

Special Correspondence of Petersburg Index. From North Carolina. The Conservative Convention, North Carolina Hill Team to Her Good-Bought Fame. Her People will Rejoice at the National State Constitution. Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 13, 1868.

THE DAILY JOURNAL. WILMINGTON, N. C. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1868.

The War Office Imbroglio. Exclusively, so far as the North Carolina daily press is concerned, we have published the full text of the correspondence between the President and General Grant.

What may be our opinion of General Grant as an officer or as a politician, we share the mortification, in common with the American people, the publicity of developments which affect his character as a gentleman. When the General of our armies—the victorious soldier who brought to a successful close the most gigantic revolution in the history of the world—brings reproach upon his good name, as he engaged as well as the conspirators, equally citizens of the United States, feel more keenly the disgrace to the national reputation.

Yet we cannot bring ourselves to believe that he has been guilty of deliberate duplicity, but rather he has been made the out-pour of a shrewd and designing politician, who has used him in order to secure such a rupture as promised to aid them in their impeachment folly, or having already secured the assistance of his popular name to their partisan purposes, now wish to injure his Presidential prospects for the advancement of rival. Altogether he has been as a piece of putty moulded and fashioned as Sherman and his artful friends have directed.

Under the searching charges of the President and their unequivocal confirmation by several members of the Cabinet, Gen. Grant's vain boast of the vindication of his personal honor and character, in letters full of equivocation and wanting in frankness and independence, will not satisfy the unbiased judgment of the public, but the whole correspondence too plainly demonstrates that he has risked and imperiled both his personal honor and his character in his eagerness for the Presidency.

Take his illustrious predecessor, General Scott, General Grant has fallen into the hands of political Philistines, but with less ability and not so much honesty, he has already tarnished his good name much more than General Scott ever did. At such a cost, if he reaches the goal to which his ambition aspires, he will have sacrificed all which would make the office desirable.

Special Telegram to the Richmond Dispatch. CABINET CORRESPONDENCE. The President's Final Report to General Grant. The Testimony of the Members of the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1868. To the Editors of the Dispatch. I send you, without comment, the following important letter:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, February 10, 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 forms 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 statements of the five members of the Cabinet who were present on the 14th ultimo. Copies of the letters which they have addressed to me upon the subject are, accordingly, herewith enclosed.

You speak of my letter of the 31st ultimo as a reiteration of the "many and gross misrepresentations" contained in certain newspaper articles, and reassert the correctness of the statement contained in your communication of the 28th ultimo, adding (and here I give your own words): "Anything in yours in reply to it to the contrary notwithstanding." When a controversy upon matters of fact reaches the point to which this has been brought, further assertion or denial between the immediate parties should cease, especially when, upon either side, it loses the character of the respectful discussion which is required by the relations in which the parties stand to each other, and degenerates in tone and temper. In such a case, if there is nothing to rely upon but the opposing statements, conclusions must be drawn from the statements alone, and from whatever intrinsic probabilities they afford in favor of or against either of the parties. I should not shrink from this test in this controversy; but fortunately it is not left to this test alone. There were five Cabinet officers present at the conversation, the details of which in my letter of the 28th ultimo you allow yourself to say contains "many and gross misrepresentations." These gentlemen heard that conversation, and have read my statement. They speak for themselves, and I leave the proof without a word of comment.

If it is proper, before concluding this communication, to notice some of the statements contained in your letter. You say that a performance of the promise alleged to have been made by you to the President would have involved a "resistance to law and an inconsistency with the whole history of my connection with the suspension of Mr. Stanton." You then state that you had referred to Mr. Stanton, some one in his place who would countermand the army in carrying out the reconstruction acts, and add: "It was to prevent such an appointment that I accepted the office of Secretary of War *ad interim*, and not for the purpose of enabling you to countermand the army by his withholding from him the necessary orders." It is one who would, as the statements and assumptions in your communication plainly indicate, have been sought.

whole history of your connection with Mr. Stanton's suspension you intended to circumvent the President; it was to carry out that intent that you accepted the appointment; this was in your mind at the time of your acceptance. It was not, then, in obedience to the order of the President, as he 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. You accepted the office not in the interest of the President, but of Mr. Stanton. If this purpose, as entered into by you, had been confined to yourself—did, when accepting the office, you had done so with a mental reservation to frustrate the President—it would have been a tacit deception. In the ethics of some persons, such a course is allowable; but you cannot stand even on that questionable ground. The "history" of your connection with this transaction as written by yourself places you in a different 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 to keep Mr. Stanton out of office by retaining it yourself, after an attempt at restoration by the Senate, so as to require Mr. Stanton to establish his right by judicial decision. I now give that part of the "history" as written by yourself in your letter of the 28th ultimo:

"Some time after I assumed the duties of Secretary of War *ad interim* the President 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 get the office. I was not, however, in citing the ground I had taken in the case of the Baltimore Police Commissioner."

