

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIII.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 3, 1862.

NUMBER 219.

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

WAR NEWS.

A dispatch from the agent of the Associated Press, sent from Washington yesterday morning, states that late on Sunday afternoon the Federal army, as a feint to draw out the Confederates fell behind the hills of Centreville. The ruse did not succeed, however, and the army again advanced on Monday morning at least two miles towards the old battle field. Large reinforcements of artillery and infantry had arrived, greatly strengthening the army and insuring its safety. A Washington paper of last evening furnishes later information than is contained in the dispatch. It states, since the battle of Saturday the Confederates have moved up on the right of the Federal army, towards Fairfax Court House, and on Monday evening attacked the divisions posted about two miles north of the town, but were repulsed with considerable loss. On account of this flank movement of the Confederates the Federal army was yesterday morning massed in and around the Court House, the right resting on Flint Hill. It was positively known that the engagement had not been resumed at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, but heavy canonading was heard in Washington, in the direction of Fairfax, during the afternoon. Since the above was written, another dispatch has been received confirming the newspaper account of the fight on Monday, and stating that the engagement was very severe, the Federal forces losing heavily, but driving back their enemy, and occupying the field until 3 o'clock yesterday morning.

About two o'clock on Sunday afternoon as a detachment of 51 men from the 2d U. S. cavalry under Captain Height were at Centreville, they were surprised by a superior force of Stewart's Confederate cavalry and some artillery.—On seeing them approaching, the Federals got together and fired with their carbines, killing, as they heard afterwards, one Confederate captain and four privates. Some of the Confederates returned the fire, wounding Martin Kelly in the thigh. The Federals being overwhelmed by numbers were obliged to surrender, but the Confederates at once paroled them.

It will be seen that General McClellan was yesterday formally assigned by the President to the command of all troops assembled for the defence of the capital, as well as of all the fortifications around it.

Col. James A. Mulligan, who was arrested on some technical charges, has been restored to his command.

The rumor that Gen. Fitz John Porter was killed, is unfounded. His name was probably confused with that of Col. Porter, of Pa., reported mortally wounded. Gen. Sigel was only slightly wounded.

An escaped Union surgeon, late a prisoner,

states that he overheard a conversation, a few days since, between the Confederate Generals Stewart and Wilcox, from which he inferred that a strong force of Confederates diverged from the main body between Gordonsville and Thoroughfare, and are now marching up the Valley for Harper's Ferry.

The Washington Star says that Mr. Somers who went up to the battle-field of Saturday to assist in burying the dead, states that the Federal loss, on that day, in killed was reported to be 500, and the wounded 5,000. It adds that the Confederate cavalry are scouring the country in every direction, and in the opinion of Mr. Somers some of the civilians who went up to the vicinity of the battle-field have been captured.

A letter in the Baltimore American of today says that "on yesterday a detachment of about 150 men of the First Maryland Cavalry, and Capt. Means' Independent Company, went upon a reconnoissance from Harper's Ferry to Leesburg, under the command of Maj. Cole.—When near Leesburg, they suddenly came upon two thousand Confederate cavalry. A fight ensued, and all but about forty of the Federal troops were either killed or captured. Maj. Cole and Captain Means are both reported as killed. Some of the wounded are now at Point of Rocks."

The discussion in France as to the authenticity of the phrase imputed to Cambonne at the battle of Waterloo—"the guard dies but does not surrender"—is still pertinaciously kept up. The testimony of the "Spirits" has now been called in.

Fletcher Webster, mortally wounded, and now dead, was the oldest son of Daniel Webster. His younger son was in the army in Mexico, and died in service there. His daughter, Mrs. Appleton, died some years ago,—so that now there is none left of the blood of "Webster." [Fletcher Webster leaves two children.]

A letter from New York says the Government is taking up all the steamers that can be had at that port for purposes of transportation. Vessels of other descriptions are in brisk demand to carry grain to Europe, and sailors, good, bad and indifferent, experience no difficulty in obtaining employment at liberal wages. The whole number of vessels of all description at the wharves yesterday was 444, of which 18 were steamers, 100 ships, 110 barks, 105 brigs and 80 schooners. Included in the list are 31 vessels under seizure as Government prizes.

A curious theory advanced in Aldrich's book "Out of His Head," is confirmed by the case of an Englishman named Burton, who murdered a boy of nine years old at Chatham, and immediately surrendered himself, avowing that he had long wished to be hanged, and that this morbid desire was the sole motive for the crime.

The Wheeling Press says:—"Major Darr, is Provost Marshal General of the State of Va."

EFFECTS OF THE NEWS.—In another place, the effect in this city of the exciting news from the army, is described. Telegrams from Philadelphia, Harrisburgh and Boston, all report the feeling there as intense. In Boston, notices appeared in the Sunday papers and were read from the pulpits, requesting the people to contribute lint, linen, whisky, cordials and other hospital stores necessary for the wounded, and a very large amount of such articles were gathered and sent forward by the evening train. A large sum of money was also contributed.—Mayor Wightman, several members of the City Council, a squad of twenty policemen and several physicians left by the night train to render aid. A train of eight double freight cars, filled with hospital stores, contributed by the citizens for the use of the Federal wounded in Virginia, left at 6.30 P. M. The train also had a large corps of volunteer surgeons.—*N. Y. Express.*

In respect to the abandonment of Baton Rouge by the Federal troops, a correspondent at New Orleans says:—"Attending the abandonment of Baton Rouge by the Federal troops was the securing from the State capitol all the valuable documents the Confederates left behind them, together with all the pictures, and the statue of Washington by Hiram Powers.—This was done by especial orders of General Butler."

The country residence of W. W. Corcoran, esq., the banker, has been taken for a hospital. The grounds will accommodate five hundred tents. Other vacant houses in the District of Columbia will be occupied for similar purposes.

The "colored waiters" of New York, have been in a state of perturbation, for the last week, in consequence of a report to the effect that the saloon and eating house keepers had resolved to turn them out of their situations and fill their places with white men. In order to protect such individuals as may thus be thrown out of employment, a relief association has been formed, who guarantee to support them until they find work. A meeting for the furtherance of the plan is shortly to be held.

Yesterday morning, in Washington, military officers were employed in collecting together all such vehicles as are suited for use in the removal of the sick and wounded to and from the various hospitals.

The transport steamer Montreal, under charge of Jas. Bryan, Surgeon U. S. A., with 600 men, and the New York, under charge of S. R. Skillern, Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., with 500 sick and wounded, left Washington, yesterday bound for Portsmouth Grove, R. I.

The great influx of wounded soldiers has made it necessary to convert the Georgetown College, upper story of the Patent Office, which some time since was used as a hospital for the Indiana regiments, and which has recently been emptied, and a portion of the Capitol into hospitals.

A committee in the Kentucky Legislature has reported against emancipating their slaves for compensation, in accordance with the recommendation of President Lincoln.