

get out of his sight and never cross his path again. But he remembered that Wise was his chief friend in congress and he did not dare break with him. He never really forgave him, and the situation was such that he had to appoint Calhoun. Just at the time Upshur died he had completed a treaty for the annexation of Texas, and had he lived a few weeks longer this would have undoubtedly been consummated and the war with Mexico would never have occurred. Tom Benton hated Calhoun and he threw all his weight against the treaty, because Calhoun had been made secretary of state, and prevented its confirmation. The result was the Mexican war, and it was all brought about by Henry A. Wise."

PRESIDENT POLK'S CABINET.

President Polk's cabinet was made up with almost as much trouble as was that of President Tyler. John C. Calhoun wanted to remain the secretary of state, but he was sacrificed to please Martin Van Buren. George Bancroft was made secretary of the navy, Robert J. Walker secretary of the treasury and John Y. Mason of Virginia, who was secretary of the navy in Tyler's cabinet, was made attorney general. He was kept in the cabinet because he asked Polk to keep him there. He stated to his friends that he wanted a cabinet office for the money it brought. Said he, "I like the place and the salary will assist my Virginia land and my negroes in the education of six daughters;" and so he got the place.

HOW PRESIDENT HARRISON FORMED HIS CABINET.

No man outside of the President himself knows more about the formation of President Harrison's cabinet than Gen. Michener, who was one of his chief lieutenants at Chicago, and who has for ten years been his most intimate friend. I chatted with him about the subject this afternoon. Said he:

"There have been many stories about the making up of President Harrison's cabinet, but few true ones. The statement that ex-Senator Platt of New York was offered the secretaryship of the treasury or of any other place under the administration by President Harrison before the nomination was made is false in toto. No man had a promise or intimation of any kind from Harrison before his nomination that he would be given an office by him. No man had any such intimation or promise during the period between his nomination and election, and there were no promises to speak of made before President Harrison came to Washington. He would not embarrass himself in any way, and as to the cabinet, though he discussed offices and men, he did not seriously begin to consider appointments until at least a month after his election. Blaine was the first man chosen and Gen. Harrison wrote to him and offered him the secretaryship of state, and I am not sure, but it is my impression that he received a letter accepting the appointment two or three days after his letter was sent. The next appointment was, I think, that of Mr. Proctor as secretary of war. Senator Proctor had never met Gen. Harrison up to the time of the convention. He came to Chicago and quietly looked over the situation and there made up his mind that Harrison was the man who should be nominated. While the balloting was going on at about

eleven o'clock one night he and Goc Cheney of New Hampshire and Mr. Cullough, the railroad president of New York, came to the headquarters of the Indiana delegation and announced their intention of throwing their support to Harrison. They said that they intended to work and vote for him and that if the giving out of the fact would help his cause we were at liberty to do so. We were, of course, glad to meet them and we scattered the information far and wide as soon as we could get hold of the newspaper men. After the convention was over Mr. Proctor went down to Indianapolis in McCullough's private car and met Harrison. Gen. Harrison was struck with Proctor's ability and common sense. He liked him at once, and when he came to making up his cabinet he chose him, both on the grounds of gratitude for his work at Chicago and respect for his sterling abilities. He knew also that the appointment would please New England and he was sure that he would make a good cabinet adviser. Secretary Noble was highly recommended by Attorney General Miller. President Harrison had known him for years and liked him. He came to Indianapolis at the request of the President-elect and he was afterward appointed to the interior department. The appointment of Gen. Rusk was made both on the grounds of friendship, of his peculiar efficiency for the head of the department for which he was chosen and as a matter of gratitude for his action concerning the Chicago convention. As soon as he saw there was no chance for his own nomination he threw all his strength to Harrison, and sitting in his office in Madison, Wis., he kept the wires between that city and Chicago hot with telegrams to his friends to vote and work for Harrison. Few of these appointments were made until a short time before the inauguration, and three were not settled upon definitely until Harrison came to Washington to be inaugurated. These were, I think, the appointments of Tracy, Wanamaker and Miller. The President had about decided as to them but not positively. Mr. Tracy had impressed him as a big man and as especially fitted for the head of the navy. Miller had been long associated with him in legal matters and John Wanamaker had weight through his great natural ability as a business man and the recommendations of the national committee. President Harrison decides things very slowly. He carefully and judiciously weighs every point, and his decisions are made through reason rather than through feeling. He chose his cabinet slowly and carefully, and it seems to me that his selection has proved to be a good one."

EX-POSTMASTER GENERAL HATTON OF PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S CABINET.

Mr. Frank Hatton, now editor of the Washington *Post*, was postmaster general during the latter part of President Arthur's administration. He was one of the first appointees that Arthur made and he sent his name as assistant postmaster general in to the Senate at the same time he did that of his first cabinet minister, Secretary Folger. The relations of President Arthur and Frank Hatton were very close, and President Arthur advised with him during many matters of political policy from the time of Garfield's death at the close of his term in the White House. I doubt whether

Arthur had a truer friend or a more conscientious counselor.

I called upon Mr. Hatton yesterday at the office of the *Post* and had a chat with him about the cabinet and its appointment. I found him very modest in his expressions concerning the matter, but his story was interesting and I give it as near as I can as he gave it to me.

Said he: "You remember the circumstances of President Garfield's death and the temper of the party and of the country concerning it. There was a strong feeling against Conkling and Arthur. The leaders of the republican party thought it had gone to smash, and I don't believe that Senators Sherman, Allison, Logan or any others of the then aspirants for the presidential nomination thought at the time that there was much hope of its successful revival. President Arthur understood the situation and he managed his appointments and his administration so ably that he succeeded in bringing order out of the confusion and made possible the election of a republican successor. When Garfield died it was supposed that Arthur, representative element of the stalwart party as he was, would take Conkling into his cabinet and would choose men of this faction for all the positions. This was the talk of the newspapers, but when he came to make his appointments he rose above factions and considered the interests of the country as well as those of his friends. His adoption of the other course would have been decidedly unsafe. At the time General Arthur entered upon his duties there was a man behind nearly every blade of grass in the country who had an idea that somehow or other he was mixed up with the assassination of Garfield, and had he appointed Conkling he would have only added to the factional flames. As soon as he took hold of the administration the members of Garfield's cabinet sent in their resignations. He replied to them that he would like to have them hold their positions until he could consider the matter carefully and make other appointments. The first name that he sent into the Senate was that of Gov. Folger as secretary of the treasury and he gradually sent in other names until the only man left of Garfield's cabinet was Robert Lincoln. He stayed until the close of the administration."

A WHITE HOUSE INTERVIEW.

"I was several times acting postmaster general before I was appointed and confirmed as such. When Postmaster General Howe died I was made acting postmaster general for ten days and was then designated by the President to continue as postmaster general for ten days longer. During this time some of my friends, without my solicitation or knowledge, urged President Arthur to appoint me postmaster general. I of course said nothing about it, but when I was calling upon him at the White House one day he said to me: 'You would really be surprised at the number of letters I have received asking for your appointment as postmaster general. What have you to say about it and what would you think of such an appointment?'"

"To this I replied," continued Mr. Hatton. "That however much I might appreciate my appointment to such a position, I did not think it would be an advisable one for the President to make."