The Pittsburgh Gazette.

F. B. PENNIMAN, RUSSELL ERRETT, } EDITORS.
T. B. COSTAMAGNA, BUSINESS MANAGER.

GAZETTE ASSOCIATION, Publishers.

NO. 86 FIFTH STREET, PITTSBURGH.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1865.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

FOR MAYOR,
WILLIAM C. McCARTHY, 7th Ward.

FOR CONTROLLER,
JOHN McCARGO, 5th Ward.

FOR TREASURER,
WILLIAM EICHBAUM, 6th Ward.

Notice to Advertisers.—Notice is hereby given that hereafter PATRIOTIC advertisements received at this office must be paid for when inserted, except in the case of yearly advertisers whose bills will be rendered quarterly as usual. Advertisers will please make a note of this—the rule of cash payments for advertisements—the character stated will, from this day forward, be inflexibly enforced.

The price of our Morning and Evening Editions is THREE CENTS at the counter or from newsboys. Served by carriers at 20 cents per week.

THE House has carried out one suggestion contained in the annual message of the President, by passing a bill authorizing all roads across the states to carry freight, mails and passengers, in spite of any state regulation to the contrary. We suspect some Conservatives will be distressed at that piece of Radicalism, especially the Conservatives of the Railroad Company that own New Jersey.

Senator SPRAGUE of Rhode Island has started a movement to increase the import on all goods that can be manufactured in this country. Manufacturers are getting to be a vast interest. In 1860, according to the census, they furnished employment for 1,041,849 men and 270,497 women; or say, with their dependents, one-seventh of the whole population.

THE FUNCTION OF CONGRESS.

An intelligent foreigner, recently landed in this country, in listening to the talk and reading the lucubrations of our Conservatives, would be forced to one of two conclusions: either that Congress is an usurpation, or that the framers of the Constitution made an unaccountable mistake in providing for representative bodies. According to the Conservative gabble, the Senate and House of Representatives are at best a surplusage. There is no place for them in the economy of the government, and they can only escape utter opprobrium by becoming facile registrars of the edicts of the Executive.

Our view is precisely the reverse of this. This is not an Elective Despotism, having all the powers of Government lodged in the hands of one man; but a republic, with an Executive head, two Legislative Houses and an independent Judiciary. We believe not only in the efficacy but in the indispensability of debate, under popular institutions. As well undertake to keep the oceans wholesome without tides, or the atmosphere pure without winds, as to preserve a republican government, and personal liberty under it, without the fullest and most searching discussion by the legislative bodies of all public measures. Discussion is the condition upon which republican institutions can be sustained in a degree of purity to make them tolerable. Without discussion a rapid approximation must be made towards imperialism on the one hand or to oligarchism on the other. Most commonly the result is a hybrid, combining none of the excellencies of either with all the defects of both.

The grandest period of President JOHNSON's life was when five years ago, he stood up in his place as a Senator from Tennessee, and launched the thunder bolts of high debate against the policy of President BUCHANAN. There was a power in his utterances, and a nobleness in his mein, which raised him above all his fellows. Let a man to day peruse the record of those discussions, and he will be impressed with the grandeur of Mr. JOHNSON's character, with the vigor of his conceptions, with his readiness and force in retort, and with his contempt as a Senator for Executive dictation. It was just there that he won his proudest title to the respect of his countrymen, and inscribed his name most splendidly on the annals of his times. For his services in this vast emergency the people honored him and elected him to the rank of their First Citizen. But for the fearlessness and patriotism he thus evinced his present eminence would not have been achieved.

Now, the Conservatives tell us this sturdy patriot and undaunted tribune cannot abide debate; that he has swelled himself into autocratic proportions that President BUCHANAN never dreamed of, and that harmony between him and Congress can only be secured by the surrender of the right of debate and judgment on the part of the Houses. It seems to us these babblers have forgotten the history of the President JOHNSON, and know nothing of his character.

What they want is clear enough. They want power, or the pretense thereof, taken from the possession of power. Twice before have they tried their present game—Tyler and Fillmore they plied the former with flattery, and the latter with the direst threatenings. In both cases they attained their ends. How, then, did they treat their dupes? Why, poor Tyler waited in expectation of being re-nominated to the Presidency by his Conservative allies till every body laughed at his credulity; and the miserable Fillmore fed stalkily with empty hopes till the nomination was given to another. Succeeding time proves the political jugglers with the Executive third success. We think they are doomed to disappointment.

