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political.

FROM THE LYNCHBURG JEFFERSONIAN.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

VAN BUREN'S PLOT ACT I.

We promised to show from the admissions of Mr. Blair, the AGENT—the CAUSES and the OBJECT of the late extraordinary proceedings at Washington. We think we shall be able to redeem this pledge in the judgment of every impartial mind. As to the partisan who goes for men, reckless of all principle, we know that what we say will be deemed and declared lighter than air. Be it so. We do not reason with them. We too well know the nature of political bigotry to undertake the task. Those moral bulwarks which interest and passion rear up around the blind zealot and the hired partisan, are impregnable. A man had as well try to climb up Calpe's Rock with glass sandals on his feet, as attempt to scale them with no other aids than those of reason and argument. We speak to the people—the thinking, sober-minded people, whom partisan zeal cannot mislead, nor Government money corrupt.

THE AGENT.—We can best ascertain the name of this individual, when we discover the cause and object of the late mysterious events. He whose interest is to be subserved in the end, is not apt to be an inactive spectator in regard to the means. We will therefore leave the reader to fill up the blank, when he has a certain personage to that distinction.

THE CAUSE.—On this head the reader has heard much. We have already adverted to eight different accounts of the matter, as given by Mr. Blair, and those whose accredited agent he is. The utter irreconcilability of these several statements, is, of itself, a strong argument against the truth of each and all. The paths of truth are straight. Falsehood only is fond of Cretan labyrinths. The fact is, that although the domestic affairs furnished the pretext—it should rather, in our humble opinion, be viewed as the instrument than the cause of the Cabinet troubles. At least, for the gratification of Mr. Blair, we will agree with him that the "wish of the President to bring Major Eaton and his family into society, had no influence in producing the dissolution of the Cabinet." And taking him upon his own ground, we think it can be made appear, that the refusal of Mr. Calhoun and his friends to yield themselves up, the pliant instruments of Mr. Van Buren's vaulting ambition, was the remote but true cause of the late astonishing transactions. Let us see how far the admissions of Mr. Blair sustain this declaration. He shall speak for himself. In his letter to Mr. Berrien of the 21st of July last he says:

"You, I think, must know, that this step, (the dissolution of the Cabinet), was the result of a DIVERSITY of POLITICAL VIEWS, which attached the two parties in the Cabinet to different divisions of the new parties which become apparent in the dissension between the President and Vice President. This produced in the then state of the Cabinet, combinations in Congress calculated to defeat the most salutary measures of the administration. In the opposition which showed itself in regard to the Turkish negotiation, the members of the Cabinet favorable to the new-born opposition, were expressly exempted from the denunciations of those members of the Senate who then came out, and disclosed for the first time their hostility to the

President and PART of his Cabinet."

Here are strange admissions—acknowledged facts involving in them certain principles and rules of Executive power and conduct, of most alarming tendency. Can any intelligent man doubt as to what this paragraph refers? Does the opposition of Messrs Tazewell and Tyler, to the "Turkish negotiation," authorize the President to dismiss from the Cabinet three able public servants, who had discharged their duties to the "entire satisfaction" of himself and the People? Is the Senate of the United States to be made nothing more than a registry where the edicts of the Secretary of State are to be regarded? Who was this PART of the Cabinet, whom it was next to treason for a Senator of the United States to oppose? It was MARTIN VAN BUREN, and no one but him. Messrs Tyler and Tazewell spoke of him, and of him only. And why of him? Because the foreign relations of the country, and the measures connected with them, appertained to that Department of the Government of which he was the head. Because he had recommended a measure, not only in direct conflict with his own opinions on the celebrated Panama Mission, but which in effect, went to prostrate the Constitution at the feet of himself and the President. This act of the guiltiest audacity and dereliction, he called upon the Honorable Senators of Virginia, to approve. This, they could not, without the most barefaced and shameless recreancy to themselves and their country—and therefore would not do. And for this opposition to the "Part" it seems according to Blair, that Messrs. Berrien, Branch and Ingham, who of course could have nothing to do with it, were unceremoniously dismissed from the public service! This reason is as strange indeed as the "abuse of power is unexampled. Can any man who regards the interest of his country above that of individuals, sanction this bold attempt on the rights and privileges of the Senate? Must not only the Cabinet, but the highest and most august assembly known in our country, bow down in worship of any President's favorite, male or female?"

But to leave this part of the subject for a moment. We wish to refresh the reader's recollection of certain facts of a prior date which must be taken into view, in order to a full understanding of this detestable PLOT.

