I witness the attack on
Senator Benton by Senator Foot=
while the Compromis Measures were
under discussion on the 17. of April 1850—
grate excitement was occasioned in the
Senate, on Several occasions. Senator Foot
had indulged in remarks personal to
Senator Benton, he complained of this
personalities, in Severe and violent languag
addressed to the Senate. reiterated the
personalities, on Foot. Spoke of the
failure of the Senate to protect its Mem-
bers, from such insults and declared
his determination if the Senate did not
protect him, to redress the wrong
himself Cost what it Might,
on the following day Mr Benton brought
into the Senate the newspaper report
of the ~~revised~~ altercation which he
said had been revised by Mr Foot,

1 A 13

he pronounced it a rong report
and denounced it as Cowardly. on
the 17. of April he said he intended
by an amendment which he had
offered to Cut at the root of all the
political agitation to cut up the
whole address of the Southern Members
he proposed to Show the Senate that
this alarm had been without foundation
to this. Mr Foot replied Saying they
all knew the history of the Southern
address. it was the history of a band of
patriots, but by whom was this
denunciation hurld against. to all
who. Subscribed this address. by a
Gentleman. the Oldes Member
of the Senate. the Father of the Senate
by a Member who on a late occasion.

at this point of the Speech of Mr
Benton rose. from his Seat 1A

thriw his chair violently from him made for Mr Foot, dewouren the passage he was stoped by Senator Dodge and several oeth Senators. he then jeumpt on tope of one of the desk. and lade open his brest, and, said let him fier. Stand out of the way and let the assassin, fier. in the meane tim Mr Foot, had reached the aisle, in front. of the Secertary table Mr Foot drew his ~~pis~~ pistol as sune. as Mr Benton made a meuve towards him. Mr Foot, remaind standing in the same position he had taky with his pistol in his hand. My impression was that it was a horse pistol, I was standing veary near him. it was seartney a veary lourg one –

1A 15

Mr Dickinson a Senator from New York, asked him to give up the pistol which he did— Mr Dickinson then locked it up in his desk Soon after both Senator resumed their Seats

Mr Benton then rose from his Seat and said a pistol. was brought here with which to assassinate me, I Carry no Arms Sir. Mr Foot I brought it here to defend myself Mr Benton Nothing of the Kind Sir, it is false, and no assassin has a right to draw a pistol on me.

the Vice President ~~will take~~ this the Senator will take his Seat Mr Foot. Mr President may I proceed in order Mr Benton I demand

the Senate shall take immediate cognizance that a pistol having been brought here to assassinate me under the pretext that I was armed will the Senate notice it.

Mr Foot if my presenting a pistol has been understood as anything except the necessary means of Self-defence, after threats of personal Chastisement it is doing me a wrong. I saw him advance toward me, and I took it for granted he was armed. — So help me god, to Shoot him without an attact was not my intention. I also Court investigation ——