On the part of the republican masses, all over the country there is manifested a strong disposition to sustain Congress in its independence as a co-ordinate branch of the government; but without making any humiliating exactions from the President. There is consequently a strong desire that a basis of agreement may be found between the President and Congress, which shall save the rights and dignity of both, on all points involved in Reconstruction.

THE REBEL DEBT PAYERS.—The following are the members of the House, all Democrats, who voted against the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the payment of the Rebel debt:—Brooks of New York; Dennison, of Pennsylvania; Eldridge, of Wisconsin; Grider, of Kentucky; Harding, of Kentucky; McCullough, of Maryland; Nicholson, of Delaware; Ritter, of Kentucky; Rogers, of New Jersey; Shanklin, of Kentucky; and Trimble, of Kentucky.

RECOGNITION OF ALABAMA.

The President, through the Secretary of State, has officially recognized Alabama as a State of the Union, and directed the Provisional Governor to turn over his duties to the Governor elected by the people.

This official recognition by the Executive, is good as far as it goes; but it does not constitute complete reorganization. Congress is a power in the Government coordinate with the President. Congress is as independent in its sphere as the President is in his. If it is dissatisfied with the action of Alabama, it will refuse that State representation on the floor, and participation in national politics. Thus while the State would be a complete and intact organism, it would still stand outside the Union. If Congress shall concur with the President, and admit the Alabama representatives to seats, the reorganization will be perfected. It is just as impossible for the President to coerce Congress in this matter as it is for Congress to coerce the President. We see no conclusive evidence of an attempt at coercion on the part of either; only independent action, when we should be better pleased to see concurrent action through similarity of ideas.

KENTUCKY.

The present rebel legislature of Kentucky has undone all the good effected by previous Union legislatures, andase[illegible] every rebel in the State to the political privileges he enjoyed before the rebellion, and forfeited by his participation in it. The Louisville *Journal* says advised the congress in an act of clemency and kindness to misguided men; but the *Courier*, which speaks for the returned rebels, says it was not an act of clemency, but the lenity which will stand throughout time to come that the motives which prompted them to take up arms against the Government were misunderstood and appreciated, and that they were not, in so doing guilty of any crime deserving pains and penalties, or confiscation, which deserved the plowing and harrowing. This will be the vindication and extenuation for the rebellion. The *Journal* naturally does not like the rule thus given to the affair; but it may learn from it that clemency and kindness to criminals is not always the best policy, and that throwing pearls before swine has never yet proved satisfactory.

ITALIAN RAILWAYS.

Our readers are doubtless aware that the railway system of Francaud Italy must ultimately be connected by a tunnel under Mount Cenis, a work which will be one of the greatest engineering triumphs of the nineteenth century. This enterprise is now the topic of the day and energy of Congress. While this work is progressing to completion a railway over the Alps is in contemplation, the chief characteristic of which will effect a total change in the communications of mountainous countries.

The projected line is to lift the break of forty seven miles, that exists between the French and Italian railroads. A short experimental line has been constructed between Lauzeberg and the mouth of Mount Cenis, upon which engines have been running with very heavy loads with perfect success, and the ascentas been accomplished in eight minutes and a half. The principle that has been adopted in engineering traction is the force of this remarkable success. By a system of horizontal driving-wheels acting upon a middle rail, gradients of one in twelve can be overcome, whereas those of one in twenty five seemed in thirty have hitherto only been considered practicable. The cost of a permanent independent summit-line with a wider gauge has been estimate not to exceed one fourth the cost of the tunnel. When the undertaking is completed the journey over the Alps will be effected in little more than four, instead of nine hours.

THE CITY ELECTION.

A few men, professing to be Republicans, have claimed a right upon a Copperhead to a Citizens' candidate for Mayor. In view of such facts which justly grew out of the war, we have that any one within spark of manliness in him can so far demean himself as to proffer his support for any office, to one who took an active part with the enemies of his country.

