The Pittsburgh Gazette.

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THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRESIDENT.

"Though thou bray a fool in a mortar with a pestle, yet will not his folly depart from him," says the wise man. Although the verity of this aphorism has been attested ten thousand times since Solomon's day, it remained for ANDREW JOHNSON to furnish the strongest verification of its correctness that the annals of the world afford.

In the face of the thundering verdict of an indignant country against himself, and in vindication of the action of Congress, upon the gravest question that ever claimed their decision, he puts a series of questions to the Attorney General touching the legality of the very Congress which the votes of a vast majority of the American people—State after State without any exceptions—have just sustained, or will, as soon as the time to speak arrives.

We were at first inclined to regard the report of this last and crowning act of madness on his part as sensational; but subsequent reflection induces us to regard it as authentic; and for the present, at least, we shall so treat it. It is not necessary to rehearse the questions he puts to his attorney, for our readers have all seen them. We shall only cite the fifth and last, which is in these words:

Fifth. What steps do the Constitution and his oath of office require the President to take, in order to secure the assemblage of a constitutional Congress?

He wants to know what he shall do, "in order to secure the assemblage of a Constitutional Congress." This inquiry is plainly predicated upon the assumption that the existing Congress is not a constitutional body. This is in accordance with his former declarations, in which he spoke of it as a body "claiming" to be the Congress of the United States, and as hanging upon the verge of the government.

As the Attorney General is a creature of his own, and holds his position upon the same terms that hundreds of other poor creatures throughout the country hold office at his hands—a servile and unquestioning support of his "policy"—we may safely assume that the same mind that dictated the questions will dictate the answers; and that whatever ANDREW JOHNSON wishes to do, the Attorney General will tell him it is his duty to do.

But what *can* he do. Congress, as now constituted, embraces the representatives of about four-fifths of the United States, and more than two-thirds of these have said (and the people have ratified the decree) that the representatives of the States lately in rebellion can only come in on certain specified conditions. What then can the President do? or what business has he to interfere in the matter at all? He cannot make a constitutional Congress out of the representatives of the rebel States, even were all the copperheads now in Congress to join them, for combined, they would still fall far short of a numerical quorum. Does he suppose that, although Congress may recognize him as constitutionally invested with the office of President of the United States, that it will allow him to play the part of a dictator, and usurp its prerogatives? Or is it his purpose to fall back upon his power as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and compel obedience to his imperial behests? If he knows anything, he knows that this is his only expedient, if he intends to interfere in the matter at all; and if he does not so intend, why ask such questions? He knows that Congress would laugh to scorn any other effort he could make to thrust rebel representatives into the halls of Congress.

Well, let him try it; but if he does the country will soon be rid of him; and whether he shall be sent to the scaffold or to a mad-house will be a question to be determined afterwards. Such an attempt might lead to war, but it would be a very short one. "Bayonets think," was the sententious but pregnant remark of somebody in Europe. In America it is peculiarly true; and if ANDREW JOHNSON should attempt to usurp authority that does not belong to him, and ride roughshod over the people and their representatives, he will discover to his dismay that "bayonets think," and that our soldiers will shoot as they voted.

A STRAW.

The Philadelphia *News*, a leading Copperhead journal, more noted for its venom and violence than for its strength, has, in its issue of the 10th, the day after the election, a long and carefully written article as to the propriety of President JOHNSON setting Congress aside, and taking the power of the Government entirety into his own hands. We should have passed the article by as the ravings of a heated and disappointed partisan journal, had it not appeared almost simultaneously with the President's questions to his Attorney General, plainly indicating that he is meditating some such movement. The article is headed, "*Can the President Prorogue Congress?*" and, in order to show the drift of the argument, we make a few extracts:

"If we were simply asked what the Constitution expressly authorizes the President to do, we should have no difficulty in answering the question, and if it were asked what latitude of action might be allowed in a time of extreme danger to the very existence of the Republic, we should say that if it be right to take the acts of the present Congress as precedents, *the President would be justified in sending a body of troops to the Capitol and arresting all the members of Congress, placing them in prison, and carrying on the government without their aid or interference.* If he should do so, they, at least, would have no right to complain; for it would merely be doing what they are now doing, acting without regard for the Constitution.

