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[NO. 27.

Resignation of the Attorney General.

From the United States Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, 15th June, 1831.

SIR: I herewith tender to you my resignation of the office of Attorney General of the United States. Two considerations restrained me from taking this step at the moment when your communication to the Secretary of the Treasury, announcing your determination to re-organize your cabinet, first met my eye. There was nothing in the retirement of the Secretaries of State and of War, or in the distinct and personal considerations which they had assigned for this measure, which made it obligatory upon or even proper for me to adopt a similar course. Such a step, with any reference to that occurrence, could only become so, on my part, as an act of conformity to your will. You had felt this, and had announced your wishes to the Secretaries of the Treasury and of the Navy, respectively. I had a right to expect a similar communication of them, and conformed to the wishes and opinions of my fellow-citizens of Georgia when I determined to await it. An additional consideration was presented by the fact that I had been charged, at the moment of my departure from this place, with the performance of certain public duties which were yet unfinished, and my report concerning which you did not expect to receive until my return. I was gratified to learn from yourself that you had taken the same view of this subject, having postponed the communication of your wishes to me until my arrival at this place, without expecting in the mean time any communication from me. It is due to myself further to state, that, from the moment when I saw the communication referred to, I have considered my official relation to you as terminated, or as subsisting only until my return to the city should enable me to conform to your wishes by the formal surrender of my office, which it is the purpose of this note to make.

I retire, then, sir, with cheerfulness from the station to which your confidence had called me, because I have the consciousness of having endeavored to discharge its duties with fidelity to yourself and to the country. Uninfluenced by those considerations which have been avowed by that portion of my colleagues who have voluntarily separated themselves from you—totally ignorant of any want of harmony in your Cabinet, which either has, or ought to have impeded the operations of your Administration, I perform this act simply in obedience to your will. I have not the slightest disposition to discuss the question of its propriety. It is true, that in a Government like ours, power is but a trust to be used for the benefit of those who have delegated it; and that circumstances might exist in which the necessity of self-vindication would justify such an inquiry. The first consideration belongs to those to whom we are both and equally accountable. From the influence of the second you have relieved me, by your own explicit declaration that no complaint affecting either my official or individual conduct, has at any time reached you. You have assured me, that the confidence which induced you originally to confer the appointment upon me remains unshaken and undiminished, and have been pleased to express the regret which you feel at the separation, which circumstances, have, in your view of the subject, rendered unavoidable. You have kindly added the assurance of your continued good wishes for my welfare. You will not, therefore, refuse to me the gratification of expressing my earnest hope, that, under the influence of better counsels, your own and the interests of our common country, may receive all the benefits which you have anticipated from the change of your confidential advisers. A very few days will suffice to enable me to put my office in a condition for the reception of my successor, and I will advise you of the fact as soon as its arrangement is complete.

I am, respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN MACPHERSON BERRIEN.
To the President of the U. States.

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1831,
Sir: I have received your letter resigning the office of Attorney General.

In the conversation which I held with you, the day before yesterday, upon this subject, it was my desire to present to you the considerations upon which I acted in accepting the resignation of

the other members of the cabinet, and to assure you, in regard to yourself, as well as to them, that they imply no dissatisfaction with the manner in which the duties of the respective departments have been performed. It affords me great pleasure to find that you have not misconceived the character of those considerations, and that you do justice to the personal feelings with which they are unconnected.

I will only add, that the determination to change my cabinet was dictated by an imperious sense of public duty, and a thorough, though painful conviction, that the stewardship of power, with which I am clothed, called for it as a measure of justice to those who had been alike invited to maintain near me the relation of confidential advisers. Perceiving that the harmony in feeling so necessary to an efficient administration had failed, in a considerable degree, to mark the course of this; and having assented, on this account, to the voluntary retirement of the Secretaries of State and War, no alternative was left me but to give this assent a latitude co-extensive with the embarrassments which it recognized, and the duty which I owed to each member of the cabinet.

In accepting your resignation as Attorney General, I take pleasure in expressing my approbation of the zeal and efficiency with which its duties have been performed, and in assuring you that you carry with you my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ANDREW JACKSON.

