

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIII.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 18, 1862.

NUMBER 179.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.
OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Stone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

WAR NEWS.

The latest advices from the James river indicate quietness along the Federal lines. On the 15th the army near Harrison's Landing remained unchanged. The only event of consequence which has recently occurred was a cavalry skirmish on Monday the 14th, in which a squadron of Federal troops exchanged shots with a body of Confederate horsemen, with no loss on the Federal side. Several of the Confederates were wounded, and one taken prisoner. On Monday night, the Federal pickets were considerably advanced. It is believed that the main body of the Confederates is now not less than fifteen miles from the exterior lines of Gen. McClellan's army, somewhere in the vicinity of Trent and Gaines' Hills, on either side of the Chickahominy.

Through a dispatch to a Northern paper we learn that Winchester is again threatened by the Confederates, and that it was generally believed there that another fierce battle would be fought in the vicinity within a week. All the stores of the Federal army have been removed to Harper's Ferry, and the telegraph station placed some distance north of the town. It is reported that the Federal pickets were driven in on Monday night. All the army stores at New Creek, Martinsburg, and other places have been removed elsewhere.

Col. Morgan's Confederate cavalry arrived at Midway, twenty miles southeast of Frankfort, Ky., on Tuesday, but left for Georgetown at night. Georgetown is seventeen miles east of Frankfort. The Confederates announce their purpose of visiting Lexington and Frankfort. The Federal pickets had fallen back towards Georgetown on the approach of the Confederates, but a force with several pieces of artillery were marching to reinforce them and attempt to repel the advance of the Confederates.

On the 7th inst. Gen. Curtis had quite a severe fight with a large Confederate force.—The Southerners, it is said, were routed with a loss of one hundred and ten killed. The Federal loss was eight. A large number of prisoners were taken by the Federal troops and paroled. The arrival of Gen. Curtis' army at Helena is confirmed. Helena is on the Mississippi, seventy-five miles below Memphis.

It is reported that a portion of the Federal army which was moving from Arkansas into the Indian nation encountered a body of Confederates at Evansville, near the Arkansas line, and defeated them with severe loss.

Late advices report the Confederates sending reinforcements of artillery and infantry from Mississippi into Arkansas, with the purpose, it is supposed, of operating against Gen. Curtis.

Passengers who came from Harrison's Landing, Wednesday, on the mail boat, report the health of the troops in Gen. McClellan's army to be improving in their new position.

Athens, in Iowa, on the Des Moines river, is threatened with an attack from the Confederates. Troops have been ordered out to resist the attack.

The Petersburg, Va., Express of the 15th states that guns are planted by the Confederates, on the James River, and the banks lined by sharp shooters, and it thinks the present position of Gen. McClellan may be rendered untenable.

Gen. Lee has issued a Proclamation thanking the Confederate army before Richmond for their late exploits, stating that their successes have been great, though at the cost of many brave men, and that the result is the relief of Richmond from a state of siege, the capture of many thousand prisoners, and the capture or destruction of thousands of arms, and fifty-one pieces of artillery.

The Richmond Dispatch says:—"Information has been received that the Federal army in the Valley of Virginia has moved forward to Flint Hill in Rappahannock county, and there formed a junction with a portion of McDowell's forces. The number of men now at that point is estimated at eighteen thousand. By adopting Rappahannock county as a base of operations, the army may throw a force into Page, Shenandoah and Rockingham, and at the same time keep an eye upon any movement that might have for its object the clearing out of the Valley."

The Petersburg (Va.) Express announces that Hamilton, North Carolina, has been shelled by the Federal gunboats, and considers it probable that an attempt will be made to reach Weldon by the Roanoke river, as that stream is now high.

A letter from Harrison's Landing, dated the 13th inst., in the Philadelphia Inquirer, says:—"Last night as the United States steamer John A. Warner, Captain J. Cone, was coming up from Old Point, and when about four miles below here, was fired into by at least a full company, connected to some of the rifle regiments who are apparently swarming below us. Most of the shots fired struck her, but only some half a dozen above the water line. One shot, which went through the upper cabin just back of the wheel house, was evidently aimed at the pilot house. The boat however, making better time than was anticipated by the party firing, the pilot escaped unhurt. The Pacific was also fired into, some few shots striking. Fortunately, nobody was hurt on either boat. All of which goes to prove what we have repeatedly asserted—that the danger to our supplies was daily becoming more imminent, and unless something is most speedily done to prevent so sad a disaster, another 'baseline of operations' will have to be established, and another masterly movement inaugurated."

The expedition to the Indian Territory, which has already announced, has reached the southeastern extremity of Kansas, has had two fights with the Confederates, one at Grand Saline, thirty miles this side of Fort Gibson, in which the Confederates were defeated with a loss sixty killed and one hundred and three prisoners. The other affair was between the Kansas Sixth, Col. Judson, the Confederates being surprised and a number killed and captured.

The first session of the thirty-seventh Congress closed yesterday afternoon, about two o'clock, by adjourning until the first Monday in December. The bill suggested by President Lincoln, looking to the gradual emancipation of slaves, was not acted upon, and the bankrupt bill, the bill to admit West Virginia into the Union as a State, the bill to provide for a national currency, and others of less general interest, were postponed until the next session.—

All the appropriation bills were passed. The bill providing for the discharge of political prisoners, which passed the House, was amended in the Senate, but failed to receive final action in that body, and therefore did not become a law. Both Houses passed a bill, to take effect on the first of August, providing that all postage stamps and other U. S. postage stamps, shall be received for all dues less than five dollars, and which may be exchanged for U. S. notes. The bill also prohibits all private corporations or banks from issuing notes of a less denomination than one dollar.

A letter in the New York Herald, from General McClellan's army, referring to a flag of truce to Haxall's Landing, says:—"Our sick and wounded, who were left prisoners at Haxall's Landing affirm that they have as much attention as they would have expected from our own surgeons and nurses. Dr. Cullen, of Richmond, is the medical director."

The answer of the majority of the members from the border States to the President's proposition respecting emancipation, was signed and presented yesterday. This is the answer of those border slave State members who do not agree to the proposition. But they promise to lay it before the people of their respective States, to be considered by them in reference to their interests and honor.

The confirmation of Col. James S. Jackson, of Kentucky, upon the recommendation of his commander, Gen. Buell, met with fierce opposition from some quarters—he is charged, it is said, with disloyalty. Mr. Lane, of Indiana, defended him, (as did some other Senators,) and said, "If Jackson was disloyal, he was."—The ground for this charge against Gen. Jackson, proves to be remarks made by him at the Border State meeting on Saturday evening, where he said: "The army of the West is conservative; they fight to maintain the Government, and, when they have overcome those in arms against it, they are ready to strangle all who tread upon the Constitution, or seek the destruction of the Union on any pretext whatever. He himself had no sympathy with traitors North or South, and so long as there was a man in arms engaged in efforts to overthrow the Government of our fathers, he was for the prosecution of the war with all the vigor and energy that we could command." An effort was made yesterday morning, it is said, to reconsider his confirmation, but it signally failed.

Captain Caldwell, commanding the Provost Guard at Falmouth Va., died of fever, on the 12th instant.