That the majority of the present Congress have acted without respect for the supreme law no candid man will deny; and that they have already in a measure overturned the government and assumed despotic power is patent to every intelligent person in the country. The question, therefore, which naturally arises is this: *Would the President be justifiable in temporarily assuming power not expressly granted by the Constitution, in order to prevent the consummation of the designs of the revolutionists, and give the people an opportunity to re-establish the Constitution?*

The *italics* in the first paragraph are ours, those in the second are its own. Here the threat is openly made to overthrow the government by military force, and establish a dictatorship in its place. This indeed, is precisely what the President asks the law officer of the administration to advise him to do; for it is preposterous to suppose that he would put such questions to a man who had the moral courage to return him a proper answer, or, indeed, any answer other than such as the questioner himself shall dictate. All usurpers are anxious to gather around them at least a shadow of legality with which to cover their most atrocious acts.

It is very probable that this article was not written without authority. The writer enters into an elaborate argument to prove that the precedents set by President LINCOLN during the war—in ordering out seventy-five thousand men, in ordering conscriptions, in suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, in suppressing disloyal newspapers, and in issuing a proclamation to emancipate the slaves—would justify President JOHNSON in arresting and imprisoning the members of Congress. The following is the closing paragraph, the *italics* and capitals being just as we find them:

"When political Borgias are pouring venom through a thousand mercenary journals into the minds of the people, a vast portion of whom are kept in the dark as to the real designs of the patricides, does not justice and the public welfare demand that their pernicious course should be checked? And when by audacious measures they aim at the destruction of all the cherished rights and franchises of the people, is it just to sit still until their nefarious work has been accomplished? We know that President Johnson would be exceedingly reluctant to adopt any unconstitutional measures, and we do not believe that there exists an imperative necessity for any more infractions of the "supreme law." By legitimate means the Constitution may be restored, and in another article we will show how it may be done. At present we will only remark that *Thaddeus Stevens and a number of other persons violently excluding members of Congress from their seats, and acting in violation of the Constitution, cannot be legitimately regarded as* THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES."

It is plain that the President and his Copperhead supporters would like to treat the elections now taking place just as the rebels did the first election of Mr. LINCOLN. But let them beware, for the country is better prepared in every way to deal with traitors now than it was in 1861; and they will fare worse than the rebels did if they undertake to introduce Mexican politics amongst us.

GENERAL NEWS.

—The State debt of old Virginia is $40,000,000.

—There are fourteen dethroned Princes in Europe.

—Vermont sheep are emigrating to Virginia in flocks.

—Medical men advise Mr. Seward to retire from public life.

—Blind Tom's musical talent makes the Londoners open their eyes.

—In some parts of the west the early frosts were a "hard freeze."

—There are 137,000 persons in Brooklyn who do business in New York.

—The bears are very hungry and plenty in Maine this season.

—Many Ohio ministers refuse to preach for less than $1,000 salary.

—The building of a Bible house is contemplated at Constantinople.

—During the late storm Vermonters did not see the sun for seven days.

—Two murderers and five robbers have dug out of an Indiana jail.

—An Arkansas editor and postmaster have had a duel. Both will die.

—One hundred thousand dollars are asked for the horse "Kentucky."

—Bribery is rife in England, and voters are paid as high as £120.

—A base ball struck and killed a negro boy in Annapolis.

—It is believed that the Russian General Mouravieff was poisoned.

—Government allows Jeff. Davis $20 per week for the purchase of rations.

—Lord Ponsonby, a British *Swell*, died in his yacht at Madeira.

—The Locomotive brotherhood meets in Boston in November next.

—There are 205 insurance companies of all kinds in New York city.

—Turkey is arming to the teeth against the poor Crete-ure in Candia.

—An insane lady in Brooklyn strangled herself with her garter last week.

—The Marquis de Gallet has been sent on a fancy mission to Mexico.

—Two French bishops and seven priests have been massacred in China.

—John Brougham is at the Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia.

—Lady Don and Kate Denin are the stars at Maguire's, San Francisco, Theatre.

—Five thousand coolies were sent to the West Indies last year to die like sheep.

—Morgan Smith, the negro actor, has been very successful in London.

—The Prince de Conde's body was sent to England in ice from Sydney, N. S. W.

—Victor Emanuel is now of as little account politically as the Queen of England.

—The United States have two hundred times the amount of coal that Great Britain has.

—The negroes of Mississippi are growing nothing but cotton. If it falls, then what?

—Ladies in Paris will wear Turkish trousers this winter instead of—well, unmentionables.

