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MR. EATON'S APPEAL.

(CONTINUED.)

The questions so gravely raised and agitated in the public newspapers at visiting—leaving a card, and invitations to "large parties" or small ones, in a city, cannot but appear matters of serious concern to the American people. It calls upon his neighbor, or invites him to eat and drink with him, and who is not, is a matter of no concern to the people; and to them it must appear trifling, that statesmen and Cabinet members, have thought it necessary to disturb them with matters so trifling, when even these have been rendered of great importance, as developing the motives of men, and accounting for events of higher importance. And in this view, 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 several weeks. Amongst those who had called in our absence to visit and pay the customary congratulations, were Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun—their cards had been left. In cities, leaving a card at a neighbor's house, a card—a small piece of pasteboard with the name upon it, is called a visit. Not long afterwards, I called at Mr. Calhoun's lodging to turn the civility. After sending in my names, we were invited up to the President's parlor, where Mrs. Calhoun was alone, and received with all much politeness. We spent a short time, quite agreeably, and took leave. Afterwards, these calls were not repeated on either side. This was a short time before it was understood who would compose the Cabinet under General Jackson.

Another trifling incident is worthy of notice. 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. He was offered to Mr. Calhoun, for me was asked, and to him no promise had been made. From that time he kept off all intercourse with me, official 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 five was not apparent, yet was sufficiently evident, that there was a design to put a ban on my family, and render my position at Washington disagreeable to me. This was promoted by all the influence and portance which high station conferred on some of my colleagues. Confederates were formed, and efforts made to alienate prejudices. To give countenance to the confederates, and to aid their efforts, old slanders were revived, and new ones circulated. Families living in the city, were beset on the one side, and on their arrival. No means of ingenuity could invent, or malice use of, were left untried to give the public sentiment,—"to make it concentrate" and force the President to separate me from his councils. Hope the assurance that in a little while I would see public opinion concentrated, and would "speedily correct the error."

I need not be misunderstood. I never complained of any one, for not as to every man, and of every man, to visit whom they please. To my house filled with unwilling or reluctant visitors, constrained to call by the command of power, could never be desired by me. Happily, I was independent on such authority for friends, associates and visitors. All when my doors were open, at large parties, and social calls, I met with cordial hearts and happy countenances, that they came of their own volition, and not through hope of reward, or fear of punishment. It is not that I did not meet some of my colleagues, or their families, nor some of the associates of the same political party; but I met ladies and gentlemen, as respectable, and equally as amiable. If, as is true, I and my family were not invited to the houses of Messrs. Ingham, Branch and Berrien, neither were they invited to mine, in this we were equal; and neither, 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 conformed to it in this matter, when in fact he never had an opportunity to conform to, or depart from it. He maintains 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 persons, 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 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 applauded indulgence and favor, on the part of Mr. Kendall. Matters were considered well arranged, and the proof complete to show, that this delinquency 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 Mr. 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 its open day, and midnight round of whisper on this subject, I received from some malignant being who subscribed himself lago, the following note:

"Sir, I have written a letter to Mr. Kendall about the money that paid for O'Neal's 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 long live to prolong my pleasure. Lay not the flatteringunction 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 an enemy so implacable, that he would be unwilling the man he hated should find repose in death. Yet is it in character with the acts of those whose forecast pointed to the means, by which the evil of my selection, as a 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 interest, indicated a disposition again to wage against me, a war of exclusion. Rumors of a combination to force me from the Cabinet, attracted the President's attention. He suspected 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 harass 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, Colonel Richard M. Johnson called on a visit; and to him he disclosed his difficulties and intentions. Colonel John-