JOHN M. BERRIEN, Esq.

P. S.—You will please to continue to discharge the duties of the office of Attorney General until you make all those arrangements which you may deem necessary, which, when completed, and I am notified thereof by you, a successor will be appointed.

A. J.

WASHINGTON, June 22, 1831.

SIR: In conformity to the suggestion contained in my note of the 15th inst. I have to inform you that the arrangements necessary to put the office of the Attorney General in a condition for the reception of my successor, are now complete.

The misrepresentations which are circulated in the newspapers on the subject of my retirement from office, make it proper that this correspondence should be submitted to the public, as an act of justice both to you and myself.

I am, respectfully,
Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN MACPHERSON BERRIEN.
To the President of the U. States.

WASHINGTON, June 22, 1831.

Sir: Your note of this day is received, advising me, "in conformity to the suggestions contained in my [your] note of the 15th instant, I [you] have to inform you [me] that the arrangements necessary to put the office of the Attorney General in a condition for the reception of my successor are now complete."

For reasons assigned in your note, you further observe, "make it proper that this correspondence should be submitted to the public, as an act of justice both to you and myself. I am sure I can have no objection to your submitting them as you propose, as you believe this to be necessary."

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ANDREW JACKSON.
JOHN M. BERRIEN, Esq.

Will any person after reading the following correspondence doubt longer the wisdom and propriety of the President renewing his cabinet? It was a master stroke of policy, worthy of the author of the *Veto* upon the acts of Congress—worthy the fame of the hero of New-Orleans. If Mr. Adams had shown that same high mindedness, and integrity of spirit, when Mr. Clay, the cherished and boasted Ex-Secretary, undertook to SHOOT John Randolph for the freedom of debate in the Senate Chamber, it would have redounded to his honor and fame. The PEOPLE's president, however acts with more dignity & firmness, & deserves the thanks of the nation. Our readers must bear in mind that these difficulties took place more than a year ago, and the president finding it impossible to bring them to a harmonious termination resolved to renew his cabinet. The nation responds to the act. We are glad the nation is relieved from any suspense which might have remained relative to the dissolution of the cabinet ministers. These things are of a private & personal nature, & all the interest the people can have is, to know that the chief actors have been sent home to learn better conduct in future. Even this act now explained redounds to the honor and fame of the old Hero, in whom the people have never been deceived. Gen. Washington threatened two of his ministers (Jefferson

son and Hamilton) with dismissal, unless their quarrels were terminated which threatened the interests of the nation. Hamilton was afterwards killed in a duel, and Jefferson was made president. *Ohio Sun.*

MR. EATON TO MR. INGHAM.

Friday night, 17th June, 1831.

SIR: I have studied to disregard the abusive slanders which have arisen through so debased a source as the columns of the U. S. Telegraph. It have been content to wait for the full development of what he had to say, and until persons of respectable character should be brought forth to endorse his vile abuse of me and of my family. In 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." This publication appears in a paper which professes to be friendly to you, and is brought forth under your immediate eye. I desire to know of you, whether or not you sanction or will disavow it. The relation we have sustained towards each other authorizes me to demand an immediate answer.

Very respectfully,

J. H. EATON.

S. D. INGHAM, Esq.

REPLY.

Washington, 18th June, 1831.

SIR: I have not been able to ascertain, from your note of last evening, whether it is the publication referred to by you, or the fact stated in the Telegraph, which you desire to know whether I have sanctioned or will disavow. If it be the first you demand, it is too absurd to merit an answer. If it be the last you may find authority for the same fact in a Philadelphia paper, about the first of April last, which is deemed to be quite as friendly to you as the Telegraph may be to me. When you have settled such accounts with your particular friends, it will be time enough to make demands of others. In the mean time, I take the occasion to say, that you must be not a little deranged, to imagine that any blustering of yours could induce me to disavow what all the inhabitants of the city know, and perhaps half the people of the United States believe, to be true.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours, &c.

S. D. INGHAM.

JOHN H. EATON, Esq.

MR. EATON TO MR. INGHAM.

18th June, 1831.

