

# The Columbian.

BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1868.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

VOL. II.—NO. 8.

## BLOOMSBURG DIRECTORY.

### STOVES AND TINWARE.

A. M. BRYANT, dealer in stoves, tinware, sheet iron, &c., 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### CLOTHING, &c.

D. J. HENNING, dealer in clothing, hats, shoes, &c., 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### DRUGS, CHEMICALS, &c.

M. J. HENNING, dealer in drugs, chemicals, &c., 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### CLOCKS, WATCHES, &c.

J. H. HENNING, dealer in clocks, watches, &c., 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

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### PROFESSIONAL.

J. H. HENNING, M.D., physician, 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### MILLINERY & FANCY GOODS.

M. J. HENNING, dealer in millinery and fancy goods, 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### HOELS AND SALOONS.

A. M. BRYANT, proprietor, 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

J. H. HENNING, dealer in miscellaneous goods, 101 N. 2d St., Bloomsburg, Pa.

## ORANGEVILLE DIRECTORY.

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## THE COLUMBIAN.

### A Democratic Newspaper.

BLOOMSBURG, PENNA.

### Choice Poetry.

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## Letter of the President to General Grant.

The President on Tuesday afternoon sent the following letter to the House of Representatives, in accordance with the resolution adopted the day before:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
February 15, 1868.

GENERAL: The extraordinary character of your letter of the 3d instant would seem to preclude any reply on my part. But the manner in which publicity has been given to the correspondence of which that letter formed a part, and the grave questions which are involved, induce me to take this mode of giving, as a proper sequel to the communications which have passed between us, the statement of the five members of the Cabinet who were present on the occasion of our conversation of the 14th ult.

The point is, that before you change your views you should be advised that you have received the receipt of the written order of the 20th, you say that you have been informed by Mr. Stanton that he has not received any orders limiting his authority to issue orders to the army, according to the practice of the Department, and that state that "while this authority to the War Department is not countermanded, it will be satisfactory evidence to me that any orders issued from the War Department by direction of the President are authorized by the Executive."

First of all, you were advised that, from the very beginning of what you term the whole history of your connection with Mr. Stanton's administration, you intended to circumvent the President. It was to carry out that intent that you accepted the appointment. It was in your mind at the time of your acceptance. It was not, then, in obedience to the order of your superior, as has heretofore been supposed, that you assumed the duties of the office. You knew it was the President's purpose to prevent Mr. Stanton from resuming the office of Secretary of War, and you intended to defeat that purpose, by accepting the office not in the interest of the President, but of Mr. Stanton.

If this purpose, so certain of by you, had been confined to yourself; if, when accepting the office, you had done so with a mental reservation to frustrate the President, it would have been a tactical deception. In the ethics of some persons a course is allowable, but you cannot stand even upon that questionable ground. The history of your connection with this transaction as written by yourself, places you in a difficult predicament, and shows that you not only concealed your design from the President, but induced him to suppose that you would carry out his purpose in keeping Mr. Stanton out of office by retaining it yourself, after an attempted restoration by the Senate, so as to require Mr. Stanton to establish his right by judicial decision.

I now give that part of this history as written by yourself in your letter of the 20th ult: "Some time after I assumed the duties of Secretary of War, Mr. Stanton, the President's Secretary, asked me my views as to the course Mr. Stanton would have to pursue in case the Senate should not concur in his suspension, to obtain possession of his office. My reply was in substance: 'That Mr. Stanton would have to appeal to the courts to re-establish him, illustrating my position by citing the ground I had taken in the case of the Baltimore police commissioners.'"

Now, at this time, as you admit in your letter of the 3d inst., you held the office for the very object of defeating an appeal to the courts. In that letter you say that, in accepting the office, one motive was to prevent the President from appointing some other person who would retain possession and thus make judicial proceedings unnecessary. You know the President was unwilling to trust the office with any one who would not resort to the courts. You perfectly understood that in this interview, some time after you accepted the office, the President, not content with your silence, desired an expression of your views, and you answered him that Mr. Stanton would have to appeal to the courts.

If the President had refused confidence before he knew your views, and that confidence had been violated, it might have been said that he was mistaken, but a violation of confidence refused after that conversation, was no mistake of his, but a violation of the trust which he placed in you. It is the past only that needs to be stated. That at the date of this

## Letter of the President to General Grant.

conversation, you did not intend to hold the office with the purpose of forcing Mr. Stanton into office, but did hold it then, and had accepted it to prevent that course from being carried out.

In other words, you said to the President, that it is the proper course, and you said to yourself: I have accepted this office, and now hold it to defeat that course. The excuse you make in a subsequent paragraph of that letter of the 20th ultimo, that afterwards you changed your views as to what would be the proper course, has nothing to do with the point now under consideration. The point is, that before you change your views you should be advised that you have received the receipt of the written order of the 20th, you say that you have been informed by Mr. Stanton that he has not received any orders limiting his authority to issue orders to the army, according to the practice of the Department, and that state that "while this authority to the War Department is not countermanded, it will be satisfactory evidence to me that any orders issued from the War Department by direction of the President are authorized by the Executive."

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