This force of running a Citizens' candidate for Mayor has been made in this city so often and with such uniform ill success, that it may be safely said to be "played out." It is and disclosed so transparent that no one is or can be deceived by it; and we warn everyone who takes part in the movement now projected that it will be remembered against them for long years to come as effectually as it has been treasured up against all who took part in former movements.

The Copperheads, of course, stand by and appoint every effort to this direction; but so they have everything to gain and nothing to lose, they may be excused in regarding them with favor. If their political enemies voluntarily offer them an office they would be fools not to take it.

But why should any Republican make such an offer? What have they to gain? Pittsburgh has not had a democratic Mayor since than twenty years; why should she be disgraced by the election of one now? Why should this staunch stronghold of Republicanism be quoted all over the land as having adjured from her political faith to gratify the personal resentment of a few disappointed men? That would be the poorest of all possible reasons for aiding such an accomplishment; and yet there is no other.

The men who took part in the late primary election pledged themselves, by taking part in it, to abide by the result. They cannot in honor do otherwise. They are bound by every consideration of political faith to yield to the decision of the majority. If those who were defeated had been successful, they would have exacted this of those whom they defeated, and they cannot honorably do less than they would have expected their opponents to do.

We counsel our political friends to frown upon and scout every man and every effort to lead them astray in this matter. Stand firmly by the candidates nominated. Under this sign have we conquered, hitherto, and our party organization is our only hope, now or for the time to come.

CONCILIATION.—The Nashville *Press* says that that State, filled with noisy swaggering, blustering apostles of conciliation who, having just received their pardons from Washington, forthwith begin to denounce the State government and its supporters with every imaginable epithet of vituperation known to blackguards. They want conciliation! amity! fraternity! brotherly love with olive branches *ad infinitum*. But they reserve to themselves the privilege of abusing and vilifying the men from whom they expect conciliation.

THE New York *Post* advocates the immediate letting in of all the members elected to Congress from the Seceding States. It also advocates the abandonment of Protection for Free Trade. Nineteen out of every twenty of the Southern members elect are Free Traders. It looks as if these two points were connected in the mind of that journal.

GOVERNOR CURTIN arrived at Havana, on the 11th instant, in improved health.

The New York correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* says:

"Downing, the patriarch of oystermen, has become engaged in a controversy of place and honor. For time immemorial he has been prominent at Nos. 5 and 5 Broad street as the dealer in choice oysters and other edibles. In 1853 he made himself conspicuous at the great fire of December 16th, by clearing upon a cellar full of wines and liquors belonging to Mr. Rich, and by putting out the fire. He was successful in saving a vast amount of property. The city authorities in recognition of the service, gave the victorious fire special police from which the veteran should have received a long life sum. But these emoluments refused the non-fees for many of their bills, so that Mr. Downing was badly defrauded. Being a retired man, he had no redress but to bear the loss. Two years ago Mr. Morris Ketchum came into possession of Nos. 5 and 5, and compelled the old man to leave. Sympathy was aroused, a lunch room was opened at the Custom House, and Downing was sustained in trade. The individuals of the Ketchum family have transferred the old fixtures to other hands, and in a new restaurant just opened at No. 5—half of the old 5 and 5—and the sign announces it by the title of "Bispoth & Co., late Downing, established 1819." At all this D. M. Downing protests. He left Accomac, Virginia, about that time, and opened the place in 1820. So far from being "late Downing," he is well in the field on Wall, in the corner of the Custom House lunch room. Further, he protests back folks must come up, now while men want to draw into business under his name. He proposes to institute legal proceedings to protect his rights. The old man has built up a handsome property, reared two sons who are respectable and educated men, and displays a rare dignity and heroism which deserve high praise.

Alabama.

The Alabama Legislature has passed a stringent vagrant law, designed to bear upon the colored people, which is very much resembled among that class. It provides for the establishment of chain gangs in every town for the punishment of vagrants. It provides that any one to case shall be the punishment inflicted shall be hard labor in or out of a chain gang, the period not to exceed twelve months. Persons convicted of vagrancy may be sold to any person who will pay the fines and costs of the prosecution, and the purchaser may then use the services of the vagrant in any manner he may think proper. Persons convicted of vagrancy may be hired out for a period of six months to any person who will pay the fines and costs of the prosecution. The law provides that white vagrants shall be punished in the same manner as the negroes. Persons convicted of vagrancy may be sold