

try, and resort to crimination for the purpose of prejudicing my relations with the Government, can I, upon any principle of justice, be held accountable for the act, or the effects which it may produce? And can an act of mine, right in itself, justly be decided to be wrong, because it may be found to have given displeasure to particular individuals? If re-crimination has followed upon crimination, so far as it has been resorted to, it has, in my humble opinion, been fully justified by the system of persecution which has been pursued against me, and the gross misrepresentations that have been made of my conduct. It is impossible for these misrepresentations to escape the observation of any one, who will cast his eye over the charge, and the response, and the testimony in the case; and if I had tamely submitted to the fraud; if I had failed to repel the influence which it was designed to have upon the decision of the Department, I should consider myself unworthy of the trust of the Government, or the confidence of my countrymen. And yet, this gross and enormous feature of the transaction has, for aught that I know, passed without animadversion, while I am rebuked for collisions and unpleasant consequences that have been forced upon me.

"I am told that these collisions and unpleasant consequences, in the production of which I have been a party concerned, have weakened the influence of the Government, and resisted its operations. I trust I shall be believed when I say, that there is no man in the country who would regret more deeply than myself, the commission of an act calculated to weaken the influence of the Government, and resist its operations. I had hoped that the Honorable Secretary was sufficiently satisfied by *proof*, that my humble abilities had been exerted to the utmost, to further the views and operations of the Government, so far as they had been made known to me. I feel conscious of unceasing efforts to render the Government my best services; and it is painful to receive this intimation, the first that has reached me from any source entitled to consideration, that instead of doing what I thought I had