

DAILY SENTINEL.

Wm. E. PELL, Proprietor. THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW. 'Mack' Talks with His Two Hours and a Half.

Taking advantage of the general clearing out of Congressional dignitaries which has taken place since the adjournment on the 20th, and of a recent snow storm, which I felt assured would prevent the few remaining members and gentry Senators who remained at the capital to stay in their respective boarding-houses for a few days, and thus give a reasonable chance to an official caller in pursuit of an interview with the President, I made a visit to the White House, last evening for the purpose of a brief political conversation with his Excellency. After a few minutes' waiting in the ante-room, I was ushered into the Executive presence, where I remained for two hours and a half. From what passed I select the following items of general interest:

THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION. 'I believed that and I believe now that there is a majority in the country—and a very large majority—opposed to the policy of the Radical party; but many who want to oppose that policy cannot be made to do it by joining the Democratic party. They will not make concessions to the Democratic party of fall into the rear of it under the leadership of such men as Vallandigham. The October election in Ohio showed this. Negro suffrage, which represented the Radical policy, was beaten by 50,000, and yet Gen. Hayes was elected Governor. Well, now if the people were to elect an opposition to Radicalism, they would have given 50,000 majority for Thurman.'

AS REMOVED BY GRANT. I told Mr. Johnson that I understood General Grant to have been the first to suggest the removal of Ord, and he replied that such was the fact. He (Johnson) had not attempted to interfere against Ord, but let Grant have his own way.

THE MORN BUSINESS. 'They talk a great deal,' said Mr. Johnson, 'about the "morn" business, as if I had said something then that I had never said before, and have repudiated since. The fact is, there is nothing in that speech inconsistent with my previous record, or with what I have said or done since.'

'Because I wanted the negroes to be free and enjoy their rights, it does not follow that I want them to be the ruling class in eleven States. Reconstruction, that kind after its accomplishment, brings no peace to the country. It plants in every State the elements of discord and disunion, that will be felt sooner or later.'

MR. LINCOLN'S POLICY.—WHAT HE SAID HIMSELF. 'As to an extra session for the purpose of settling the reconstruction question,' said the President, 'Secretary Welles will tell you that Mr. Lincoln called to him on Sunday that he had no idea of calling it; but that he (meaning the Administration) had been going to work and get it all out of the way for Congress met to fuss about it.'

SOMETHING ABOUT STANTON. One of Stanton's last suggestions in the cabinet, he said, was to increase the regular army to its maximum; which would put it at nearly 100,000 men; also, to have an order issued making desertion punishable by death. Stanton came in one day with a proposition embracing these two points, reduced to writing. The President expressed his astonishment at such a thing. Stanton replied in the affirmative. 'Well,' said the President, 'I am opposed to each of the propositions, and especially to both of them. Stanton went on to say the army was deserting in platoons, and nothing but a rigorous enforcement of the death-penalty would stop it. The President said he preferred such a thing as shooting deserters to such a thing as shooting deserters in the name of peace. Stanton replied that there was a law on the statute books now authorizing it, but he couldn't find it. The President said the country would be unable to bear the expense of the army reduced to the maximum. It would be a hundred millions a year; but Stanton insisted that it ought to be done. When General Grant came into the cabinet, the President asked him if he had approved of Stanton's propositions, and he replied that he had not—that he hadn't seen them, and knew nothing of them. 'I could never approve of a thing like that,' said Mr. Johnson, 'to bankrupt the North in order to raise a big army to overrun the South—two million of an army now, and its expense already.'

IT WILL BE OBSERVED from the above that the American Carnot had a back-action force in view, which was to recruit the army up to the maximum first, and then shoot it down to the minimum. The original Carnot never equalled that in brilliancy of conception.

A GOOD JOKE ON GRANT. This is as good a place as any to tell that I received to be a good joke at Grant's expense, perpetrated by so grave a person as Attorney General Stanbery. My authority is unquestionable. In fact, it always is. Soon after Grant's election to the cabinet he brought up a proposition in cabinet meeting, in regard to the abolition of whipping, as a punishment for crime, in the South. All the cabinet officers agreed at that point, but they differed as to the propriety of interfering against the penal laws of a State. Each minister was being gradually abolished anyhow, and could soon disappear entirely. But Grant believed that something ought to be done by the army to prevent its continuance. It was so barbarous that it ought not to be tolerated a day longer. Stanbery glanced at the general and said, 'Is a whip any more to you still? You and your men used to whip the rebels up to the army, within view of the house, don't you?' 'Yes,' the general said, 'that had to be some times.'

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