SIR: I have received your letter of to-day, & regret to find that to a frank and candid inquiry brought before you, an answer impudent and insolent is returned. To injury unprovoked, you are pleased to add insult. What is the remedy? It is to indulge the expectation that, though a man may be mean enough to slander, or base enough to encourage it, he yet may have bravery sufficient to repair the wrong. In that spirit I demand of you satisfaction for the wrong and injury you done me. Your answer must determine whether you are so far entitled to the name and character of a gentleman as to be able to act like one.

Very respectfully,

J. H. EATON.

SAM'L D. INGHAM, Esq.

REPLY.

Washington, 20th June, 1831.

SIR: Your note of Saturday, purporting to be a demand of satisfaction for injury done to you, was received on that day; company prevented me from sending you an immediate answer. Yesterday morning, your brother-in-law, Dr. Randolph, intruded himself into my room, with a threat of personal violence. I perfectly understand the part you are made to play in the farce now acting before the American people. I am not to be intimidated by threats or provoked by abuse, to any act inconsistent with the pity and contempt which your condition and conduct inspire.

Yours, Sir, respectfully,

S. D. INGHAM.

JOHN H. EATON, Esq.

MR. EATON TO MR. INGHAM.

June 20, 1831.

SIR: Your note of this morning is received. It proves to me that you are quite brave enough to do a mean action, but too great a coward to repair it. Your contempt I heed not; your pity I despise. It is such contemptible fellows as yourself that have set forth rumors of their own creation, and taken them as a ground of imputation against me. If that be *good* cause, then should your have pity of yourself, for your wife has not escaped them, and

you must know it.—But no more; here our correspondence closes. Nothing more will be received short of an acceptance of my demand of Saturday, and nothing more be said by me until face to face we meet. It is not in my nature to brook your insults, nor will they be submitted to.

J. H. EATON.

S. D. INGHAM, Esq.

From the Washington City Globe.

Mr. Ingham to the President.

WASHINGTON, 21st June, 1831.

The President of the United States:

SIR:—Before I leave the city, it seems to be due to the Government that I should perform a painful duty, imposed upon me by the events of the last forty-eight hours. It is not necessary for me now to detail the circumstances which have convinced me of the existence of vindictive personal hostility to me among some of the officers of the Government near your person, and supposed to be in your special confidence, which has been particularly developed within the last two weeks, and has finally displayed itself in an attempt to way-lay me on my way to the office yesterday, as I have reason to believe, for the purpose of assassination. If you have not already been apprised of these movements, you may perhaps be surprised to learn that the persons concerned in them are the late Secretary of War and the acting Secretary of War; and that the Second Auditor of the Treasury, Register of the Treasury, and the Treasurer of the United States, were in their company; and that the Treasurer and Register's rooms, in the lower part of the building of the Treasury Department, and also a grocery store between my lodgings and the office, were alternately occupied as their rendezvous while lying in wait; the former affording the best opportunity for observing my approach. Apprised of these movements on my return from taking leave of some of my friends, I found myself obliged to arm, and, accompanied by my son and some other friends, I repaired to the office, to finish the business of the day, after which I returned to my lodgings in the same company. It is proper to state, that the principal persons who had been thus employed for several hours, retired from the Department soon after I entered my room, and that I received no molestation from them either at my ingress or egress. But having recruited an additional force in the evening, they paraded until a late hour on the streets near my lodgings, heavily armed, threatening an assault on the dwelling I reside in.

I do not present these facts to your notice for the purpose of invoking your protection. So far as an individual may rely on his own personal efforts I am willing to meet this peril; and against an assault by numbers I have found an ample assurance of protection in the generous tender of personal service from the citizens of Washington. But they are communicated to you as the Chief Magistrate of the United States, and most especially of the District of Columbia, whose duties in maintaining good order among its inhabitants, and protecting the officers of the Government in the discharge of their duties, cannot be unknown to you.

I have only to add that, so far as I am informed, all the persons engaged in giving countenance to this business are officers of the Government, except the late Secretary of War.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. INGHAM.

JUNE 22d, 1831.

