Pittsburgh Gazette.

D. P. WILLIAMS. D. L. BAYON. S. RIDDLE. RUSSELL EARLY.

S. RIDDLE & Co.,
EDITORS and PROPRIETORS.

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THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 4, 1858.

Mr. Buchanan has Defined his Position.

The story-tellers of old Germany, who flourished long before rationalism and other modern brain-distracting *isms* had a standing or even a name, were very fond of introducing the "Gentlemen in Black" in their well-recited legends. The plot and the *denouement* in a hundred of these stories are generally the same. An ambitious or avaricious youth, sighing for fame or lucre, just as his inclinations may have turned, was at the most hopeless point of his aspirations, confronted by the enemy of our race, and in consideration of the transfer of his own soul to the possession of his visitor, was relieved of all present anxiety, by a full gratification of his hopes and expectations. From that time the subject of this dread consignment changed his whole nature,—his timidity turned to boldness,—his precaution to recklessness,—and in a word, he gave himself up entirely to the service of his new master. These stories carry with them a moral; they were not written merely to amuse an idle hour, or to minister to the morbid taste of a superstitious age. They were designed to warn us against abandoning ourselves to the control of the great besetting sins of life, and to teach us humility, moderation and a love of justice, in our relations to Society. The lessons they inculcate may be adapted to any age and to any class of men. The course of our present Chief Magistrate reminds us that we need not go far for an application. After a struggle of twenty years for the Presidential honors, he has at length reached them by surrendering the principles of a life-time to the slave-holding interests of the South,—the Evil Spirit that tempts and deludes our public men.

The recent message transmitted by Mr. Buchanan to Congress—a telegraphic account of which we published yesterday—in which he endorses the monstrous wrongs perpetrated in Kansas, shows that he is willing, however reluctantly, to carry out the compact which he made with the Evil Spirit of Slavery, in his efforts to reach the Presidential chair—the top-round of his ambition. That compact, formed in revelry and mirth, with the future bright in prospective, is now being carried out in bitterness of heart and anguish of spirit; for, we cannot believe that Mr. Buchanan, heartless and selfish as he is, is prepared to smother all his Northern instincts—his early sentiments formed in the purity of youth, before his soul was tainted by an unwholesome ambition—the doctrines that he received from the good men who surrounded him in his middle age—without a moment, in his present existence, when he feels that, in giving up all the principles that good men hold sacred—in transferring his fame, his conscience, his peace of mind, and his very soul, to the keeping of the Evil Genius who has, in return, elevated him to the high place he now occupies—that the sacrifice was great indeed, and that the position and its precarious honors were dearly purchased. There is something melancholy in contemplating the degradation of a statesman whom it should be our pride to honor; and although the step he has taken was anticipated for a long time, we confess we were not prepared for it—so unworthy is it of an individual who occupies the place once filled by a Washington. It is such acts as these that cause men to despair of the Republic, and give credence to the assertion that virtue and patriotism are no longer found in our high places. We have no special comments to offer on this extraordinary movement of our Chief Magistrate—it carries with it its own condemnation. If the period does not soon arrive when every citizen of this Republic shall desire its record to be expunged from the archives of the nation, it will be because the love of liberty and justice has departed from the land. This last act of Mr. Buchanan is the crowning act of his infamous administration. What he may do in the future cannot affect *his* reputation as a public officer or a private citizen. His political grave has been opened for him, and his name will descend to posterity as a hissing and a bye-word. The short-comings of the administration of "Poor Pierce" will be forgotten when the enormities of his successor shall glare in the eyes of a reproving people. Verily, the South has been a severe and exacting master—and Mr. Buchanan an obedient servant. The compact, at least has been carried out—but at what a sacrifice, Oh Mr. Buchanan!

Calhoun's Arrival in Washington.

All that the Republicans predicted in regard to the course of the dominant party has been more than verified. The concessions and admissions of the very men who have been among the chief instruments of Mr. Buchanan's success. The hearty laughs at "Bleeding Kansas"—no longer insult the ears of a patriotic people—the disposition to [illegible] thereof—the disposition to [illegible] the scoundrels who have disgraced [illegible] in their dishonorable efforts to [illegible] enslave the people of that unfortunate [illegible] We observe that a large number of [illegible] are prepared to judge Mr. Regent Ca[illegible] cording to his deserts, foremost among [illegible] Col. Forney, of the Philadelphia *Press*, [illegible] article noticing the expected arrival of M[illegible] houn in Washington, with his bogus returns [illegible] "official" falsehoods, the *Press* designates [illegible] as "the inventor and champion of the Lecom[illegible] ton Frauds"—"the prince of pipe-layers"—"th[illegible] one man who, with troops and patronage, has been able to speak against fifteen thousand freemen"—and who "procured his election as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention on the distinct pledge that the work of his colleagues and himself should go to the people; but forgot his pledge as coolly as if it never had been made, and not only refused to give the people this right, but made himself the judge of the returns of the only two elections called by this Convention." The *Press* thus continues its glorification on the expected advent of this distinguished coadjutor of Mr. Buchanan, and bespeaks for him a proper reception:—

"When the illustrious Calhoun reaches the Federal City, he should be received with all the honors. The men who prevented the citizens of Baltimore from voting should welcome him at the cars. The ballot-box stuffers of California, if any are present, should carpet the Avenue for his delicate foot-steps; and the plotters of the capital should make the welkin ring with cheers.

"A few days ago, the gallant General Jo. Lane, of Oregon, war-worn and scarred in many a hard fight, received the Constitution of that new State, soon to be admitted into our family of Commonwealths, and it was covered with testimonials of popular approval.

"A few days before, another soldier, General James Shields, accompanied another Constitution, that of Minnesota—a new State, also, soon to be admitted to the fireside of the Republic, under which he had been chosen a Senator, and which (like himself, marked with the wounds received in the battle-fields of his country) was covered with the testimonials of true popular approval.

"Not so with Kansas! The Constitution which is intended for her is a fraud; and the man who bears it, or will speak for it at Washington, is her greatest foe, and leaves the Territory followed by the curses of a betrayed people.

"The Constitutions borne by Shields and Lane are the bulwarks of two new Democratic States, which is proved by the fact that both have been approved by the people.

"The Constitution fabricated by Calhoun is the subterfuge of a minority, who seek to make a free people accept a Slave State against their will, and who desire to destroy the Democratic party."

We know of no person better suited to receive the traitor CALHOUN than the President of the United States himself; "birds of a feather" &c.

A SHARPER FLAT.—On Thursday afternoon, a young lady and gentleman started from Bangor for Hampden, Maine, on a trial of speed. The gentleman—Blair and from the best him by a few minutes, and the lady proved most nervous, and not long after the start and from the best him by a [illegible] The gentleman was the favorite, but [illegible]