

Bedford Inquirer.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 1868.

GRANT.

The evident aversion of General Grant to indicate his political proclivities has long been a source of annoyance to many good republicans. Though they felt that his views, judged of from his military record, could not be other than legal, his connection with the war office under the orders of the President raised apprehensions that were painful to every true and loyal man in the nation. Every act or word of Grant's, under these circumstances, could even be construed as equivocal, was hailed by the copperhead enemies of the country with joy and heralded abroad through all their journals as sure signs that the General in chief of our armies was in sympathy with the conservative, or in other terms, disloyal element. The sly and like attitude of General Grant has been, doubtless, as his friends have always claimed, because of his reluctance to get into the political arena. Whatever his reasons for this singular reticence, the President has compelled him in self-defense, to define his position in regard to obedience to the laws of Congress. When it became necessary to choose between obedience to the President and obedience to the law, the great conqueror did not hesitate for a moment but promptly declared in favor of and obeyed the law without regard to Presidential wishes or orders. This has already brought down upon him the vituperation and abuse of all rebelloid including copperheads. But Gen. Grant can bear it all and rejoice in it, for there is no surer evidence of a man's thorough loyalty than that he is soundly abused by the President and his copperhead parasites. Though Grant seldom speaks he has certainly spoken most opportunely this time. There is no act of a great soldier that so elevates him in the eyes of all men as implicit obedience to the existing civil laws whenever his active duties as a soldier in the field have ceased. There is no greater trial of a man's actual merit than the sudden transfer from the almost absolute power of a military commander in chief, where he is a law to himself, to the sphere of civil life where he is required himself to render the implicit obedience he has before been accustomed to require of others. Such acts gave to a Cincinnati and a Washington the greater portion of their honor and glory. It was the conquest of self, the greatest of all victories. Grant's nomination by the republican party, before well nigh assured, is now as nearly a fixed fact as anything not yet done can be. No man in the nation has so strong a hold upon the hearts of the people, and now that his latest deeds have satisfied the most exacting of the leaders of the party, thus assuring unanimity in his nomination, there will be really no obstacle to his election. The hosts of treason he has completely routed before; this time he will utterly annihilate them as a party organization. With Grant as our leader in the coming campaign we look forward only to the most overwhelming and triumphant victory.

RETRENCHMENT.

The republican administration in Pennsylvania has been characterized by large reductions of our State debt, the total abolition of taxes on real estate and numerous other improvements in our financial condition. All this has been done during, and immediately after one of the most terrible and expensive wars recorded in the annals of history. But it is not alone in the finances of our state that this spirit of economy has been made to tell. The national finances have also been managed with the same skill. True, while the war lasted and the nation was imperiled treasure was not spared, for it was economy then to do so, and promptly whatever had to be done. But the moment the war ceased, the work of retrenchment began, armies were disbanded, useless supplies disposed of and our whole armament, as rapidly as possible, was reduced to the lowest margin consistent with the public safety. The last Congress was thus enabled to reduce the public taxes the enormous amount of \$120,000,000. The present session of Congress has already reduced the estimates for the Navy Department \$20,000,000. It is estimated that the stoppage of contracts has saved the country \$52,000,000, which we would have had to pay in interest on bonds which McCulloch would have issued to redeem the currency in pursuance of his contraction policy. Here is already an annual reduction of about \$200,000,000, though the work of the present session has scarcely begun there is nothing surer than that the Internal revenue taxes will be largely reduced before Congress adjourns. Such acts of economy and retrenchment speak for themselves and place the record of the republican party on the question of retrenchment in the fullest accord with its professions. Copperheads may prefer groundless charges of corruption and extravagance against us but our record is our most triumphant vindication.

THE IMPEACHMENT QUESTION IS AGAIN BEING AGITATED IN CONGRESS.