son 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 knew 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 authorized to threaten, and did threaten them; yet not one pretends, that directly the President insinuated anything 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 meet 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." And why is that word not now sufficient? Then, Mr. Branch received it as true—old 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 intended 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 compromise the honor of his friends. He has not compromised mine; and yet he would have done it, had he used his authority to exert courtesy in my behalf for 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 the 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. Though the concealments by which they imposed themselves on the President, their conduct towards me, and especially Mr. Ingham's note book, 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 honor 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 requisition, 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 29th of January, 1830, and which on the same day was inclined 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 January, 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, 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, Jan. 29, 1830. Dear Sir, I have received your note of yesterday's date, and do most cheerfully accept your friendly mediation more, however, from a desire to give you an additional evidence of the friendly feelings which have actuated my bosom towards yourself, than from a consciousness of having given to Major Eaton just cause for the withdrawal of his friendship. As a further manifestation of the frankness which I trust will ever characterize my conduct, I agree to meet him this day at two o'clock, in the presence of Major Barry, at Mr. Van Buren's, and in his presence also. Yours, truly, JOHN BRANCH. To the President of the United States. This letter, written directly after the indignity complained of was offered, bears no impress of insulted feeling; on the contrary, it breathes a spirit of kindness and friendship towards the President, whom he recognizes as a "mediator," seeking with almost parental solicitude, to heal the division amongst the members of the Cabinet, and anxious for the restoration of harmony. Surely in writing that letter, which he concludes by signing himself, "yours truly," he could not have supposed, that the President had just offered him an indignity; or if so, it only proves how great a hypocrite he is. At that time, we did not speak. As much parade as he makes of his friendly feelings entertained towards me, he was the very reverse of all that the name of friend conveys; and knowing it as I did, I would not permit him to seem to be what he was not. I had refused to return his salutations, and declined all intercourse, except when we met at the President's. I never complained of Mr. Branch, as he asserts in his letter to the public. It was he who complained, if at all complaint were made. His letter to the President, thanks him for his offer to act as a mediator in our difference, speaks of his good feeling towards me, and willingness to meet me at two o'clock that day. I have no doubt it was his professions of friendship and kindness towards me, made to the President, which induced him to become Mr. Branch's mediator in this business. On receiving the letter, he enclosed it to me, and expressed a wish that good feelings could be restored between us. An interview took place, at the room of the Attorney General, at which Major Barry and Mr. Berrien were present. It was here that Mr. Branch, in the presence of these gentlemen, expressed friendship for me, and in the strongest terms declared, that he did not entertain an unkind feeling towards me, and wished he had a glass in his bosom, through which his every thought could be read. He spoke of the non-intercourse between our families, and said, he had not the slightest objection to a free association; but that he could not control his. I promptly answered, that I did not desire his or any other family to visit mine, except with their own free consent; and that it was my desire our families should, in that respect, pursue such course as they thought fit and proper. We shook hands and parted as friends. Mr. Berrien affected much satisfaction at this reconciliation, and pretended to bid it as the harbinger of future harmony and good will. I say pretended, because, under all the circumstances of recent disclosures, he felt not what he said he did. It was only adding another and another fold, to that cloak of hypocrisy in which he had wrapped himself, from the first formation of the Cabinet.

\* I accidentally found this letter, a few days since, amongst some old papers, not intentionally preserved, for mail use. I never conceived it to be of any consequence.

public disclose, they were writing under a sense of deep and lasting "indignity and outrage," at the threat of Colonel Johnson, borne to them from the President. Were then was the lofty dignity of Mr. Berrien and Mr. Branch, that the one could declare how pleased he was at the reconciliation made, and the other protest the good feelings which he entertained for me?

Let us see how the facts stand, if these men speak truth. On Wednesday, the 27th of January, 1830, the President, through Col. Johnson, threatened to dismiss them, if they did not compel their families to associate with mine, which they considered such an "indignity and outrage," that they seriously thought of resigning. On Thursday, the 28th, the "indignity and outrage" being unatoned and even unexplained, the President wrote a note to Mr. Branch, offering his "friendly mediation," to bring about, what? Not social intercourse between our families—but a restoration of friendly intercourse between ourselves. In the morning of Friday, the 29th, (for he says he will meet me at two o'clock,) he accepted the friendly offer, thus acknowledging that he considered the President an impartial umpire, an unprejudiced, unexcited and just man, in whose hands he could trust his character and his honor; and yet strange to tell, on the same day, having called on the President for some explanation about Col. Johnson's insulting message, he found "the President's feelings were too much enlisted to weigh any reasons which might be offered." Who can believe all this? "Most cheerfully," says he, I "accept your friendly mediation." What! Accept the mediation of a man, who, two days before, had required him to humble himself to me like the meanest slave, and had not atoned for it? Accept the mediation of a man whose feelings were so much enlisted in my favor, that he would not listen to reason? Impossible! Had Mr. Branch felt that an indignity had been offered him, he would have replied to the President: "Sir, your insulting message through Col. Johnson, must be first explained, before I can avail myself of your friendly mediation." By his whole conduct, he showed that he entertained no such feeling, and that the whole story about "indignity and outrage," is a sheer invention, got up now to injure the President.

This letter of Mr. Branch shows, that in addition to Col. Johnson's friendly mediation, the President was willing to exert his own, as a friend, to heal the breach, in anticipation of the meeting to which he invited the Secretaries, on Friday the 29th, to declare the basis on which he had resolved to fix the harmony of his Cabinet. Mr. Branch and myself, the principal difficulty having arisen between us, met, as has been stated, at Mr. Berrien's, and adjusted our relations amicably; and yet this reconciliation, produced, as is seen from Mr. Branch's note, by the kind and friendly interposition of the President, is represented to have been immediately preceded by "indignity and outrage," and to have been succeeded by a state of feeling too much excited "to weigh any reasons which might be offered." How thoroughly is all this contradicted by Mr. Branch's contemporaneous note.