Messrs. Col. Campbell, Treasurer; Maj. Smith, Register; Doctor Randolph, Acting Secretary of War; and Major Lewis, 2d Auditor:

GENTLEMEN:—I have this moment received the enclosed letter from Mr. Ingham, dated the 21st instant, and having immediately, on its receipt, sent to ask an interview with him, I find that he left the city before it reached me. I wish you to state to me, if you, or either of you, have had any agency or participation, and if any, to what extent, in the alleged misconduct imputed in his letter herewith enclosed.

I surely have been deceived in your characters if you are capable of so far forgetting the responsibilities of your stations as to participate in the reprehensible conduct charged. To the serious charges contained in Mr. Ingham's letter, which gave me the first information that I have had upon the subject of his difficulties, I wish you to

give a prompt and explicit answer.

Respectfully,

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, June 22, 1831.

SIR:—I have had the honor to receive your communication of this day enclosing a copy of a letter to you from the late Secretary of the Treasury, of the 21st instant, complaining of an attempt to way-lay him on the part of certain officers of the Government, for the purpose of assassination, and charging me with being in their company, and my room in the Treasury with being alternately occupied with other officers as a rendezvous for them while lying in wait.—It might perhaps be sufficient for the purpose for which you have referred this communication to me, for me to apply to the charges against me, a simple and unqualified denial. They are entirely destitute of the least foundation in truth; but to show you more clearly how far I was from aiding or participating in any thing connected with this matter complained of, I will beg your permission to add the following circumstances. The late Secretary of War, Major Eaton, never consulted me upon the subject of his controversy with Mr. Ingham, nor did I even see him on the day in question, except in an accidental meeting of a few minutes. I never saw the correspondence between them until it appeared in the Telegraph; and although I had heard that a correspondence was going on which might result in a personal conflict, I did not believe it was likely to take place on that day, or even that Washington was to be the scene of it.

Trusting that these facts and explanations will be entirely satisfactory to you, I cannot withhold the expression of my astonishment, that charges so wholly uncalled for and groundless, should have been made against me by a gentleman with whom I never had the least cause of quarrel, and with whom my official intercourse, since my entrance into the Treasury, had uniformly been of the most friendly character.—I certainly had no idea of arming against him, or of interfering in any way in his dispute with Major Eaton.

I have the honor to remain,
Your most obedient servant,

JOHN CAMPBELL.

The President of the United States.

Mr. Lewis to the President.

WASHINGTON, 22d June, 1831.

SIR:—Your letter of this morning has this moment been received, and in reply I have to say that the charge made against me by Mr. Ingham of having been engaged in a conspiracy against him, is devoid of truth. If there were any such conspiracy against him, as alleged in his letter to you of yesterday, it was entirely unknown to me.

I arrived at my office on Monday morning, 20th instant, about half past eight o'clock, and never left the building until about half after two, when I walked down to the U. States Bank to attend to some Bank business. After seeing the Teller of the Bank, and informing him what I wanted done, I went to a barber's shop a little below Mr. Strother's Hotel. On my return I called at the Register's Office, a few minutes before three o'clock, where I saw, unexpectedly, Mr. Eaton—it being the first time I had seen him since last Saturday evening. I remained in the Register's Office about five minutes, and then walked up to my own office in company with no other person than Mr. Eaton. Dr. Randolph was not there, nor did I see him any where, on that day, out of the War Office, until late in the evening. I neither saw nor heard of Mr. Ingham while I was at the Treasury Department. I had no arms of any description about me.

I am, very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
W. B. LEWIS.

Mr. Smith to the President.

WASHINGTON, June 22d, 1831.

SIR:—In reply of your note of to-day, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Ingham to you, bearing date the 21st inst. I beg leave to state, that the charges contained in Mr. Ingham's letter, as far as they relate to me, are wholly untrue. I have had no participation or agency, whatever, in the controversy between Major Eaton and Mr. Ingham. I have given neither aid nor succor to Major Eaton, nor any one for him. I have not walked with him, nor near him. I have not sought Mr. Ingham, nor been in his neighborhood. I have been unarmed constantly, and in all re-