It is a matter of public notoriety, that as early as the 19th of November, 1829, Van Buren was nominated for the Presidency by a leading paper under his control; published in New York. It will also be borne in mind, that immediately on the appearance of his nomination, the United States Telegraph threw itself in the way, and declared that it was too early to enter upon another canvass; and at the same time intimated that the pretensions of the "Flying Dutchman" did not entitle him to so distinguished a station. In a moment there was an uproar in the camp. Then, and not till then, was the Telegraph denounced as being opposed to Jackson. Although, until that very day, and long subsequently, the Telegraph had stood forth the most uncompromising champion of the Jackson party. Though sustaining the character and measures of the President, with an unabated zeal from that moment it was denounced as an enemy to both. The mere intimation that he was opposed to Mr. Clay's "line of safe precedents," was enough for the Secretary;—and instantaneously his blood-hounds were let loose on the editor of that paper—and the deep-mouthed and well-fed pack bayed at his heels ever since. These are facts of universal notoriety, and cannot be denied.

Until this opposition on the part of the Telegraph to Van Buren's succession, nothing was ever said about the re-election of Jackson. It was supposed by all parties, that, as he had pledged himself to the people to set the salutary example of a President retiring from office after the first term, that no attempt would have been made to induce him, not only to violate a great principle, but to sacrifice his own veracity at the shrine of favoritism.

But Van Buren saw from the prompt opposition to his first movement, not only that his schemes were understood, and that vigilant eyes were upon him, but that it would be impossible for him to succeed unless he could identify himself with Jackson. He therefore set himself immediately to the work. He was among the first to persuade Jackson to disregard not only his word but his principles, and to continue at the post, while time and opportunity might be afforded him, to prepare for the succession. The mode of proceeding was worthy of the cunning of the Secretary's character. The great object was the destruction of his rival, Calhoun. The means were any thing and every thing which could promote that end. A system of soft chat flattery, coaxing, and kissing of hands was instituted by him with Jackson;—and so dexterously did he ply the medicine, that in less than four weeks, Jackson and Van Buren were ONE. We were fully apprised of the circumstances at the time they transpired. One who kept the thermometer of the President's feelings, gave us an almost daily Chronicle of the rise from zero to the boiling point, when the burning heat of Executive favor melted these mighty dignitaries into an amorphous compound; and Martin Van Buren became IDENTIFIED. In saying this, we violate no confidence. The writer never gave us his name. To accident alone, are we indebted for that knowledge. High in office, he may think it now a light matter to turn true blue Van Buren, as we believe he has. Yet we will not betray him. He has our pity and our scorn.

We call upon the New York Courier and Enquirer to bear witness that we accede to the proposition it has made in regard to this subject—"Proofs, says the editor, of all conspiracies and cabals, are only known by their effects." We agree to this. Let the question be judged of according to this rule. We submit to the test.

No sooner was Van Buren IDENTIFIED, than he set about his work, Berrien, Branch and Ingham were destined to be his first victims. He desired to be rid of them for two reasons—first, because they were the friends of Calhoun, as he supposed—and secondly—because he wished their places to be filled by creatures of his own, in order that the united power and patronage of the Government might be brought to subservise his own selfish and wicked purposes. In less than a fortnight after his identification, there were charges whispered in the President's ears against these gentlemen. Blair acknowledged this. He says that "members of Congress" gave the President "information" in regard to a "political combination" on their part against Major Eaton. Then was the "identical paper" drawn up by the President which Mr. B. has not thought proper to publish. The reader is already informed of the character of this "identical paper." Out of it has grown the petticoat question, which has produced so great a sensation in the country. With that at present we have nothing to do. It is the object of this alleged "political combination," which we wish to examine. If the terms "political combination" mean any thing, it must be a conspiracy for political effect. Something separate from any private, personal consideration. In this view of the charge it is obvious that Mr. Calhoun's interest is intended to be understood as the object. Those of his friends combined together to coerce Maj. Eaton a friend of Van Buren, from the Cabinet. This was the charge on the 28th of January, 1830. And upon what did this charge of a "political combination" rest? Simply and solely upon the refusal of Branch, Ingham and Berrien, to allow their families to associate with Mrs. E.* This, is all that is in evidence. It is true Blair speaks of some "members of Congress who gave information," &c.—but who they are—or what the information nobody knows—no, not Blair himself, nor the President. It was an after-thought;

Col. Johnson in his letter admits this, as we shall hereafter show.

a contemptible trick. If there be any "member of Congress" who wishes to stand evidence in this matter, let him come forth—He is defied.