Private difficulties were now at an end, and, as was well understood, families were to visit or not, according to their inclinations. In two days the "indignity and outrage" which had been offered to these gentlemen was forgotten, so much so that for fifteen months matters glided on in tolerable harmony. Nothing more was said or heard of this subject, until the President, as he had an unquestioned right to do, thought proper to request their resignations. Then were old notes and memoranda buried up, and that over which they had slept so long, immediately became a subject of deep and "awful" interest to the American people. The truth is, this farce, which is now brought out on the public stage, was designed for a different occasion. It was in January or February, 1830, that they expected to exhibit before the public, and to unfold the tale of threats from the President, dismissal, and family association, and all that. Not being dismissed, then, as they expected, they laid aside their prepared tale; but bringing at last just their slides, they brought it forth upon an occasion which it does not fit, and vainly attempt to attribute the dissolution of the Cabinet to a false ground. That event they knew sprung from an entirely different cause—a cause which will satisfy every impartial man when he comes to understand it. To account for their removal, they offer any but the true reason, and hence run into all sorts of absurdity.

Shortly after this, about the 20th of March, a preparatory meeting of a few members of Congress was held, with a view to request the President to remove me from the Cabinet. Being apprised of their design, he made a remark which satisfied the leaders in this movement, that to persist in their course would serve to expose them to the public reprobation, and result in fruitless endeavor. Accordingly, the project was abandoned, or at least suspended.

I do not impute to all who participated in this preliminary step, a design to unite ultimately in a measure of such

high distaste to the President. Some were at first misled by false representations, and induced to believe that his peace and comfort, as well as the success of his administration, depended upon it; others attended the meeting in point out the impropriety of the course, and to dissuade their friends from persisting in their design. Now, what was the motive for all this relentless presentation? Could it be that my wife was indeed the enemy? Was it merely to exclude a female from their "good society"? Was one woman so dangerous to public morals, and so formidable in influence and power, as to require all this strong array of Cabinet counsellors—a combination of members of Congress—confederacy of fashionable ladies? Was it for that, attacks were made upon the integrity of her husband; and honor, truth, and candor sacrificed? The idea is truly ridiculous. She was lone and powerless. Those who liked her society, sought it; and those who did not, kept away. Neither she nor her husband entered into cabals and intrigues, to the prejudice and injury of others. Their own multiplied wrongs they bore with as much patience as could be expected from mortals endowed with human passions and sensibilities. A common understanding prevailed, express in relation to one family, and which was also understood in relation to others, that each should seek their own associates, according to their own will, uninfluenced and uncontrolled. The motive, therefore, was not to exclude us from society. It is a matter altogether too small to account for the acts and untiring zeal of so many great men.

Was the motive merely to exclude me from the Cabinet? Was my presence there dangerous to the interest of the country, or to its institutions? Had I the power or the disposition to injure the one, or overthrow the other? Was it precluded that I wanted the ability, intelligence, or integrity, necessary to the management of the Department of War? Of its management, there has been no complaint, while it was in my hands. I left it at least as prosperous as I found it. Was it suspected that I was not true to the President, and would prove false and faithless to his administration? A confidential intercourse of more than fifteen years, the highest admiration of his character, and the deep personal interest felt in the success of his administration, were surely sufficient to guard me against that. Nothing of this sort entered into the minds of my traducers. They had no desire for my exclusion on account of any suspicions entertained that I would willingly do injury to the interests of the country, its institutions, or to the President. To what then shall we look for this motive? An ardent friend of the Vice President, in 1829, in one short sentence disclosed it: "Major Eaton is not the friend of Mr. Calhoun."

It was this which rendered me unfit for the Cabinet, and for the respectable society of Messrs. Ingham, Branch, and Berrien. I could not, perhaps, be used to promote the views of Mr. Calhoun, and might exert an influence to induce General Jackson to stand a second election. It was not thought that in my hands the influence and patronage of the War Department could be used in favor of a successor. In that they did me justice. It was not so used, nor ever would have been. It was a subject about which I spoke out, and felt not. Nor even was I solicitous for General Jackson again to be selected, except on the ground that his principles and the course of his administration, when fairly tested, should be found in accord with the general sense of the People and the country. A proper time they would determine this matter, and there I was willing to rest it, undisturbed by any private or official interference of mine.

But "Major Eaton was not the friend of Mr. Calhoun," and this was a sufficient reason, why he should not be permitted to enter the Cabinet, if to be prevented; or for forcing him out when there. The ineffectual attempts to exclude me, have already been alluded to. It has been shown that Berrien and Ingham, concealing deep in their own bosoms their feelings, entered the Cabinet, under a full conviction that I presently would be excluded—that Mr. Calhoun's family and mine, before my appointment, interchanged civilities, and that he sought of me the appointment of his friend as Chief Clerk—and that thereafter all private and official intercourse between us, ceased. Let it be borne in mind, that the principals—those who have been actively employed against me, are the friends of Mr. Calhoun—his devoted, active partisans. It is readily to be inferred, then, that this "high wrought tempest," has proceeded from political designs, connected with the future hopes and expectations of Mr. Calhoun; and this inference I have it in my power to confirm by the most unquestionable facts.

Duff Green, Editor of the United States Telegraph, has been from the first the instrument of Mr. Calhoun, by which movements he has sought to bring his plans into operation. To him the feelings and plans of his party have been known. He has been their chief manager; first their private, and now their public organ. Him they chose to

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