The disclosures made in the Grant-Johnson correspondence show conclusively a deliberate design on the part of Johnson to defy the laws. It would seem from present indications that we owe it alone to Grant's firmness and determination to obey the law, that we are not at this moment engaged in an actual war, with Johnson in control of the military power, resisting congress and the laws of the land and proclaiming himself Dictator. It seems that but for Grant we might at this moment be again involved in all the horrors of another civil war. If Congress once more brings up the Impachment question it is to be hoped, the matter will not be permitted to rest until so dangerous and reckless a character as Johnson shall be regularly and fairly tried and removed from the position he has so shamefully abused and dishonored. While he fills the Executive chair the nation cannot have peace. He seems to delight in strife and turmoil and exerts all his ingenuity to prevent that condition of peace and tranquility which the country so much needs.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Congress has at last settled the contraction question by passing through both Houses the bill to suspend all further contraction of the currency. We showed conclusively some time ago, that notwithstanding the contraction cry, there was not actually as much currency or circulating medium of any kind available for the transacting of the business of the country, in proportion to the extent of that business and the increased prices, as there had been before any greenbacks were issued. We also showed that McCulloch's issuance and almost suicidal efforts at contraction had had no visible effect upon the price of specie or of the necessities of life, and that the remedy for high prices was not to be found in that direction. Business prospects are already brightening under the feeling of confidence inspired by this timely action of Congress. Time and the laws of supply and demand will of themselves correct the high prices and the gold premium. May the time be far distant when we shall lose our present convenient and every way desirable national and Greenback currency. We want a better and more equal distribution of National Banks than at present exists, but nothing more disastrous to the business interests of the country could befall us than the abolition of our national currency. Let McCulloch now give his attention to the payment of the national debt instead of increasing it by borrowing money to withdraw our currency and fund it in interest bearing bonds.

W. B. REED, a Philadelphia copperhead, has just published another pamphlet, launched at the great historian, Bancroft, in defence of his grandfather's revolutionary record. Imagine what a deluge of pamphlets will be likely to flood the country when the grandsons of our copperhead contemporaries, take up the gauntlet to defend the records of their grandfathers, during the past rebellion, against the impartial history of the same future Bancroft! They will doubtless find quite as hard labor as Mr. Reed and much less sympathy. They will have more than faint heartedness to defend again, and infinitely less ground of defence. They will then doubtless learn the meaning of the word loyal, which copperheads of the present day seem utterly unable to comprehend.

GEN. GRANT AND THE PRESIDENT.

The latest event of public interest has been the publication of the correspondence between the President and Gen. Grant in relation to the restoration of Secretary Stanton, and the promises alleged to have been made by Grant that he would either resign his position as Secretary of War ad interim, or compel Mr. Stanton to obtain possession of the office by legal process, should the Senate resolve to restore him.

The correspondence on this point, as submitted to Congress by the Secretary of War, embraces two letters from Gen. Grant and one from the President.

THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL GRANT.

