The Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1866.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

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

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

The Hon. Thomas Williams, who is now representative in Congress from a neighboring District, in assailing President Johnson, has acted in a manner entirely consistent with his previous course,—and this, we believe, is equally true generally of the small number who go with him. Mr. Williams, as representative in Congress, stood towards Mr. Lincoln in about the same attitude as now occupies towards Mr. Johnson. He made a speech in the last Congress identical, so far as it was possible to be, the lapse of time considered, with the one he made last week. He was opposed to the administration of the Union party then, he is opposed to it now. Mr. Lincoln's idea was that the seceded States were not dead, and that the war was an insurrection. Mr. Williams took the opposite view and arraigned Mr. Lincoln. President Johnson adopted Mr. Lincoln's views and policy, and, with entire consistency, Mr. Williams arraigns Mr. Johnson. Mr. Williams believed Mr. Lincoln could not be trusted, and so favored the movement of senator Wade and H. Winter Davis, whose manifesto against Mr. Lincoln will be remembered. He was of the opinion that Mr. Lincoln had failed if he had not deliberately betrayed his friends and principles. He has the same opinion concerning Mr. Johnson. Mr. Williams was sincere but mistaken then. No doubt he is sincere now, and, we believe, he is equally mistaken. At the very least, the course of Mr. Williams towards Mr. Lincoln, although as sincere as it was misjudged, does not entitle him to many followers in his war upon Mr. Johnson.—*Commercial.*

It may be true that Mr. WILLIAMS, on some points differed with Mr. LINCOLN in opinion, and that he asserted that difference with the fullness and freedom which was his right as a citizen and his duty as a member of Congress. But that he held an attitude of antagonism towards Mr. LINCOLN, every man in this community knows to be false and calumnious. When Mr. LINCOLN was before the people for re-election he had no more earnest and cordial supporter than Mr. WILLIAMS; and when he was struck down by the hand of an assassin, the loyal people of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, assembled in mass-meeting, instinctively selected that gentleman to pronounce an eulogy on his memory, which was a labor of affection, and performed in a manner strictly conformable to the opinions he had always entertained for the illustrious dead, and which left nothing to be desired on the part of the profoundest mourner over the national loss.

Mr. LINCOLN was deficient in some of the attributes essential to leadership. Indeed, he disclaimed being a leader, and was content to follow the demands of public opinion. Even in following, he was slow and cautious to a degree that occasionally tried the patience of his best friends. But he was so thoroughly honest, and yielded finally to conviction with so admirable a grace, that in the end he retained the confidence of those who most complained of his tardiness.

The justness of these observations will be apparent by calling to mind the doubt and hesitancy Mr. LINCOLN evinced in executing that great Act of Emancipation, which is his crowning glory. But for the urgency and sharp criticisms of such men as Mr. WILLIAMS he never would have issued the Proclamation. The Conservatives did all they could to increase his fears and perplexities about the matter, and if the radicals had held their peace, the great deed would have remained unaccomplished.

It is undoubtedly true that Mr. WILLIAMS opposed Mr. LINCOLN'S scheme for reorganizing, by presidential fiat, the rebellious States. Does the *Commercial* mean to be understood as holding that a member of Congress ought not to act on his own judgment of public affairs? Does it mean to affirm that it is a crime, or, at least, a fault, for a member of Congress, acting under his oath, to refuse to vote under dictation?

Besides, Mr. WILLIAMS'S views and action, on that subject, were in accord with the ideas and purposes of a decided majority in both Houses. Does the *Commercial* believe Congress to be a surplusage in the Government? and that, so long as it is tolerated, its chief duty is to obey the will of the President?

When Mr. JOHNSON adopted Mr. LINCOLN'S policy of reconstruction he knew that the present Congress, as well as the former one, was opposed to it. He knew, moreover, that Congress was, by right, the law-making power. In adopting Mr. LINCOLN'S policy, therefore, he volunteered to put himself in antagonism both to Congress and the people. His demand is that the nation shall repudiate its own ideas and plans, and adopt his; that Congress, instead of following the requirements of the people, shall submit to his dictation.

