

Private

OFFICE OF THE

CINCINNATI GAZETTE,

N. E. Corner Fourth and Vine Sts.

Cincinnati, Feb. 22 1864.

Joseph H. Barrett Esq

Dear Sir

I wish you would give me your views privately and fully on Presidential matters, Are you confident that Mr Lincoln is all right? is there any question about his proving true in the great crisis before us? How do you explain his retaining around him such men as Blair, and his poisoning Conservatives generally; while allowing earnest men like Rosecrans to be described by Hallak. I have been both pained and alarmed by many things Mr Lincoln has done, but more by what he has permitted. We have not committed ourselves, nor are we going to commit ourselves just yet upon the Presidential

question. but if forced to choose now
between Chase and Lincoln we
would take the latter. Still Candor
Compels me to admit. I have serious
misgivings about Mr Lincoln,
and these grow out of the assassination
of the President, and of things he
has permitted, rather than from
any direct acts of his own. The
tenacity with which he held on to
McClellan and the complacency with
which he tolerates Blair, are ~~also~~ ex-
-amples of the features in his ad-
-ministration to which I refer. This is
also the trouble with the people. The
masses desire to Reelect Mr
Lincoln, but they are afraid there
is a weakness somewhere that may
bring us when the great crisis
is to be met. If he could only
clear up this point his opponents
would disappear as chaff before
the wind. I am ^{an} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~an~~ upon

these points, and I write you in
confidence as an old personal
friend upon whose judgement
I rely. Hoping you will find
time to favor me with an
early Reply

I remain

Very yours
Richard Smith

Richard Smith

Feb. 22, 1844,

Dear Sir,

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text follows, appearing to be the body of a letter.]