DAILY D

VOL. XXV. RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY MOR

AVERELL'S RAID.

We have some further particulars of the raid of Averell and his raiders at Salem. They numbered about 2,500, and were composed of cavalry and mounted infantry.—They reached Salem Wednesday morning about 10½ o'clock, without any show of opposition, so far as we could learn, and immediately proceeded to burn the depot and commissary buildings, and to tear up the track of the railroad, which work they are said to have effectually accomplished.—In the commissary building was stored a large quantity of bacon and corn, all of which, of course, fell a prey to the flames. The loss to the Government is very heavy, though we were unable to learn the supposed amount. No damage is reported to have been done to private property.

The eastward-bound freight train of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad made a narrow escape from capture, passing Salem only about half an hour before the Yankees reached it. A train sent from Lynchburg with the Provost Guard, Capt. Otey, also narrowly escaped being taken. It was fired upon when within a short distance of the town; but the engineer promptly reversed his engine and escaped safely. No person on the train was hurt. It is reported that they was fighting near Salem Wednesday evening.

It is thought that this is the Yankee raid which has been so long threatened in the Yankee papers, which they promised should come in at the Valley of Virginia and go out at Weldon, N. C. We learn that the authorities have made arrangements to prevent the consummation of this scheme.—Very little damage can be done to the railroad at Salem, as there are no important bridges near there.

MATTERS IN NORFOLK.

We have received a copy of the "*Old Dominion*" newspaper, containing some intelligence from Norfolk of interest. Butler has put his engine in order for work by the appointment of a number of officers to sit as a "military commission" for the trial of persons whom he shall arrest. The Beast was in the city himself a few days since on a tour of inspection. Gen. Barnes, the military commandant, met him at the boat and congratulated him on his "first visit to Norfolk since the rebellion began." After inspecting the defences of the place, among which is one fortification called "Fort O'Rourke," he went back to Fortress Monroe.

An effort is being made by Col. Hazard Stevens, a Yankee, to raise the "1st regiment of loyal Virginians" in Norfolk and Portsmouth. A meeting was held in Portsmouth, at which "Lieut. Gov." Cowper was the chief speaker. He was authorized by Gen. Butler to say that if men enlisted in this regiment he (Butler) would take special care that their families were supported, and that the regiment should never go out of the department.

There is great mortality among the negro troops; and the Macon House, once a well-known hotel in Portsmouth, has been converted into a hospital for them. Regiments of negroes, numbering at their organization 1,000, are now reduced to six hundred. Those in North Carolina have suffered as severely.

Wm. R. Houghton, a citizen, was arrested for appearing in Federal uniform. He had been confined in Fort Norfolk for having a Confederate Major's commission in his house. He "took the oath" and was released.

Among the Court proceedings we see a suit of Geo. H. Merriam, of Norfolk, against Wm. Webster, of Newport News, for $14,000. The property of Webster had been attached.

The remains of Sanborn, the Yankee lieutenant killed by Dr. D. M. Wright, had been disinterred and sent North. The pastor of a negro church delivered a discourse over it from the Custom-House steps.

Miss Susan Denin is playing at Norfolk.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the *Senate*, a communication from the lower House was read, announcing their agreement to the Senate bill, providing compensation of members of the General Assembly, Judges, and other officers of the Government, in lieu of the compensation now allowed by law. Also, a bill to increase the capital stock of the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, with an amendment.

Several bills of a local nature were introduced.

A bill to provide for employing in the public service or for the public benefit free negroes convicted of misdemeanors.

And a bill for the relief of families of soldiers within the lines or power of the enemy.

Mr. Newman, of Mason, offered a resolution for appropriating $5,000,000 for the benefit of Virginia soldiers in the Confederate service, or who may have been honorably discharged from the service, and for the families of those who may have died or been killed in the service.

Mr. Christian, of Middlesex, proposed a resolution for preventing by law the traffic in gold and silver and in the currency of the United States during the war.

The committee appointed to inform Gov. Smith and Lieut.-Gov. Price of their election announced the performance of that duty, so far as the Governor was concerned, and that they had addressed Lieut.-Gov. [illegible] upon the subject, he being inaccessible to them in person.

A bill [illegible] passed to authorize the admission of wills [illegible] to record upon proof of the handwriting of [illegible] the attesting witnesses, in certain cases. [illegible] enrollment of persons between the ages of [illegible] and 55 years domiciled in this Commonwealth [illegible] resolution in[illegible]

Mr. Johnson offered a joint [illegible] requesting our Senators and [illegible] to take immediate steps to increase the pay of the [illegible] in the Confederate service; which, [illegible] suspension of the rules, was unanimously adopted.

In the *House* there was nothing of importance transacted.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

The *Senate* met at 12 o'clock M., and was called to order by Mr. Hunter, of Va. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Ryland, of the Baptist Church.

The bill heretofore presented, to limit the terms of office of the heads of the Executive Departments, was, on motion of Mr. Johnson, of Ark., taken up, considered, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Baker, of Fla., presented joint resolutions of the Florida Legislature relative to the pay of soldiers of the C. S. army, requesting their Representatives in Congress to use their best endeavors to secure the pay of the soldiers to be raised, and the Senator also presented resolutions of the same body in support of military [illegible] Mr. Wigfall, of Texas, [illegible] to provide additional [illegible] in the army of the Confederate States [illegible] referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Caperton, of Va., [illegible]

[illegible] the Government of Russia to interfere into the controversy of subjugation [illegible] by the Government of the [illegible] to the extent contemplated by the recent events in their country, preferring to provide relief for the families of soldiers, such portion of the taxes as may be conveniently collected by the Government agents.

The bill to regulate the next meeting of Congress was then taken up. The bill was amended so as to fix the time of the meeting of the next Congress on the first Monday of May, 1864.

Mr. Jemison, of Ark., moved to reconsider the last vote and lay the bill upon the table.

The bill was reconsidered and laid upon the table, to be called up on a future day.

A message was received from the President transmitting copies of the correspondence of Major-General Whiting relative to the running of the blockade.

On motion of Mr. Sparrow, of La., the Senate went into secret session.

The *House* was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Duncan.

The Chair stated that, in compliance with a resolution of the House directing him to invite to seats in the hall Mon. R. M. Harris, of Tenn., and Gens. Robert E. Lee and Howell Cobb, he had in person waited upon Gen. Cobb and Mr. Harris, but being unable to ascertain the whereabouts of Gen. Lee, he had communicated the invitation to him in writing. Mr. Harris and Gen. Cobb had [illegible] to-day, and, in his opinion, [illegible] seats.

[illegible] Mr. Barrett, of Ga., introduced a bill to provide for the relief of persons in the military service who have lost their horses in the service. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Foote, of Tenn., introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of a commissioner of agriculture, with the rank of a bureau officer, and for the publication of a monthly report, and for the purchase of seeds, plants, and cuttings. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Ward, of Ga., introduced a bill to provide for the exchange of prisoners of war. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Ward, of Ga., also introduced a bill to provide for the payment of the expenses incurred by the State of Georgia in the defence of the State during the present war. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Foote, of Tenn., introduced a bill to provide for the payment of the expenses incurred by the State of Tennessee in the defence of the State during the present war. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

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