

QUESTIONS TO A PIE ORGAN.

Neither the Asheville Gazette nor any other paper in this district can straddle in this contest. It can ride with Pearson and the republican party or it can ride with Crawford and the democratic party. It can not ride with both and call it independence, for the name does not fit the situation or the fact. A strictly independent paper would print the discussion in full on both sides without comment and without submitting its reports to either party to the contest for approval. Reports that are colored to suit Pearson will not suit democracy, and are neither independent nor fair.

If there is anything in Mr. Crawford's record, personal or political, that does not meet with the approval of the Asheville Gazette, let it say so frankly, and say that it prefers Pearson's personal and political record as between the two men. It is its privilege to do that; but it can not carry water on both shoulders.—A Personal Organ.

Who gave you the right to say what the Gazette can do and what it can't do? Just because you have occupied the position of a little yellow cur snapping at our heels for two years and a half doesn't entitle you to say whom we shall ride with. Who made you an authority on independent journalism? You've always been an organ, haven't you? How many democrats have you knifed? What have you been promised to keep straight this time? Is a \$1200 secretaryship good enough for you? Do you think you are big enough for a political boss anyway? When you write up a joint debate and listen only to your man what is your opinion of the other fellow worth? Is your organ a newspaper? Two thousand words were telegraphed to the Gazette from Webster concerning the proceedings of the joint debate there, but in your report of the event, written up after your return to Asheville on the following day, you gave six lines to what you intended as a slap at the editor of this paper, and five lines to the two hours' speech of the democratic candidate. You said: "Mr. Crawford made a splendid speech." Why don't you report Mr. Crawford's splendid speeches? Wouldn't it be worth more to the democratic party than nagging the Gazette? If "there is hard work enough for the democracy" this year as you say, whose fault is it? How many decent democrats have you tried to drive out of the party? How many candidates are you working for now? Have you ever reflected that there are some intelligent men in this community that are able to discriminate between straight facts and fool fiction even in politics; that there is such a thing as an honest opinion? What is the use of lying anyway—even for a \$1200 job. It is the business of a strictly independent newspaper to tell the truth—as it is the business of a personal organ to work its own little schemes of politics and plunder. The Gazette wears no muzzle, wants no office, asks no odds of any executive committee or candidate, has a liking for its friends, has no foes except those that have made themselves such, and regards the inference as an extravagant compliment that its failure to "support" any candidate is of sufficient consequence to call for any great excitement along the free lunch counter.