—Dawison, the tragedian, is a Pole. He is said by the German theatre in New York $6,000.

—A New York paper boasts of its phiter-nosed reporters. It probably has "setter" compositors.

—The Illinois girl who lately lost her speech [save whispering] has had forty offers of marriage.

—The debt of Great Britain is $4,041,449,490, and that of the United States $2,814,367,730.

—The vines of California are loaded down with fruit of unusual size and sweetness.

—Louis Napoleon is showing the world what a small hole he can crawl through gracefully.

—Speaking of uniforms, Mr. Punch says militia men will be always raw till they are properly dressed.

—The annual consumption of tobacco by the human family is 4,480,000 pounds—70 ounces per head.

—The difference between the number of people who eat and those who sleep in New York is 197,000.

—Pousard, the poet, and Count de Montelembert, eminent *litterateurs* of France, are at the point of death.

—A Mormon Bishop recently deceased leaves eleven wives and forty-seven children to mourn his loss.

—Napoleon is taking measures to enable him to muster an army of 1,100,000 men, should he require it.

—The cable worries Wall street. Combinations in London, Paris and Berlin control their markets.

—A Georgia sheriff has been arrested by military authority for executing a process of the County Court.

—There are 9,000 New York merchants among the stockholders of the new Merchant's Express Co.

—Upon the beautiful Island of Barbadoes there is not vacant space enough for a picnic. It is all cultivated.

—Guldschmidt, the astronomer, just deceased, discovered fourteen telescopic planets with an opera glass.

—It is proposed in England to establish an asylum for disabled horses, where they may be judiciously coddled.

—Lead pencils were first introduced in Italy three centuries ago. Now 500,000,000 are consumed annually.

—A Galveston (Texas) merchant the other day, on a bet, consumed eighty dozen raw oysters, and he survived.

—Louis Napoleon invited Bismarck to come over to Fontainbleau and shoot with him—not with the needle guns.

—A lady in England in custody for murder is the daughter of a man who cut his wife's throat and then shot himself.

—At a meeting of the French Academy of Science a young German girl from the title of "Officer of the Imperial Academy."

—Fashion writers tell us that a great change is to be made in the dress of gentlemen. Perhaps it is the Georgia costume.

—A French theatrical manager has brought out a piece from which he calculates to realize in three hundred night a profit of 465,000f.

—An "infant" in Waterford, Ireland, weighs 32 stone. He measures 37 inches around the calf of his leg, and one yard around the thigh.

—The Briarfield Iron Works, Alabama, under the superintendance of General Gorgas, *ex-de-want* chief of ordnance of the Confederate States, are rapidly approaching completion.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

JAMES T. BRADY & CO.,
(Successors to S. Jones & Co.,)
Corner Fourth and Wood Sts.,
BANKERS & BROKERS,
DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF
Government Securities, Foreign Exchange, Gold, Silver and Coupons.
COLLECTIONS made on all accessible points in the United States and Canadas.
Interest allowed on Time Deposits.

CO-PARTNERSHIP.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING purchased the stock and machinery of the late firm of FREDERICK ASCHELMANN, have on the first day of October, inst., entered into a partnership under the style of HAMPEL, GUTMAN & CO., for the manufacture of WASHING &c., at the old established stands of Frederick Aschelmann and Thomas Harper, on Beaver street, Manchester, and would respectfully solicit a continuance of the patronage hitherto generously bestowed.
THOMAS HARPER,
C. ANTHONY GUTMAN,
ADAM ASCHELMANN.
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NEW STYLES HATS.

M'CORD & CO.,
131 WOOD STREET,
Are receiving an immense stock of
HATS, CAPS AND FURS,
Embracing an endless variety.
HATS FOR THE LADIES, GENTS AND BOYS; CAPS OF EVERY STYLE; FURS FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN; SABLE, MINK, SQUIRREL, &c., &c., to any shape or price, to which they invite the attention of all.
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J. B. CAPEWELL,
WIND-GUARD AND AIR-HEATER FOR COAL OIL LAMPS.
PATENTED OCTOBER 27TH, 1865.
The merits of this invention consist in its protection to lamp chimneys, which are continually broken while being filled with the ordinary lamps. No sudden transition from heat to cold can be carried to injure these chimneys; the lamps can be carried with safety and without apprehension, in the most rapid motions, producing a steady light, under all circumstances, and the fractual destructive loss of chimneys entirely obviated. The lamps can be carried safely