

Extract of a letter to Mr. Webster.

London 16 Sept. 1842.

My Dear Sir,

The appointment of Mr. Rois, as my Secretary of Legation, places me in a very embarrassing position towards Mr. Van Rensselaer. To the young gentleman himself I can have no objection. From what I hear of him, had I been uncommitted, no selection could please me better. But as it is, I am placed in a very mortifying position. I was led to think from usage, and from your having desired me to express my wishes to you as to a Secretary, that my recommendation, at least if the candidate named by me were above all exception, would be decisive with you.

I therefore thought myself perfectly warranted in telling Mrs. Van Rensselaer in May last that I should write to you, requesting her son's appointment; as I did on the 2d. of June letting you know that I had spoken to her on the subject, I stated to Mrs. V.R. that I thought though I could but recommend, I felt compelled