

BY REQUEST

From the National Intelligencer.

The Address of Mr. Bennett, late Attorney General of the U. S. to the Public, which we this day publish, and trust the attention of our readers. The subject of it is no longer a new one. It has been discussed by the Editors, Auditors, and the public, in the columns of the Standard. It assumes a new form, and a higher rank. Neither does this address afford any new facts, nor does it contain any new arguments. The controversy between the heads of our factions, growing to rise upon each other, has been standing aloof in the background, although Mr. Bennett and Mr. Van Buren, and others, as we really believe, ought to be brought before the public at all in connection with the late capture in the cabinet, or forward to the public, if he himself has started it. We find that he is a man of no great bearing, and to an unimpaired judgment. The bar of the public, to which he appeals, will seek justice, we shall of course render to him. We shall not, however, be obliged to take any part in the controversy, whether it be a real one, or not.

—
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. But I ask, and I feel that I have a right to expect, your candid consideration of this address. It is subject to one of the questioning invited to us all. The first, in which I find myself has nothing entering in it, it is one which I have not, regret, but which has been forced upon me, and one in which I am called upon to vindicate not myself merely, but the cause of truth, and the best and honest interests of the coin country, at a hazard to which fatality alone could be resorted.

The irrepressible conflict of a public journal, protesting to speak the language of the President of the United States, and published under his eye, have presented to me the alternative of admitting to an imputation as *de bonis rebus* and unfounded in fact, or of meeting the issue, which has been tendered to me under the alleged authority of that high officer. If I do shrink from this unnecessary strife, it is because I have a confidence which has never wavered in the intelligence of my countrymen, a firm and unshaken reliance in the justice of the tribunal, whose high prerogative it is at all times, and under all circumstances, to vindicate the cause of truth.

I have studiously abstained from any effort to influence the selection of the President by the exercise of my voting rights in relation to the election 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. I have not been desirous to deny the right of the President to exercise his own free will, as the President has done, as in the original selection of his cabinet, and with a perfect sense of the delicate position a refusal of witness in the investigation of the same would have placed him in. It was not, however, consistent with the principle by which I was guided, although the principle by which I was formerly regulated, to appear before the committee. For this I am very unhesitatingly prepared to have been required solely to witness the presentation of occurrences which the public would well never have come under my knowledge, to be publicly vouched as true, and which was directly in conflict with my conscience and was calculated to be called to vindicate my own integrity, as well as that of the alleged President of the United States. I have no doubt that the imputation upon no honorable man may be made, that the character of the American people, or the character of the President, is thereby injured. I am sure that I am totally ignorant of my own mind under any circumstances, I could yield to the influence of the great community in the cause of truth, and I am not in possession of power, at least the power which I desire, to cause the truth to be ascertained. It should not be easily surrendered to a person. I will yield to the decision of my countrymen—but I believe that decision may be made only by the people. I have faithfully discharged my duty to them, and to myself, and it will not be taken from them.

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per of my state, I submitted the inquiry to the Senate, with this view of the subject which I presented. I thought that if a President had selected, I could with propriety become a member of it. The former was a decided conviction on found in a long and intimate acquaintance with the character, that he would find it especially so, and correct the evil. The latter urged the peculiar relation of Georgia to the case, and the propriety of presenting a strong claim upon me to do so. The result which had been given to me. I yielded to those suggestions, and took my place as a member of the subject with a firm determination to avoid the subject which I feared might become. To that determining sentiment I adhered. Associating on terms of courtesy with my colleagues, my official interference with them was never interrupted by dispute.

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n at a subsequent period, the contro occurred between the President and resident, I thought I saw in this, the o of an intention again to agitate the s, which of the agency of the person- of General Jackson, had been be- apply repressed. The connection of ward with this controversy, and ex-