Far be it from us to attack the character of any female. Mrs. E.'s may be as respectable as any, and for ought we know it is. But her character has nothing to do with this question. If a diversity of opinion existed in the society at Washington in regard to this fact, it was but right & proper that each individual should regulate his conduct accordingly. This was done, not only in the case of the dismissed Secretaries, but in hundreds of others—and no one had a right to interfere. But this did not satisfy Van Buren. He new Jackson's partiality for Major E. and his lady, and he was determined to turn it to his own account. We cannot prove this by *visa voce* testimony; because the New York Courier and Enquirer has well observed, "proofs of all conspiracies and cabals are only known by their effects." He associated with Mr. E. and his family—and the object of the charge against Berrien, Branch and Ingham was, either to force them to follow his example, which he was fully assured they would not do—or to force them to resign, which he expected they would do—and which in fact they would have done but for the interference of friends, and thus enable him to fill up the vacancies with more agreeable and tractable materials. The plan had nearly succeeded—for it is admitted by Blair, that the "identical paper" (which appears to have been a sort of protocol of a petticoat treaty,) was drawn up by Jackson "in contemplation of an immediate dissolution of the Cabinet." How the President could have anticipated any such event, we cannot conceive; unless he expected from the "attitude" he had assumed, that the Secretaries would have resigned—for he certainly could not have expected, that they would plead guilty to the charge hatched up against them of a "political combination"—a charge which all the parties, Blair, Johnson, the President, and Eaton have expressly given up. The fact is, the falsehood of the charge was only equalled by its ridiculousness. For no man in his senses could have supposed, or can now suppose, that Eaton was an object of sufficient political importance to compensate for the trouble and risk of this conspiracy. It seems to us much more rational to conclude that it was a matter of at least three times the importance to Van Buren to get rid of Branch, Berrien and Ingham, than it could have been to them to have Eaton dismissed.

But the refusal of the obnoxious Secretaries to resign, completely nonplused Van Buren; and so deranged his plans that he was compelled to stop on the very threshold of his enterprise. It is manifested, from what Blair says, that the President expected them to resign. They stood their ground however;—and doubtless their determination was a thwarting one. They felt secure in their position before the public: They knew that the charge against them carried its condemnation on its own face; and discharged their public duties with fidelity to the people—they well knew that the President dared not to dismiss them to gratify his favorites. It is true that the President was publicly told in the newspapers, that his "popularity could stand any thing"—and influenced by this most wicked adulation, he undoubtedly would have dismissed the Secretaries sans ceremonie, but for the influence of his more thoughtful and less interested friends. Col. Johnson in his late letter says, that "the President was very much excited;" and those who know him, will not find it hard to believe that, but for this prudent interference, and the fear of the consequences to himself and those whom he favored, he would have nullified the whole concern.

The Secretaries would not resign and the President was afraid to dismiss them without a cause. The thing must needs have come before the PEOPLE—and they would give a fearful judgment. In this way was Van Buren thwarted in his first effort

to organize the Cabinet after his own fashion. The scheme was well laid—the movement was an adroit one, but the field of his operations was wider than he was accustomed to. The wires with which he worked were discovered, and fearful of an exposure, and the consequent sentence of that stern judge, the people, he gathered up the tools of his wicked incantations, and skulked back into his den. Thus ended the first act of this despicable plot.

We have deemed it necessary to refer to these past circumstances, in order that the reader may the better understand the train of events which finally led to the catastrophe. Knowing these, we shall be better able in the denouement to find out the invisible worker, as well as the OBJECT of his conjurations. He has been sent out of the way; but the public hiss can reach him where he is. In our next we shall speak of the SECOND ACT of the PLOT. For the present, our observations are gone much beyond the limits we had intended.

An Irish soldier, who came over with General Moore, being asked if he met with much hospitality in Holland.—"O yes (replied he) too much; I was in the hospital almost all the time I was there."

A gentleman once apologizing to a company for not joining in conversation, said he was afflicted with a cold in his head, and when that was the case he was always heavy, dull, and stupid. "Upon my soul then, (replied John Wilkes) you are very much to be pitied, for you must have been afflicted with that same cold in your head ever since I knew you, which is more than twenty years."

When Beau Nash was ill, Doctor Cheyne wrote a prescription for him. The next day the doctor coming to see his patient, inquired if he had followed his prescription. "No, truly, doctor," said Nash, "if I had, I should have broken my neck, for I threw it out of a two pair of stairs window."

Perpetual Fire.—In the Peninsula of Acheeron, in the Province of Schirwan, formerly belonging to Persia, now to Russia, there is found a perpetual, or, as it is there called, an eternal fire. It rises or has risen from time immemorial from an irregular orifice of about twelve feet in depth, and one hundred and twenty feet in width, with a constant flame. The flame rises to the height of six or eight feet, is unattended with smoke, and yields no smell. The finest turf grows about the borders, and at the distance of two toises are two springs of water. The inhabitants have a veneration for this fire, and they celebrate it with religious ceremonies.—Connecticut Observer.

Dr. Watts As he was standing one day in a coffee-house, he observed a gentleman looking very steadfastly at him, and presently heard him say to his friend, "That is Dr. Watts." "It is?" replied the other; "then he is a very little fellow;" on which Dr. Watts, turned to them and said—

"Were I so tall to reach the sky,
Or grasp the ocean with a span,
I would be measured by my soul;
The mind's the standard of the man."

Naval.—An intelligent Officer of the Navy, who visited that noble ship the Pennsylvania, at the Navy Yard at Philadelphia, a few days since, informs us that it was discovered recently that she had settled somewhat on the stocks. She was in consequence further propped up, but it was apprehended that if she settled still more, there would be no alternative but to launch her immediately. Her armament which lies along side of her, consists of 136 forty-two pounders. She has four tire of guns, and would require, when in service, a crew of 1300 men.—Four. of Commerce.