Now, at that time, as you admit in your letter of the 3d instant, you held the office with the very object of defeating an appeal to the courts. In that letter you say that in accepting the office one intention was to prevent the President from appointing some other person who would retain possession, and thus make judicial proceedings necessary. You knew the President was unwilling to trust the office with any one who would not, by holding it, compel Mr. Stanton to resort to the courts. You perfectly understood that in this interview—

"Sometimes" after you accepted the office, the President, not content with your silence, desired an expression of your opinion, and you answered him that Mr. Stanton "would have to appeal to the courts." If the President had reposed confidence before he knew your views, and that confidence had been violated, it might have been said he made a mistake; but a violation of confidence reposed after that confidence was a mistake of a different order. It is the fact only that need be stated, that at the date of this conversation you did not intend to hold the office with the purpose of forcing Mr. Stanton into court, 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 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 the letter of the 28th ultimo, that afterwards you changed your views as to what would be a proper course, has nothing to do with the point now under consideration. The point is, that before you changed your view you had secretly determined to do the very thing which is stated in the residence of law. I know of no statute that would have been violated by your carrying out your promises in good faith, tendered your resignation when you concluded not to be made a party in legal proceedings.

You add: "I am in a measure confirmed in this conclusion by your recent orders directing me to disobey orders from the Secretary of War, my superior and your subordinate, without having countermanded his authority to issue the orders I am to disobey." On the 24th ultimo you addressed a note to the President requesting in writing an order given to you verbally five days before to disregard orders from Mr. Stanton as Secretary of War until you "knew from the President himself that they were his orders."

On the 29th, in compliance with your request, I did give you instructions in writing "not to obey any order from the War Department without my sanction, by the direction of the President unless such order is known by the General commanding the armies of the United States to have been authorized by the Executive." There are some orders which a Secretary of War may issue without the authority of the President. There are others which he issues simply as the agent of the President, and which he is bound to obey. For such orders the President is responsible, and he should therefore know and understand what they are before giving such "directions." Mr. Stanton states in his letter of the 4th instant, which accompanies the published correspondence, that he "had no correspondence with the President since the 12th of August last, and he further says that since he resumed the duties of the office he had continued to discharge them "without any personal or written communication with the President." And he adds: "No orders have been issued from this Department in the name of the President with my knowledge, and I have received no orders from him." It thus seems that Mr. Stanton now discharges the duties of the War Department without any reference to the President, and without using his name. My order to you had only reference to orders assumed to be issued by the "direction of the President." It would appear from Mr. Stanton's letter that you have received no such orders from him. However, in your note to "the President of the 30th" ultimo, in which you acknowledge the receipt of the written order of the 29th, you say that you have been informed by Mr. Stanton that he has not received any order limiting his authority to issue orders to the army according to the practice of the Department, and state that "while this authority to the War Department is not countermanded it will be satisfactory evidence to me that any orders issued by the War Department, by the direction of the President, are authorized by the Executive." The President issues an order to you to obey an order from the War Department purporting to be made "by the direction of the President" until you have referred to him for his approval. You reply that you have received the President's order and will not obey it, but will obey an order purporting to be given by his direction, if it comes from the War Department. You then state that you have referred to the President the direct order of the President, but will obey his indirect order. If, as you say, there has been a practice in the War Department to issue orders in the name of the President without his direction, does not the precise order you have requested, and have received, change the practice as to the General of the Army? Could not the President countermand any order issued to you from the War Department, if it were issued in the name of the President, as the President, issued in the name of the President?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, ALEXANDER W. RANDALL, Postmaster General. To the President. The letters of Secretaries Browning and Seward will appear to-morrow.—[ET. JOURNAL.]

Division Among the Republicans in Louisiana. The Louisiana Republicans, says the Springfield Republican, have always succeeded better in fighting each other than anybody else at the State Convention, and again and have split on the State ticket, and will run two at the approaching election. The regular Republicans, at their recent State Convention, nominated a list of white candidates, at which the colored and native element of the party rebelled, and announced an independent ticket, with Judge Salas for Governor and Dams, the colored man whom the white Convention rejected, for Lieutenant-Governor. The bolters charge fraud and unfair dealing upon the regular Convention and evidently mean to make a sharp fight, and solely on the test of color. An independent candidate for sheriff in Kentucky put forward his claim to the fact that he once slept with Andrew Jackson. Rev. S. Jones Berlin, late pastor of the Lutheran church in Proctor, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, died on Thursday morning, issued in the name of the President.

