

“ thought proper to appoint to as arduous an
 “ undertaking and under as positive a direc-
 “ tion as a cabinet ever framed.” I had in the
 same letter given an opinion of the enemy’s
 troops, upon near inspection of their numbers,
 appointment and discipline.

Furnished with these materials, and supported by the fidelity with which I had acted, it was not thought expedient I should have access to the King. What other facts might have been cleared up by my interview, and were wished not to be cleared up, the Secretary of State* only can inform the world. Direct means of effecting my exclusion from the King’s presence were not practicable; for the case was unprecedented. The pretext adopted was as follows.

It was suggested that an enquiry should be made by a board of General Officers into the causes of the miscarriage of the Northern Expedition; and a court *etiquette* was invented, the foundation of which in reason or precedent I am not acquainted with, *viz.* that the persons whose conduct was so put in question, should not appear at Court pending the enquiry. No difficulty of the competency of such a court was then spoke of, or perhaps

* Whenever *the Secretary of State* is mentioned in these papers, the person to be understood is the Secretary for the American department, Lord George Germain.

thought