

# The Daily Sentinel.

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## The Daily Sentinel.

JOSIAH TURNER, JR. EDITOR.

From the Chicago Tribune, (Baldwin).  
GEN. GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION—STRONG IN THE BEGINNING—WEAK NOW—ITS MISTAKES RE-CITED—A CRITICISM OF THE CABINET, AND CHANGES DEMANDED—VIEWS OF THE LEADING RADICAL JOURNAL ON THIS WEST.

When General Grant was induced into the Presidential office on the 4th of March last, he was stronger in the respect and confidence of the people than any other man who has filled that high office during the present generation. The only predecessor comparable to him in this regard was Mr. Lincoln; but Mr. Lincoln never saw the day when he was free from the active, determined hostility of a powerful political party. This party, when General Grant was inaugurated, had not only been crushed by defeat, but conquered by a latent admiration of the cool, silent, sure-footed autocrat who had overthrown them on so many and such diverse fields of action. The Republican party, so lately torn asunder by the impeachment trial, was again united and irresistible in its loyalty to its exalted chief. On that day it may be safely said that President Grant was the strongest man in Christendom; for his power was rooted in the affections of a free people.

There has been change. Two months have passed away, and it cannot be affirmed that we have a strong Administration; its moral power has been frittered away by small absurdities, which, fortunately, have no bearing upon the sincerity, the truthfulness, or the high purpose of the President and his advisers. We doubt if there ever was an Administration with more good intentions at heart or less aptitude for carrying them into effect. And since the evil which exists is not able to cure it's, its remedy must be sought and found elsewhere. General Grant is our President. He is a man of high motives and pure purpose. History does not record a more illustrious career in arms than his. Whether we regard the magnitude of his achievements or his singularities of purpose—whether we contemplate the scruposity of his judgment, or the firmness of his resolves, or the unselfishness of his acts—we must admit that he stands among the great men of ancient and modern times. He is too great and too good a man to be allowed to fall into popular derision for the want of friends courageous enough to acquit him of his errors.

General Grant's first mistake consisted in his supposing that a government is the same thing as an army, and that an administration is to be carried on as a battle is fought, with infantry, cavalry and artillery. To command an army successfully officers are needed to execute the orders of the General in Chief. To carry on a government statements are needed who understand the idea, the wants, and the temperament of the people, and whose conjoint experience and wisdom can form a body of opinion in harmony with the nation, or at least with the party in power. It is true that a statesman in General Grant's Cabinet he has yet to make himself known as much to the public. To begin at the beginning, the Secretary of State does not know the men, or the ideas, or the country of the present day; nor do they know him. He is a gentleman of a noble and pure type. It is probable that he was as much surprised when he was called to fill the foremost place in the Cabinet as his countrymen were. He has come down to us from a former generation, and in all that constitutes excellence of character, he is a worthy representative of the times in which he is an part. But he is not the man to conduct our diplomacy. Nor is he the man to take a leading position in a great and progressive Government. The Secretary of the Treasury is likewise a man of pure and elevated character, who has risen from an humble station by his own perseverance and rectitude. But his abilities are not above mediocrity, and he should remain at the head of the Treasury Department during his natural life, so as not to move with the tide and avoid the brooks from hour to hour as best he might.

The Secretary of War is the strongest and most positive man in the Cabinet—a hero in every moral aspect, yet an invalid in health and untrained by training and experience to take the leading position which circumstances have thrown upon him in the national administration. Even he is unknown to the country save as a staff officer of the Commanding General during the war. Few men know the worth, and few have felt the native power of mind, which belong to John A. Rawlins. In view of his close relations to the President and his sterling qualities, his appointment was certainly fit to be made, and we hope he may be retained. As the administrative officer of the War Department he has no superior, both in physical health and administrative ability. He admits, however, that his education is not equal to that of a man of God's Cabinet council; and we feel that even his advice has lost the tint of little avail. The Secretary of the Navy is the strongest and most positive man in the Cabinet—a hero in every moral aspect, yet an invalid in health and untrained by training and experience to take the leading position which circumstances have thrown upon him in the national administration. Even he is unknown to the country save as a staff officer of the Commanding General during the war. Few men know the worth, and few have felt the native power of mind, which belong to John A. Rawlins. In view of his close relations to the President and his

More than half the voices against the repeal of the office tenure law were made by this indiscreet act. Gen. Grant was right in demanding the repeal of that law. He stood upon solid ground when he refused to move until the obnoxious statute should be repealed; and if he had not erred in the exercise of the executive power in the piece way that he did, he would have overcome all opposition within a week after his inauguration. But by first depauling the principal office in his gift, and then making it harder to confer other important and valuable offices upon near relatives and personal cronies, he subjected himself to the charge of nepotism. The Senate was not slow to perceive that in a contest growing out of the tenure of office law they had all the advantage, because the people would be quick to observe that the appointing power was not judiciously exercised, and would not so readily comprehend the viciousness of the principle underlying the obnoxious statute. Hence the law was not repealed.

Why it may be asked, do we say these things? The answer is two-fold. In the first place they are already known—every body is talking about them in the streets, on horse cars, in the railroad trains, in the club rooms, around cards tables, and everywhere except in the Executive Mansion. The facts cannot be more public than they are. In the second place, it is necessary, that there should be an change. There must be a Cabinet, with its composition in it, and there must be an end to negotiation in the Government, because the respect and confidence of the public cannot be retained where the former is wanting and where the latter abounds. Without the respect and confidence of the public, no Administration can have any vitality. "This," says Mr. Edgington in his Southern Commissioners, "is our common country." General Grant is our Chief Magistrate. His services have been too great, his principles are too high, his responsibilities are too vast, to be dwarfed and jeopardized for the want of a little plain, unvarnished truth. If any apology is required from us, we have nothing better to offer than this: that we are sincerely attached to our President, and to the principles upon which he was elected, and we cannot permit the usefulness of one or the success of a few to be put in peril by a series of petty mistakes, so easily repaired. If we have any power to avert the catastrophe,

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