to do a special act, and an order directly from the President himself, not to do the act, is there a doubt whether you are obeying? You answer the question when you say to the President in your letter of the 3d instant, "The Secretary of War is my superior and your subordinate," and yet you refuse obedience to the superior out of deference to the subordinate. Without further comment on the inopportune attitude which you have assumed, I am at a loss to know how you can relieve yourself from obedience to the orders of the President, who is made by the Constitution the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, and is therefore the official superior as well as the General of the Army and of the Secretary of War. Respectfully yours, ANDREW JOHNSON, General U. S. Army, commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET PRESENT AT THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL GRANT ON THE 14TH JANUARY, 1868. EXECUTIVE MANSION, D. C., Feb. 5, 1868. Sir—The Chronicle of this morning contains a correspondence between the President and General Grant, reported from the War Department in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives. I beg to call your attention to that correspondence, and especially to that part of it which refers to the conversation between the President and General Grant at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday the 14th of January, and to request you to state what was said in that conversation. Very respectfully yours, ANDREW JOHNSON.

THE RESPONSES OF THE SECRETARIES. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5, 1868. Sir—Your note of this date was handed to me this evening. My recollection of the conversation between the President and General Grant on Tuesday the 14th of January corresponds with your statement of it in the letter of the 31st ultimo in the published correspondence. The three points specified in that letter, giving your recollection of the conversation, are correctly stated. Very respectfully, GIDSON WELLES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, February 6, 1868. Sir—I have received your note of the 5th instant calling my attention to the correspondence between yourself and General Grant—especially that part which relates to what occurred at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday the 14th ultimo—and requesting me to state what was said in the conversation referred to. I cannot undertake to state the conversation as stated, and I have no hesitation in saying that your account of that conversation as given in your letter to General Grant under date of the 31st ultimo substantially and in all important particulars accords with my recollection of it. With great respect, Your obedient servant, HUGH McCULLOUGH.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, February 6, 1868. Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th of February, calling my attention to the correspondence between the President and General Grant, and especially to that part of it which relates to the conversation between the President and General Grant at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the 14th of January, with a request that I state what was said in that conversation. In reply, I have the honor to state that I have read carefully the correspondence in question, and particularly the letter of the President to General Grant dated January 31, 1868. The following extract from your letter of the 31st of January by General Grant, in accordance with my recollection, a correct statement of the conversation that took place between the President and General Grant at the Cabinet meeting on the 14th of January last: "In the presence of the Cabinet the President asked General Grant whether, in the conversation which took place after his appointment as Secretary of War, he had agreed to remain at the head of the War Department and abide any judicial proceedings that might follow the non-concurrence by the Senate in Mr. Stanton's suspension, or should he wish not to become involved in such a controversy, to put the President in the same position with respect to the office as he occupied previously to General Grant's appointment by returning it to the President in time to anticipate such action by the Senate. This General Grant admitted. The President then asked Gen. Grant if, at the conference on the preceding Saturday, he had not, to avoid misunderstanding, requested General Grant to state what he intended to do; and further, if in reply to the inquiry, he (General Grant) had not referred to their mutual conversations, saying that from them the President understood his position and that his (General Grant's) action would be consistent with the understanding which had been reached. To these questions General Grant replied in the affirmative. The President asked General Grant if, at the conclusion of their interview on Saturday, it was not understood that they were to have another conference on Monday before final action by the Senate in the case of Stanton. General Grant replied that such was the understanding, but that he did not suppose the Senate would not so soon; that on Monday he had been engaged in a conference with General Sherman, and asked if General Sherman had not called on that day. I take this mode of complying with the request contained in the President's letter to me because my attention had been called to the subject before, when the conversation between the President and Gen. Grant was under consideration. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, ALEXANDER W. RANDALL, Postmaster General.

North Carolina Reconstruction Convention, (Re-called.) RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 13—P. M. The Convention to-day adopted part of the articles on the Legislature; apportioning Senators districts—divides the State into fifty districts—appointing Senators exclusively on population, and does away with the property qualifications; also passed an ordinance allowing every man without regard to qualifications, who can prove a moral character and paid the tax fee to practice law. The Convention having passed an ordinance to levy a tax upon the people or property of the State to pay mileage and per diem of the members and to meet the expenses of the Convention, General Canby has issued an order requiring the Public Treasurer of the State to pay the same out of the order of the President of the Convention. It is understood that Mr. Battle, the Public Treasurer, will obey the order.