We print elsewhere, says the New York Post, the correspondence between the President and General Grant, of which some parts appeared in our later editions yesterday. The President does not make a very exacted figure in these letters. Supposing, even, that his own version of the occurrences were correct—though no one who reads his letters can help seeing that Mr. Johnson's ill-temper helps him to give a perfectly fair and accurate account of conversations with the President. He expressed the opinion that he would have to appeal to the Courts to re-instate him, but remarked that he had not particularly looked into the Tenure-of-Office bill. Subsequently on reading the bill closely he found that he could not refuse to vacate the office of Secretary of War, if Mr. Stanton was re-instated by the Senate, without violating the law, even though the President should order him to retain it, which says Gen. Grant. After having come to this decision he informed the President of the fact, and a long altercation ensued, in which Johnson insisted on his retaining possession of the office, under the plea that he had the right to make the appointment under the authority of the constitution, and that consequently the person appointed could not be governed by an act of Congress. This reasoning did not satisfy Gen. Grant, who replied that the law was binding on him whether constitutional or not, until set aside by the proper tribunal. This conversation was on Saturday the 11th ult., and the Senate then had to do with the re-instatement of Stanton under consideration. At its conclusion the President remarked to Grant that he would see him again. He says positively that he did not agree to call on the President on Monday. On Tuesday, the day Mr. Stanton re-entered the office of Secretary of War, Grant officially informed the President of that fact. Mr. Johnson sent back a message by the bearer stating that he wanted to see Grant at a cabinet meeting that day, at this meeting the President gave a version of the understanding alluded to, in which he stated that Gen. Grant had agreed to hold on to the office until displaced by the Courts, or until the President should see fit to appoint some one else who would do so. Gen. Grant says in no way admitted the correctness of the President's statement, though to soften the asperity of the contradiction he admitted the President might have understood that he meant to resist re-instatement, but he further remarks, I made no such promise. The President replies under date of January 31st, and says in relation to his first interview with General Grant on the subject of Mr. Stanton's re-instatement that they parted with the distinct understanding that if Grant should come to the conclusion that he would prefer not to be a part to the controversy that would grow out of resist-ance to Mr. Stanton's re-instatement, he was to notify Mr. Johnson, so as to give him ample time to make another appointment prior to the decision of the Senate. Other conversations were had between those parties on this subject, and on Saturday the 14th ult., the President says that he and Gen. Grant repeated his promise and they parted with the distinct understanding that there should be a further conference on Monday. He says that this engagement was not fulfilled, and that he heard nothing from Grant until Tuesday, when he received official information from him that in consequence of the operations of the Tenure-of-office bill his functions as Secretary of War ad interim had ceased. Mr. Johnson, in his account of what transpired at the cabinet meeting on the 14th ult., flatly contradicts the statements of Gen. Grant, declaring that he (Grant) admitted that he had agreed to resign, in case he concluded not to resist Stanton's re-

instatement, and that he also admitted that he had agreed to meet him, for the purpose of taking decisive action, on Monday the 13th inst. He also says that Gen. Grant called upon him on Wednesday morning the 15th inst., in company with the late Secretary of War, and found it substantially correct. He afterwards caused the article to be read to four of the five members of the Cabinet, who were present and they concurred in the accuracy of its statements. General Grant then to the President under date of February 3rd, reiterating his former statements and concluding as follows: From our conversation and my written report of August 1, 1867, against the removal of Mr. Stanton, you must have known that my greatest objection to his re-instatement was that some one would be appointed in his stead, who would, by opposition to the laws relating to the restoration of the Southern States to their proper relation to the Government, embarrass the army and the Government, and the duties assigned upon it by the laws, and that it was to prevent such an appointment that I accepted the appointment of Secretary of War ad interim, and not for the purpose of enabling the President to rid Mr. Stanton by withdrawing it from him in opposition to the law, or not doing so myself, surrender to one who, as the statement and assumptions in your communication plainly indicated, was hostile to the Union, and, as well as to relieve you from the personal embarrassment in which Mr. Stanton's reinstatement would place you that I urged the appointment of Gov. Cox, believing that he would be more acceptable to Mr. Stanton, satisfied as I was that it was the good of the country, and not the office, the latter desired. On the 13th ultimo, in the presence of Gen. Sherman, I stated to you that I thought Mr. Stanton would resign, but did not say I would advise him to do so. On the 18th I did agree with Gen. Sherman to do so and advise him that course, and on the 19th I did so. I view alone with Mr. Stanton, which led me to the conclusion that any advice to him of this kind would be useless, and so informed Gen. Sherman. Before I consented to advise Mr. Stanton to resign, I understood from you in a conversation that you intended to resign after his reinstatement, that it was his opinion that the act of Congress entitled "An Act temporarily to supply vacancies in the Executive Department in certain cases," approved February 20, 1867, was intended to supply such vacancies, and that you intended to resign after his reinstatement, that it was his opinion that the act of Congress entitled "An Act temporarily to supply vacancies in the Executive Department in certain cases," approved February 20, 1867, was intended to supply such vacancies, and that you intended to resign after his reinstatement, that it was his opinion that the act of Congress entitled "An Act temporarily to supply vacancies in the Executive Department in certain cases," approved February 20, 1867, was intended to supply such vacancies, and that you intended to resign after his reinstatement, that it was his opinion that the act of Congress 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