

Falling in the attempt to prevent my appointment, and dissuade or rather deter me from accepting, Mr. Branch 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. McLean entertained objections against remaining in the Post Office Department. It was known that the President was disposed to gratify him, by placing him in another Department, if he could do so with a proper regard to the others previously selected.

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, assist in the placing of Mr. McLean in either of the Departments assigned to us, as he might choose, to which I assented.

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, were devised, arranged, and fixed upon, by and with the knowledge and approbation of Messrs. Ingham and Branch, if not of Mr. Branch alone, as 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"

Did I merit such course of treatment from Mr. Branch? We had served together for several years in the Senate of the United States. He was invited to, and present at my marriage, six or eight weeks before. We were in habits of daily friendly intercourse, on my part, and free and unrestrained, and, as I supposed, equal, so on his.

Who the writer of this fiendish note is, I have never ascertained. I cannot turn for blame from an enemy, implacable, that he would be unwilling the man he hated should find repose in death. Yet it is in character by 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."

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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 he made the same request, in a promise to comply with Mr. Calhoun's wishes. Consideration is 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.

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Soon after the Cabinet was organized, indications of those secret views which Mr. Branch now openly avows, began to manifest themselves. The motive was not apparent, yet it was sufficiently evident, that there was a settled design to put a ban on my family, and render my position at Washington disagreeable to me.

Let me not be misunderstood, I never complained of any person 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 and reluctant visitors, constrained to call by the command of power, could never be desired by me.

Mr. Branch's family never did refuse to visit with mine, for they never had the opportunity. Custom required that they should come to the city, being invited to do so, 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. Branch's publication, which he has set forth with such grave formality. He has 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.

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. Branch. He must have threatened to dismiss me if I did not comply with his demands, or he would have been obliged to force his family upon us.

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pleasure and discontent, and at the end of fifteen months, come out and maintain that to be true, which before he was given up as the most incorrect impression. As I never can say, and do truly say, that I never uttered a word of complaint in reference to myself.

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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 an indignity had been offered him, he would have replied to the President: "Sir, your insulting message through Colonel Johnson, must be first explained, before I can avail myself of your friendly mediation."

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Baltimore, I obtained for him \$2,500. For the very press from which, probably, he daily circulates his abuse of me, I have a note which was protested and paid by me, on which I was endorser, and which has been in my possession several years, the whole, or a part of which still remains unpaid.

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NEWBERN PRICES CURRENT.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity Name and Price. Includes items like BEESWAX, BUTTER, CANDLES, COFFEE, CORN, CORDAGE, COTTON, FLOUR, IRON, LARD, LEATHER, LUMBER, MOLASSES, NAILS, NAVAL STORES, OIL, PAINTS, PROVISIONS, SALT, SHOT, SPIRITS, SUGAR, TEA, TALLOW, WINE.