Our Relations with England. The New York Times is urging the importance of maintaining our good temper in the discussion of the Alabama claims.—The editor thinks that "we can undoubtedly fix the responsibility of the Alabama's building and escape upon Great Britain, before any fair tribunal. The claim of the United States is, therefore, practically perfect so far as obtaining satisfaction for her shipwreck and endowments is concerned. Why, then, should this claim be delayed or jeopardized by irrelevant discussions as to England's general attitude toward this country, or made ridiculous by citations of bits of Fanny poetry in Congress. The matter is already in a state of complication quite to be regretted."—[See Sun.]

OUR NOON DISPATCHES. Secretary Seward's Response to the Demand of the Governor of Ohio The Object of Mr. Burlingame's Mission to Europe—Foreign Intelligence, by Cable. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13—Noon. Secretary Seward, in his response to the Governor of Ohio for his demand of the return of the papers relating to the constitutional amendment, says that there is no law permitting the withdrawal of any document from the Department of the request of an individual or a State, therefore the papers will remain on file. It has transpired that Mr. Burlingame's mission to the European powers is to secure assistance against the Chinese rebels, who are pressing the Imperialists. Certain commercial privileges are tendered in compensation for material and political aid. Ineffectual application has been made at the Army Headquarters for the correspondence between General Grant and Hancock. CABLE SUMMARY. The La France rears that Bismarck has asked for permission to resign. Bismarck's official organ says that the Austrian Ministry is pursuing a dangerous course in zealously befriending the Slavonic cause. Abyssinian advisers represent that Napier is pushing the hostile forces with reports of repeated skirmishes. Another Democratic Victory in New York. BIRMINGHAM, N. Y., Feb. 13—Noon. At the municipal election which took place here yesterday, a Democratic Mayor and a majority in the City Council were elected. This is the first time in ten years that the Democrats have carried the city. Governor Brownlow's Opinion on Railroad Strikes. NASHVILLE, TENN., Feb. 13—Noon. The messages of Governor Brownlow characterize the concerted railroad strikes as practices against the State. A White Woman Outraged by Negroes. MEMPHIS, TENN., Feb. 13—Noon. A French woman, living in the suburbs of the city, was ravished last night by two negroes. The police are after them. OUR MIDNIGHT DISPATCHES. From Washington—Proceedings of Congress, &c. WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—P. M. SENATE.—The bill authorizing the Light-House Board to place warnings over obstructions at the entrances of bays and sounds was passed. A bill was passed declaring bridges on the Mobile and Chattanooga Railroads to be post roads. The case of Senator Thomas of Maryland, was resumed and dismissed up to the hour of adjournment. HOUSE.—After the transaction of unimportant matters the bill in relation to the rights of American citizens abroad was resumed. The speaker announced, by regular order, that this bill would occupy the morning for a week. The whole matter was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury enclosing a draft of the bill regulating trade with Spain. Referred to the Committee on Commerce. The case of John Young Brown was resumed. Mr. Brown paid his own case. He was rejected by a vote of 15. The House then adjourned. The discontinuance of the President's Bureau in the States of Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland occurred on Saturday next. The command of General Meade telegraphs that he is not sure whether Alabama has accepted or rejected the Constitution. He is investigating whether the polls were not opened in certain counties; if not, he will order special elections. The annual delinquency bill becomes a law by the lapse of ten days. The President has nominated Moses N. Davis Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Alaska. Davis distinguished courage, skill and ability displayed during the war of the rebellion, (General W. T. Sherman is to be General of the armies of the United States, by brevet. In the Reconstruction Committee to-day, Mr. Stevens of Pennsylvania, presented resolutions impeaching the President for high crimes and misdemeanors. The resolutions were tabled by the following vote: Yeas—Newark, Bingham, Payne, Beman, Hallard, Republicans; and Broke and Deak. Nays—Cortis, Hayes, Stevens, Boutwell, Democrats. This is considered a finality to the impeachment question. The Tennesseeans are hopeless of relieving their railroads from the operation of the legislation proposed by the Southern Railroad Committee. The President has called on Gen. Howard for a list of Bureau functionaries with the law under which they are employed. A reliable letter from Beirut, Syria, reports that Gen. Beckwith was there January the 1st, contemplating a journey through Syria, and being asked about returning to America, General Beckwith said he had no wish to become a martyr, and should not return until he could do so with safety; but that no other country should become his home. The same letter states that Jacob Thompson and several other leading parties in the South, during the late war, are wandering about in Turkey. The Secretary of the Treasury directs the Customs Collectors when cancelling cotton exportation permits to return them to the assessor of the districts where the permits originated, thus preventing their use a second time.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES FOR THE JOURNAL. For General Market Reports see Commercial Intelligence on Third Page.

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