

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, AUG. 12, 1862.

LOCAL.—Since Sunday week, the heat has been excessive and continuous—without an interruption; daily the sun has poured down its hot rays upon the parched earth, nor has the night materially decreased the oppressiveness of the atmosphere; such a spell of weather in August, has been seldom known of late years, for we have been accustomed to cool mornings and nights in this month; fears are entertained of the general health of the country if the present high temperature should be maintained much longer.—Geo. O. Dixon, formerly an active and enterprising citizen of this place, died in Washington yesterday.—Miles Finnegan and H. Grimes, of Co. H. 91st Pa. Vol., died very suddenly on Sunday afternoon, it is supposed, from the effects of poisonous whisky.—Mrs. Kidwell, who was so severely burned last week by the explosion of a camphene lamp, died this morning from the effects of the injuries received.—Geo. Flynn, Co. C., 69th Ina. Vol., who was shot on Sunday evening, died yesterday from the effects of his wound.—One of the troupe now giving entertainment at Liberty Hall; yesterday afternoon performed various feats and evolutions on a tight rope from Phoenix Hall to the store at the southeast corner of King and Royal streets; a very large crowd witnessed the performance.—A large number of wounded Federal soldiers, from the battle at Cedar Mountain, have been brought to this city. This morning a train of twenty-two cars filled with wounded came in. The train proceeded to Union street, when the wounded were taken in ambulances to the hospitals.—The Fair, for the benefit of the Orphans, at the Asylum, is still going on.

In Missouri, the condition of affairs is represented as daily growing worse. Guerilla bands are swarming over nearly all portions of the State, threatening exposed points, capturing small bodies of State and Federal troops, and disappearing in one quarter only to reappear in augmented numbers in another. An attempt was made on the 5th inst. to capture the partisan leader McBride, but he escaped into Arkansas.

In north Missouri two companies of State militia were captured by Porter's guerillas.—Two days later, one hundred and fifty Federal soldiers surrendered at Glasgow. On the borders of Kansas, the town of Alexandria was entered, and all the guns were taken that the guerillas could lay their hands upon, but the secession merchants of the place were subsequently arrested and their goods seized, and sold for the benefit of such Union men as had been despoiled. About the same time, a company of the 1st Iowa cavalry was surprised at Papinsville, on the Osage river, and was compelled to surrender. At Bloomfield, in Stoddard county, the guerillas were less fortunate, one hundred being beaten off and driven into Arkansas by a body of Federal troops under Col. Morrill.

The bark Reindeer at New York, reports that the British steamship Scotia, with a cargo of arms for the Confederates, sailed from Barbadoes for Nassau, July 15th, and when going out the harbor hoisted the Confederate flag.

Telegraphic News.

LATEST FROM THE RAPIDAN.

ESCAPE OF GEN. BUFORD.

NARROW ESCAPE OF GENERALS POPE AND BANKS.

SKIRMISHING.

CULPEPER, MONDAY, August 11.—The brigade of cavalry, under command of Gen. Buford, made a descent on Madison Court House on Tuesday, the 5th inst. He found the Confederates had been there, but had left. He made a reconnoissance in every direction, and met Confederate pickets on every road. On the 7th inst., the pickets on the road to Stanardsville had a skirmish, losing one killed and three wounded. On the 8th, the 1st Maryland had another skirmish on the Orange Court House road, in which they lost, and about a dozen taken prisoners. Being reinforced by the 1st Michigan, the Confederates were driven to the Rapidan. A strong reconnoissance was made the same evening to the Rapidan, on the Orange road, and a skirmish was going on without loss, when orders came from General Buford to return to Madison Court House.—The party got back at 9 a. m. on the 9th, and found everything ready for a retreat towards Sperryville, as the Confederates were approaching from every direction. The party reached Woodville in safety, and there encamped.—They reached Culpeper Monday next.

