major Eaton had given the name of this supposed friend, with the time, place, and circumstances, not only to enable him to give his statement of the occurrence, but to afford me an opportunity of judging how far I ought to be responsible. It would have been both to him and me an act of simple justice, which as far as I am concerned, would have been particularly desirable, as I must object to the competency of Major Eaton, and his associates, to determine, who are, or who are not my friends. They appear particularly liable to error on this point. But a short time since, it was gravely charged in an almost official quarter, that my friends had a meeting to expel him from the Cabinet, when it turned out, on further disclosures, that they were all gentlemen from the Western States, Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana, and devoted friends to Gen. Jackson, actuated solely by a regard for the success and honor of his administration; a step, of the existence of which, I was ignorant till after the meeting, and, of the particulars, till disclosed by the recent publications. If to this, I add Major Eaton's own liability to fall into error in determining who are or are not my political friends, as disclosed in his late address, it will not, I am sure, be thought unreasonable, that I should object to his competency in that particular. When it is necessary to hold me responsible for scenes, the odium of which he shows uncommon anxiety to shift to the shoulders of others, he errs, on that point, in relation to two of his late associates in the administration. If, in his anxiety to implicate me, he mistake the political relations between Mr. Branch and Mr. Berrien, and myself, gentlemen of whose sentiments one would suppose he could not be ignorant, we may reasonably suppose, that he is equally mistaken in the case under consideration.

The inference he would draw from Gen. Green's course, in relation to himself, can scarcely deserve more than a passing notice. Gen. Green's course has been of his own choosing, without any attempt on my part to influence him. Such an attempt would indeed have been perfectly idle. If he should be supposed to be governed by base and selfish views, how could I influence him? I had nothing to give, where he had much to lose. On the contrary supposition, that he was governed by a sense of truth and justice, an attempt to influence him was unnecessary. My course, I trust, afforded ample motives of that description. If it had not, it would have been in vain in me, on the supposition of his honesty to have attempted to obtain his support; as it clearly would have been, on the opposite, to have obtained it at all. As I have been compelled to speak of Gen. Green, it is