Memories of many Men & Some Women
Maunrell B. Field. p. 302.

Lincoln in speaking of Chase's resignations. The first occasion was when Seward tendered his. Matters were fixed up and then I report verbatim Lincoln's account of the second.

Some time after this there was a Collector of Customs on the Pacific coast, one of Chase's men, who was represented to me to be a worthless vagabond, and even a defaulter. I spoke to Chase about him; but he had entire confidence in him, and refused to listen to any thing to his disadvantage. While matters stood thus, Chase one day told me that he felt overworked, and proposed taking a little trip down the Potomac, but that he would not be gone longer than two days. I said "all right, Mr. Secretary." and we shook hands and parted. As luck would have it, I was waited upon the very next day by a delegation of all the gentlemen from the Pacific coast both official & unofficial, who then happened to be in Washington. They filed formal charges with me against the Collector to whom I have referred, and demanded his immediate removal. I told them that the Secretary of the Treasury was out of town, and that it would be discourteous to him. If I acted upon the matter in his absence, but that he would return in one or two days at the latest, and I invited them to call upon me again in about a week, when I promised under all circumstances a definite answer to their request. A week passed. No Chase. The delegation returned and I was thoroughly convinced of not only the propriety of, but even the necessity for the act. I removed the Collector and appointed another in his stead. The first notice I received of Chase's return was about three days afterwards, when I found his resignation lying upon my table. I waited until evening and then ordered my carriage and drove to

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his house. I found him in the office to the left as you enter the door. I turnt directly up to him with the resignation in my hand, and pulling my arm around his neck, said to him: "Chase, here is a paper with which I wish to have nothing to do: take it back, and be reasonable." I then explained to him what had occurred while he was away. I told him that the man whom I had appointed happened to have been dead several weeks: that I couldn't replace the person whom I had removed — that was impossible — but that I would appoint any one else whom he should select for the place. It was difficult to bring him to terms; I had to plead with him a long time, but I finally succeeded, and heard nothing more of that "resignation".

I have copied this as I found the book a little hard to get. It also, I find comes under the title "Memories and Personal Recollections".

The Collector in question was Victor Smith as you will find in the other references. Smith I think was from Cincinnati. In Columbus, I know a man who was a close friend of Chase's and I have no doubt would know something of this man Smith. I mean to see him this summer. He is General Geiger.

Disbanding of the Army

Blaine 11 - p. 27 + 8 -.

Victor Smith

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