

Samuel Delucenna Ingham to Andrew Jackson, June 21, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SAMUEL D. INGHAM TO JACKSON.

Washington, June 21, 1831.

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 48 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, the acting Secret'y of War, and that the Second Auditor of the Treas'y, Register of the Treas'y and the Treasurer of the U. States were in their Company, and that the Treasurers and Registers rooms in the lower part of the Building of the Treas'y Dept. 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. Apprized 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 Dept. soon after I entered my room and that I received no molestation from them either at my ingress or egress, But having

Library of Congress

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 upon 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 U. 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, and giving countenance to this business are Officers of the Govt. except the late Secretary of War.

I have the honor to be Respectfully