

It is even wise to abstain from laws, which, however wise and good in themselves, bear the semblance of inequality which...

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MR. BERRIEN'S ADDRESS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Circumstances beyond my control have placed me under the necessity of presenting myself to your notice. I assert no claim to your attention, which does not belong equally to every free citizen of the Republic.

The misrepresentations of a public journal, professing to speak the language of the President of the U. S., and published under his eye, have presented to me the alternative of submitting to an imputation, alike dishonorable and unfounded in fact, or of meeting the issue which has been tendered to me under the alleged authority of that high officer.

I have studiously abstained from any effort to excite public feeling in relation to the dissolution of the late Cabinet. I have felt that the question of its propriety was one, the decision of which belonged alone to the American People.

Personally I have not been disposed to deny the right of the President to exercise his own free will, as well in the change, as in the original selection of his Cabinet; and with a perfect sense of the delicacy of my own situation, I would have been at all times a reluctant witness in the investigation of the causes which led to the recent events.

I mistake the character of the American People, if they would require this. I am totally ignorant of my own mind under any circumstances, I could yield to it. If, in the face of this great community, the cause of truth can be prostrated by the arm of power, at least the privilege of vindicating it, shall not be tamely surrendered in my person.

The disingenuous and unmanly suggestion of my desire to remain in the Cabinet of Gen. Jackson, notwithstanding the occurrences which produced my retirement, will be my apology for advertising chiefly to the origin of my connection with it, and to the circumstances which induced its continuance.

It was without any solicitation on my part, or so far as I know or believe, on the part of any of my friends, that I was invited to accept the office of Attorney General of the United States. There were circumstances, temporary in their nature, but still strongly operative, which rendered it not desirable to me.

I knew, moreover, that some of his confidential friends had faithfully discharged their duty to him, and to the country, by a frank communication of them. In this state of things, I sought the counsel of those around me. To a gentleman high in the confidence of the President, and to a distinguished citizen of my own State, submitted the inquiry whether, with this view of the Cabinet which the President had selected, I could with propriety become a member of it.

If there were any combinations growing out of the supposed conflict between the interests of Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Van Buren, I had no part in them—and as little in the supposed measures of that character, having for their object to coerce Major Eaton to retire from the Cabinet—or to exclude his family from the society of Washington.

I could make no mistake as to its character, for there was a direct and repeated reference to the large parties, which had been then recently given by Messrs. Branch & Ingham, and myself. Such a mistake, if it had been one, would have been instantly corrected, from the nature of my reply.

This conversation took place on Wednesday evening, and the rumor of our intended removal speedily became general. On the succeeding day, the personal friend, of General Jackson interposed, and he was awakened to a sense of the impropriety of his projected course.

While these occurrences were in progress, Major Eaton addressed to me a letter of like import with his first communication to Mr. Ingham. He called upon me to sanction or disavow the statement in the Telegraph, that my family had refused to associate with him.

made upon his mind. He showed me a paper—spoke to me of none—intimated to me no terms which he would hereafter require. By his declaration that he did not intend to press the requisition which he had made through Col. Johnson, I considered the object of the interview to be to explain to me the motives under which he had acted, and to announce the change of his determination.

When at a subsequent period, the controversy occurred between the President and Vice President I thought I saw in this, the evidence of an intention to agitate the question, which by the agency of the personal friends of Gen. Jackson, had been before happily repressed.

I believed to have occasioned it, and such as I could approve. In full view of the speedy dissolution of all connection between the President and myself, I availed myself of the occasion afforded by the kindness of my fellow-citizens of Savannah, to do an act of justice to his public conduct, on a question vitally interesting to the people of Georgia.

The public shall judge of the whole correspondence for themselves. I had no disposition to publish this correspondence perfectly satisfied that it would at all times speak for itself, and not emulous of reputation to be acquired in such controversies, I have resisted the numerous calls which have been made upon me through different journals to give it to the public.

FRIDAY NIGHT, 17th June, 1831. Sir: I have studied to disregard the abusive slanders which have arisen through so debased a source as the U. S. Telegraph.

Very respectfully, J. H. EATON. 20th June, 1831. Mr. BERRIEN.

that paper of this evening is contained the following remark of my wife: "It is proven that the Secretaries of the Treasury and of the Navy and of the Attorney General, refused to associate with her."

J. H. EATON. J. M. BERRIEN, Esq.

WASHINGTON, 13th June, 1831.

Mrs. I received to day your note of last night in which you call my attention to an article in the U. S. States Telegraph of the 17th instant, relating to your wife—and desiring to know whether I will sanction or disavow that statement, you add, "the relation we have sustained towards each other, authorizes me to demand an immediate answer."

In the progress of those events which have at length resulted in the dissolution of the Cabinet, my determination has been not to do any act which was calculated to provoke controversy, nor to deviate under whatever urgency from the line of conduct, which my own sense of propriety prescribed.

JOHN MACPHERSON BERRIEN. To J. H. EATON, Esq. Monday Morning, 8 o'clock. Sir: I have received your note of the 18th instant. It may become necessary for me to offer something in reply.

Very respectfully, J. H. EATON. 20th June, 1831. Mr. BERRIEN.

JUNE 22d, 1831.

Sir: I have not had leisure to reply to your letter of the 18th, until to-day. It involved a matter which it behoved me to give a full and calm consideration to.

matter which it behoved me to give a full and calm consideration to. That has been given. I felt indisposed to believe that these attacks of General Green could be authorized by you, or were made under your sanction.

J. M. BERRIEN, Esq. J. H. EATON.

WASHINGTON, 23d June, 1831.

Sir: Your note of yesterday was received in the course of the day. I was too much indisposed, however, to reply to it at the moment, and do not merely to prevent misconception.

To JOHN H. EATON, Esq. Shortly after this, I received a letter from Col. Johnson, which, with my reply, I feel myself bound now to give to the public.

Col. R. M. Johnson to Messrs. Berrien & Ingham. GREAT CROSSING, 30th June, 1830.

Gentlemen: The Telegraph has alluded to some communication made to you by a member of Congress, authorized by the President—the substance of which is, that the President wished to coerce a social intercourse between your families and Mrs. Eaton.

Richard M. Johnson, Messrs. Ingham & Berrien, City of Washington.

The absence of Gov. Branch has been the only cause why this letter was not also addressed to him.

Mr. Berrien to Col. Johnson. WASHINGTON, 7th July, 1831.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 30th ult. addressed jointly to Mr. Ingham and myself has been duly received. I have noted your view of the occurrence to which it refers with a perfect disposition to meet you in the spirit of frankness and good feeling, which is expressed in your letter.