in relation to General Jackson, forbade me to take any part in it,—and I studiously avoided it. I have never except to deprecate Mr. Calhoun's public conduct,—and I was on the fourth day of April, one day before Mr. Eaton had announced to the President his determination to resign, seeing to it that I stated at that time to Mr. Eaton's letter of resignation, and not the President's, as I had given to me of the intended change in the Cabinet. But when I saw the correspondence of Department and President and the several Hays' communications, I could not doubt for a moment how, and by whom the change had been produced. I did not feel at liberty to express my views generally, until my return to Washington should enable me to dissolve my connection with the President; but to a few friends who had the honor to know my actual position, I stated the other things which I had in mind. I was not aware of the possibility of my continuance in the Cabinet, nor of my colleagues, nor could place the responsibility on other grounds than those which I believe to have been sound, and which I could approve. In full view of the speedy dissolution of all connection between me and the President, and myself, I availed myself of the occasion to state the kindness of my fellow citizens of Savannah, and of the justice to his public conduct, on a question so entirely interesting to the people of Georgia. I thought any man who is incapable of understanding, and appreciating the motive which prompted this course, and who is so young, and will not attempt to enlighten his understanding, returned to this city, to justify the proposition with the President, of my letter of resignation. I was not followed, it and having brought up the public business, which was in arrears, retired from the city.

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St. M. DERRIEN, Esq.

WASHINGTON, 18th June, 1881.

I received to day your note of last night, in which you call my attention to an article in the U. S. Telegraph, of the 17th inst. referring to your wife—and desire to know whether I will sanction or disavow the statement, you add, "the relation we have sustained towards each other, authorises me to send an immediate answer."

the inquiry preferred, as a matter of fact, and presented in the form of a demand, must be brief. It consists in the demand of the right which you assert you do not recognize your right to appropriate the statements of the "Yellow Journal" in any other public journal, which would constitute a property claim. You might say, "I am a member of the Union, and I am a newspaper in the Union, for the purpose of the question, and if I claim, you assert but I do not recognize you at the instance of any, I might be able to give my confession of my faith, in the statements to be found in the journal, and which my name is attached to be mentioned."

There can be no admission for a moment, as I cannot recognize you as a servant, and I cannot recognize you as delivered towards each other, by my other source, to make the demand to the position, I am not quite sure, as a public, that I can acquit myself to you or to myself for declining to

the progress of those events which have
resulted in the dissolution of the
my determination has been not to

to any act which was calculated to provoke controversy, nor to degrade under whatever urgency from that line of conduct, when my own sense of propriety proscribed. Acting on this principle, I have had necessarily pursued a course which has been somewhat inquisitorial, and I am aware that your inquiry might seem to indicate an unwillingness to avow. Such an inference would be unjust as it regards myself, and delusive as it relates to the public. Although therefore I have been reluctant to acquiesce in the inquiry, I have acquiesced upon such a subject, and I have acquiesced in your right to demand it, it seems to me that you have by making the inquiry imposed upon me the obligation to do so. I have therefore a full and free liberation of what I owe to myself and to you that up to the time of your marriage, I had not heard the rumors, which have since in various forms been presented to the public, and was ignorant of Mrs. Estlin's relation to the Society of this place. I accepted your invitation to be present at the wedding, therefore, with no distrust of the propriety of my doing so, other than that which resulted from my own situation at that time. I am therefore not so much aware as you much that I have been introduced into the Cabinet, made there the subject of conversation, I could no longer continue in ignorance of that which was said, and generally spoken of, and it consequently became necessary for me to be explained as the question was so often related in which we stood to each other, to determine upon my future conduct. In doing so it did not seem to me to be necessary to decide upon the propriety or impropriety of statements which were made, but was sufficient to ascertain the general sense of the community of which I had recently been a member, and having done so, to conform to the general opinion. I was born in 1830 as I presume is known to you, and I am therefore a gentleman, who represented himself as a friend, and who I doubt not had, under the authority of the President, to express with me his feelings on this subject, the regret which he felt at the rumor, or of some other influence among the members of the Cabinet, and to announce his determination to say rate to have it. Messrs. Ingham and Estlin were present at this interview. The fact was distinctly given very fully and was such as to be told to not been evaded. We were not taken out on such occasions at least the President would suspect in future a social visit to the respective families. During this conversation, my suggestions made to me, and I am aware that it was not of them is not rendered necessary by my inquiry. I answered to this Committee that I was aware, that I would not permit the publication of my name. I wish to return to the social intercourse of my friends, and that if such a request was presented I would retire from the official circle, as it were, by the interview to which I was invited. In the interview a few days afterwards I frankly expressed to you my views on this subject, and he declined my position to press such a request. I am aware that any other occasion has occurred since your question of an intercourse between your friends and mine has been pressed to me or to my mind.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. MACPHERSON BERRIEN.
To J. H. EATON, Esq.