Whether Mr. LINCOLN, if he had lived, would have persisted in a plan of reconstruction condemned by the people, by means of two distinct Congresses, at the least, admits of doubt. His general course was to change his policy to meet the popular will. We believe this master would have furnished no exception to a rule so uniform, so just, and so fully in harmony with the doctrine and discipline of representative government. So thinking, we maintain that the *Commercial* does downright injustice to the character of the late President in holding him up as an example and justification of defiance of the will of the people, and of palpable encroachment on the prerogatives of Congress. But, it matters not how many Presidents may have arrogated to themselves authority clearly denied them by the plain words of the Constitution, and by the very genius of free institutions. The more numerous and the more flagrant the examples, the greater the necessity for meeting such usurpations with invincible firmness, and compelling respect for the laws and for the people.

"In the settlement of our present national difficulties, why should not the opinions of the President of the United States be accepted as being equally good as those of any individual member or any considerable number of members of Congress? . . . . It has long since seemed to us that there is not sufficient deference paid to the opinions of the President in quarters where there is deemed to exist the highest devotion to the Government."—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

We hold that the President has a clear right to his opinions on all public questions; and has an undoubted right to make his opinions the guide and basis of his official conduct. Every member of Congress has just the same right and duty. Hence we hold that in all cases on which co-operation is required between the executive and legislative branches a disposition ought to be evinced on both sides to accommodate differences. On other points each branch is at liberty to do what shall seem to it to be best.

The complaint we make of the President is that he is not content with following his own opinions in the line of his duty; but demands that members of Congress shall stop thinking for themselves, and allow him to do all the thinking to be done in connection with governmental matters. Nay, that he goes further and maintains that Republican members of the Senate and House who do not agree with him in opinion are as much traitors and disunionists as Davis and Lee, and ought to be as effectually put down as they have been.

THE press, with singular unanimity, express dissatisfaction with the character of the oration of Mr. Bancroft.—*National Intelligencer.*

On the contrary, the Press, with singular unanimity, commends and praises the oration. The only journal to condemn it, that we have noticed, is the New York *World*, its condemnation is peculiar.

GUBERNATORIAL.

The Republicans of Crawford county have elected D. V. DERICKSON and S. S. KNICK Delegates to the State Convention. The Meadville *Republican* says:

"There was a general expression in favor of the nomination of Gen. Geary for Governor, but it was deemed inexpedient to instruct the Committee in favor of any one candidate. A portion of the delegates expressed a preference for Hon. J. K. Moorhead."

The vote stood as 1 for Geary to 3 for Curtin.

The Republicans of Chester county held their Convention on the 13th. Delegates were elected as follows: Senatorial, J. SMITH FAITHFUL; Representatives, Dr. S. M. MCGARITH, W. B. MENDENHALL, and H. L. MCCLELLAN.

Resolutions were adopted approving the course of Congressman BROOMALL, Radical, and instructing the Delegates to vote for GEARY for Governor.

SOMERSET COUNTY.—The Republicans of Somerset held their county meeting on Monday last. General W. H. KOONTZ was elected delegate to the State Convention and instructed to support Hon. JOHN CESSNA for Governor.

The meeting was large and enthusiastic, and the resolutions adopted were of the strong radical stripe. We append one or two:

Resolved, That we are in favor of such a system of reconstruction as shall forever debar from power the instigators or abettors of the late accursed rebellion, wherever in the South or North.

Resolved, That we are and forever will be opposed to the restoration to political power in this government of, of every State or political or military leader in the late rebellion, without *some* or *any* such safeguards as will forever prevent their again raising a parricidal hand for the destruction of our loved and glorious Union.

Resolved, That we advocate as a most vital requisite in the process of reconstruction the establishing of such a basis of representation as shall not be proscriptive of race or color, and whenever a State shall by its amended Constitution or its local laws violate that fundamental basis, its representation shall be in the ratio of her unproscribed citizens.

INDIANA AND CAMBRIA.—The Republicans of Indiana county have chosen Wm. M. STEWART delegate to the State Convention, and concurred in the appointment of Dr. HUNT, of Jefferson, as Senatorial delegate. As the Senatorial district is composed of Jefferson, Cambria and Indiana, this settles the selection of Dr. HUNT. The delegates were instructed to vote for Gen. HARRY WHITE for Governor.

In Cambria county, Maj. JAMES D. HAMILTON has been chosen as delegate, with instructions to vote for Gen. WHITE.

AN IMPUDENT REQUEST.

The steamer Planter was used during the war by the rebels to carry ammunition and provisions from Charleston to Fort Sumter. She was seized by her colored crew and brought out to our fleet. This act of Robert Small and his companions was one of the most gallant of the war. The Planter was afterwards used by the government, as other prizes were.