The escape of the brigade is considered almost miraculous, as they were surrounded on almost every side, and many gave the party up for lost. Gen. Buford deserves great praise for the manner in which he extricated his command.

CULPEPER, August 12.—The stragglers from the battle field to town had all been arrested by General Pope, and to-morrow a list of the missing can be obtained with accuracy.

Saturday night about 11 o'clock, while Generals Pope and Banks were in conference in the rear of our advanced batteries, a body of the Confederate cavalry charged in the most daring manner through the woods on our front upon the group. The discharge of musketry and the whizzing of balls near them gave timely notice of the Confederates approach. Horses were immediately mounted, and a regiment of infantry fired a volley checking the charge and probably saving both commanders.

Gen. Buford, with his cavalry command, arrived at Culpeper yesterday from Madison.—Previous to his departure thence, he sent a reconnoissance to the Rapidan, where he found a force of Confederates on the south bank but none north of the river.

All is quiet this morning, as things were during the night.

Col. Donnelly is still alive but sinking. The other officers are generally doing well.

The steamers Commodore, State of Maine and John Brooks, all from Harrison's Landing, with about 1,300 wounded, arrived at Philadelphia yesterday.

The steamer San Jacinto has arrived at the New York quarantine from Key West on the 2d. She has thirty cases of yellow fever on board. Three have died.

From the Peninsula.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

HARRISON'S LANDING, Aug. 9.—The gunboats maintain their old position, and the rams are still reported as being up the river.—As neither party has seen proper to move, of course no engagement has taken place.

On Wednesday morning early, General Hooker receiving information that a force of some 75,000 Confederates were coming to oppose him, assembled the troops he had with him and quietly returned to the grand encampment. With the exception of a slight attack upon our cavalry, who acted as our rear guard, nothing of any consequence occurred on the trip.

This affair, without doubt, is one of the most important as well as successful of its kind that has ever been made. In addition to having accomplished the precise object for which it was started (that object we are not at liberty to state,) it has shown us much of the position and strength of our enemies. It has discovered to us where they are most strongly entrenched, and, as well, has learned us the roads and by-paths between us and Malvern, and given us a more thorough knowledge of the surrounding country than could have been learned on a retreat. As an evidence that this latter is the case, it must be borne in mind that, on our tour to Malvern, we traveled over some fifteen miles of the enemy's country.—On our return we had but six miles to come to reach home.

Pay no attention to the movements which your correspondents may report as having taken place here; no matter whether successful or not; bear in mind only this one fact, that more troops we want and must have, and that at once.

Remember that one raw recruit put into an old regiment, is better than three others in a regiment that never smelt powder.

The many returned prisoners who on Wednesday last came down, have now fairly got located with the different regiments to which they belong, with the exception of some few who belong to those divisions of the army which are sent some distance from us.

They were marched from the place of their confinement to a landing a few miles below Fort Darling, where the boats were in readiness to receive them. All they could see of and hear about Richmond was on their march.

We were particular in our inquiries in reference to the Confederate rams which have so long kept in battle array, off City Point lighthouse, so many of our gunboats. All that they can tell us of them was that they heard that two of them were afloat.

These returned men report that scarcely a soldier was to be seen in Richmond, but that all were in the vicinity, watching and waiting the movements of the various divisions of the Federal army.

Large bodies of troops, mostly from General Fitz John Porter's Corps, were passed over the river during Thursday night and Friday morning. After reaching the other side, they generally pass immediately into the dense woods which edge the river, and from that time until their return they are entirely out of sight. Hence unless some messenger is sent over, but little of their movements are known. As no report of fire-arms has been heard coming from that direction, it is safe to say that no opposition has been offered to the successful accomplishment of the object for which they were sent.

That object to us and others here is a mystery. Those who know are in no ways disposed to tell, while civilians, among which we are numbered, are not allowed a passage across the now famous James.

The Apache Indians recently attacked two companies of U. S. cavalry passing through Messilla valley, and killed seven and wounded several. The Indians were repulsed with heavy loss.