

OFFICE OF THE

CINCINNATI GAZETTE,

N. E. Corner Fourth and Vine Sts.

Permit

Cincinnati, July 3 1864.

My dear Mr Barrett,

Your favor of the 1st inst. is at hand and content noted. With reference to the Pension Agency all I have to say is that I could not accept the position. My business requires constant attention, and is much more profitable than this office; besides I have no desire for public places. My gratitude to you, however, is just as great as if I were an applicant -

In regard to the latter, and to me the more interesting part of your letter, I desire to write as I would talk, to an old personal friend, and if you choose to communicate what

I have to say, to Mr Lincoln, I shall not object. I am glad you wrote to me about the matter; for I was intending to write to you, not regarding the course of the Gazette; but in relation to public affairs.

First, then, the inquiry should be, not why does the Gazette say this and so; but does the Gazette represent public opinion?

Although I am responsible for what appears in the Gazette, I do not as you are aware, write more than a small portion of the editorials; and I will say further that I have not approved of all of those to which you allude - not because there was not ground for the criticisms, but because, in view of the fact that Mr Lincoln having been nominated, we should make the best of

the worst, and be silent where we could not approve. I did adopt this policy, and instructed our office editor and agents accordingly. But I am met with the argument, that there is wide spread dissatisfaction with Mr Lincoln, and our approving of all his acts, will not remove the difficulty, or overcome the danger of defeat with which we are threatened. Would it not be better, I am asked, for Mr Lincoln to consult public opinion; to pay some attention to the popular dissatisfaction, than for us to try to make it appear that matters are going right, when in fact they are going wrong? Is it not better to point out the evils that actually exist, than the keep and remove them; than shut our eyes and cry "all right", when in fact

It is not all right? These things
puzzle me. Our friends here are
divided as to what course is
most expedient; but they are not
divided as to what is Mr Lincoln's
duty. The great and great cause of
dissatisfaction is in regard to the
demoralized condition of the
Cabinet. "A house divided against
itself cannot stand". There should
be a united Cabinet; and it should
be made up of men above suspicion,
and who would command public
confidence. If this were secured
the public dissatisfaction would
be allayed, and our prospects, instead
of being dark as they now are, would
become bright. Do not be deceived:
there is great danger of defeat in
October, and unless Mr Lincoln
satisfies public expectations, as
expressed in the Baltimore resolutions,
he will be defeated. The feeling
now is not as it was last Fall;
but it is as it was two years

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ago, when we were defeated. However it may seem from a Washington Stand point, this is the best. The Gazette expresses but a shadow of the popular feeling. This you may rely upon - You know how little course pouring in when we are running against the popular current. We receive personal letters now - and our circulation is larger than it ever was, and larger than any other Western paper. This would not be so if we were not in the popular current. Yet we desire the election of Mr Lincoln; so do the masses of the loyal people; but when you hear the thinking men of our party, privately cursing their candidate, it shows that there

is danger of losing the support of
another class who are governed
by impulse rather than deliberate
judgment. The best way, then,
in my judgment, is for Mr Lincoln
to make the way easy for
his friends, by reorganizing his
Cabinet. This should be done
now. Chase has opened the way
for it. I am glad he resigned -
his policy failed; and a new
head was necessary to a new
policy. I understand that the
people, but God would have
ruined the nation. What could
have put it into the head of
Mr Lincoln to nominate him? God
does not belong to the class of men
that the President should have
called to his assistance. Delano
and Sumner I understand advised
this appointment. They are base
advisers; neither of them I fear
will win the people. Is the Senate,
I suppose, as not to the President
we are indebted for the ~~abolition~~
from financial ruin, which

God's appointment would have
brought with it. We must now
have men with ready made
reputations. The crisis is too great
to give men a chance to try
their hands, and to engage in
the slow process of gaining public
confidence. So much by way
of general remark.

In regard to the Arguette
case I suppose you know Mr
Sevens's course was extremely
unpopular.

The suppression of the Two G.
York papers was unwise. We
disarmed the Copperheads by con-
demning the act. It was impossible
to defend it.

Our views in regard to
Volunteering have been adopted
by Congress. To have enforced
a compulsory draft would have
precipitated the country into
anarchy. I think we were
right. You can never fill the
army by means of drafted men

It was a great mistake to
stop volunteering under the
bounty system.

But I have written a great
deal more than I intended, and
more than you will care to
read, but I wished to embroil
myself. In conclusion
allows me to assure you -
that we are not "Lone". We
have not been disappointed in
anything personal. Office we
have not wanted; office we
do not want; we care nothing
about money, in a hertzian sense,
and we are only anxious that
Mr Lincoln may so act as
to merit and receive the
heartly support of the loyal
people.

Truly Yours,

Richard Smith