Now comes Mr. Ferguson, of Charleston, and applies for the steamer, as formerly his property, "stolen from him by negroes." He has, it seems, taken the amnesty oath, and he makes this the ground of his singular and most impudent demand.—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

The demand, in this case, is not a whit more impudent or singular than is the other demand by Mr. FERGUSON, in common with the other rebels of South Carolina, to have all the r forfeited political rights restored to them, and the claim is as good in one case as the other. The *Post* favors the restoration of the political rights, but thinks the demand for the personal property singular and impudent. We cannot see the force of such reasoning. Mr. FERGUSON used the *Planter*, while he had her, to overturn the government; but he also used his political power to accomplish the same end. We captured the *Planter* from him, first, and afterwards took him captive, with his political rights. Now, if the logic of the *Post* be correct, as we admit, that he has, by his rebelliousness, forfeited the *Planter*, has he not also, by parity of reasoning, forfeited whate er political rights he used in behalf of the rebellion?

WHICH IS THE ORGAN.

The following from the Washington correspondence of the New York *Independent*, may throw some light on the subject of the Presidental organ:

"Who edits the *Intelligencer*? This important question has reached a solution, if we may rely upon a story the wags are telling. A few days since Colonel F., with a party of loyal Pennsylvanians called upon the President, but could not see him, being informed he was "engaged." The Colonel returned to the Senate, whose doors are open, and there found a bill which had passed both Houses, and only awaited the President's signature to become a law. This he took to the White House at once, and learned that the President was still engaged with the visitor whose presence had prevented Colonel F.'s entrance before. White House etiquette, however, always admits the bearer of a bill, and so the Colonel walked in, and saw, in deep consultation over a lot of newspaper clippings and "proofs," inspecting the former and correcting the latter, Mr. Doyle, of the *Intelligencer*, and the President.

"The Colonel retired, and since then his paper, which had therein, with just impartiality, for three days in the week, reflected the views of the President, and for the alternate days supported those of the Congress, has almost elevated itself exclusively to the Congress."

The *Intelligencer*, all through the war, was opposed to the Union cause, and since the return of peace, has opposed every liberal measure advocated by the Republican party. Its sympathies have always been and are now with the people of the South.

FRANCE AND MEXICO.

A Paris correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes from Nice, Nov. 30, 1865:

"At a Cabinet meeting held but a few days ago, Fould [illegible] and a decree of the Chamber of Commerce, all the Ministers expressed themselves unanimously in favor of an immediate evacuation, but the Emperor declared that this could not yet be done with safety. When asked what he intended to say about Mexico at the opening of the Chambers, he stated, to the astonishment of his Secretaries, that he wished to say nothing about it. But when they remonstrated that they were unable to bear the responsibility which such an ominous silence on such an occasion would impose on them, he promised to change his course, and to enrich in diplomatic forms some sentences on Mexico."

This confirms the view we took of the matter.

GETTING ALARMED.—The Louisville *Journal* is very wisely taking alarm at the consequency likely to flow from the ascendency of the reactionists in Kentucky. Speaking to the legislature of that State it says:

If the majority have any sense left, if they are not deaf and blind and dumb, they must know that the reactionists in this and other States have had a most deleterious effect upon Congress, and have greatly retarded the great work in which the President is engaged.

If the President is overwhelmed and his policy defeated, at the doors of the reactionists of Kentucky will be a large part of the responsibility and the infamy of the result.

As the editor of the *Journal* received only three votes from this legislature, when a candidate before it for State Printer, it does not seem probable that his warnings will be heeded much by that body.

THE *National Intelligencer* is in fear lest Congress should take it into its head to withhold the supplies, in case its measures are vetoed by the President. It regards the extension of the suffrage to the loyal blacks as a conspiracy to keep the Republican party in power, and it tragically calls upon the people to hold Congress to sustain the President in defeating the conspiracy. If it was a conspiracy to put the Democrats in power it would be all right, but having a contrary purpose it must be wrong. Any measure that keeps the Democracy out of office is necessarily criminal, diabolical, tyrannical and outrageous.

The Post has [illegible] amendments to the Constitution, and he signifies his desire for their consideration, and he signifies to "a distinguished Senator" his high desire [illegible] these amendments and that [illegible] statement. It seems, however, that while the President was kind [illegible] Congress who [illegible] the Constitutional [illegible] relative to the Constitution, he [illegible] declined any [illegible] proposals [illegible] Congress. The Chicago *Republican* says:

In the THIRTY-NINTH Congress, Mr. Johnson [illegible] several [illegible] Constitutional amendments to the Constitution, and he signified