

He has approved himself to them as a man who can think and act for himself on public matters. Philistinism has affected to regard him as eccentric, because he has dared to strike out his own path and devote his talents to the service of his country in his own way. We shall soon see whether *The Liberal* will rise to the importance of the impending crisis ; meanwhile we wish its publishers, as we are always ready to wish any one who launches his bark upon the uncertain sea of journalism, a large measure of success in their new enterprise.

If General Grant had the power and the nerve, as he unquestionably possesses the desire, to retain the supreme power in his own hands for life, the free institutions of the United States would not be worth a month's purchase. Years ago Gen. Blair of Missouri expressed his conviction that the low estimate popularly formed of Grant's intellectual capacity was a mistaken, and might prove a fatal, one. In his opinion, and he had ample opportunities of forming a correct judgment, Grant "possessed a vigour of mind and an intensity of ambition which would make his election to the Presidency a great public danger." This view led Blair to prognosticate that if the General "were once elected to that office he would never relinquish it." The President has devoted his energies during the second term in endeavouring to secure re-election for a third ; and, although his hopes received a powerful check at the November elections, it is by no means clear that he has abandoned them. His intimate associates publicly boast that they "will have him for ten terms, if they can get him." Before the war, Grant was a sort of *chevalier d'industrie*, and so little did he care for the Union, that it was by a mere accident he was not enrolled in the army of Gen. Lee. Luckily for himself, he was attracted to the Northern side, rose to fame and attained the highest office in the gift of his fellow-

citizens. During a six years' occupancy he has feathered his own nest with characteristic avarice, and, at the same time, charitably provided for every man, woman, and child having, by birth or marriage, the good fortune to be connected with the noble house of Grant. Should he gracefully relinquish the office on the fourth of March, 1877, he will retire into the obscurity of private life with the proud consciousness that he is the richest President who ever turned his back upon the White House, leaving as a legacy to his grateful country the countless herd of relations he has quartered upon it.

Recent events in Louisiana have clearly demonstrated the utterly unscrupulous character of Grant. A ruler who will maintain in power a notoriously illegal government by force, and send his soldiery to re-enact Colonel Pride's purge in the legislature and to decide contested elections at the point of the bayonet, is capable of any outrage upon the liberties of a free people. After making every allowance for the real difficulties in the President's path, there can be no apology for his persistent efforts to make these difficulties chronic. Out of his own mouth he stands condemned, for he laid down the law for himself in these words ;—"I can conceive of no case, not involving rebellion or insurrection, where such interference by authority of the general government ought to be permitted, or can be justified." There is no pretence that any lawlessness prevails in the unfortunate State, except that of the carpet-baggers and the U. S. troops who uphold them in usurped power. The mission of Gen. Sheridan to New Orleans is the master-key to the secret designs of Grant. No one knew better than the President that the "Lieutenant-General" might be safely entrusted with the execution of a policy which Strafford and Laud would have recognized as "Thorough." Gen. Grant has gone back to 1868 ; he might have gone a little further back. In 1867, Andrew Johnson, finding