Monday Morning, 8 o'clock
 Sir: I have received your note of the 19th
 and it may become necessary for me to
 say something in reply. For the present I
 have engagements which prevent me from
 doing more than to acknowledge that has
 been received.

Very respectfully,
J. H. EATON.

A. DENNIS.

June 22d, 1851
I have not had leisure to reply to your
of the 18th ult. until to day. It involves
matters which it behoved me to give a full
again consideration to. That has been

it indisposed to believe that these at
of Gen Green could be authorized by
or made under your sanction. Your de
cision is evidence of the correctness of
I was before impressed with. I take
therefore, with pleasure, to acknow
the frankness with which you have
aw an agency in this notorious busi

Respectfully, your most obedient,
J. H. EATON.
J. BARNES, Esq.

WASHINGTON, 23d June, 1831.
Your note of yesterday was received
course of the day. I was too much
ed, however, to reply to it at the mo-
and do so now merely to prevent mis-

your note of the 17th instant you called
me to sanction or disavow the statement
made in a publication in the Telegraph
dated 14th inst. I could not recognize your right
to make this demand, but for the reasons
stated in my reply, I thought it was pro-
prietary to you what I had done, in rais-
ing this matter.

I am quite right, however, in believing
that no agency in procuring the publi-
cation of the statement referred to. And as
to the spirit of your last note, I have
attention in thus confirming the con-
viction you have expressed.

Yours, respectfully,
J. N. MACPHERSON BERRIEN.
H. Eaton, Esq.

Col Johnson, which, with my reply, I feel I must forward now to give to the public. I have announced my desire to delay this until I could receive Col Johnson's reply. Perhaps I have waited long enough for it. Possibly, according to the canonism I have of late been upon the T. inst. out. But it is mine Col Johnson has taken has determined that this circumstance shall not be a matter of the Globe a statement full or otherwise of what passed between Messrs. Branch and myself and myself and him, on the occasion so often referred to. I have said that this statement are used to do in respect to this is done, to be sure, without the authority of Col Johnson, but he has furnished the means for no alternative but improper use, and I have no alternative but to publish this correspondence, or to submit to continued misrepresentation. I publish Col Johnson's letter as an act of justice to him, that the public may be in full possession of this statement. My reply follows, and after this I forward to Mr. Branch, to Mr. Brigham, to whom, at my request, I forward a copy of Col Johnson's letter. From Mr. Branch I have received nothing from him, as I suppose, to his ab-

Colonel R. M. Johnson to Messrs Berriens
and Ingham

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among intimate and bosom friends, where conversation was free and unreserved, for the object of peace and friendship.

if any should consider it necessary, then
great object should be, to state the con-
clusion correctly; for their can be no com-
munication to misunderstand the facts. For long
attention should have been made to in-
volve the member of Congress, and believe
it barely possible that I may have been
understood on the particular point alluded

have felt it my duty, and due to that
friendship which has ever existed be-
tween us, to make known these things to

proper correction may be made, as a mis-
standing, without the necessity of

standing, without the necessity of any
 publication from either of us, and
 but even a disclosure as to what member
 Congress allusion was made
 sincerely and truly your friend,
 RICHARD M. JOHNSON

A. CHASE & W. JOHNSON.
 1878. INGHAM & HERRICK.
 City of Washington.
 In absence of Governor Branch has to do.
 Only cause why this letter was not also
 sent to him.

Mr. Berrien to Col Johnson.
 WASHINGTON 7th July, 1833.

R Sir:—Yours of the 30th ult. addressed
intly to Mr. Ingham and myself, has
uly received. I have noted your view
occurrence to which it refers, with—

disposition to meet you in the spirit of kindness and of good feeling, which is expressed in your letter. It is an evidence of reluctance to engage in controversy, that abstained from going before the public, notwithstanding the multiplied misrepre-

I still desire to avoid this revelation as circumstances beyond my control render it indispensable, I acquiesce with reluctance in the interchange of reasons which you propose.
 I speak of what occurred at the instance which took place between you, Branch and Ingham, and myself, at the time you had, as I afterwards understood, previous conversations on the subject with one or both of those gentlemen but I was perfectly unprepared for the view until the moment when you announced your object at my house. The im-

made by your announcement was not to be easily effaced from my memory. You began by expressing the friendly wishes which you felt for those concerned.

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