

The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9.

LOCAL.—We have had for a day or two past fine, moderate weather.—Several places were closed up last week by the Provost Guard, for dealing in contraband articles.—William Bushby has been re-appointed Flour Inspector of this place.—Notwithstanding the strict watch upon liquor dealing, there were many cases of drunkenness on the streets on Saturday.—The places of public worship, open yesterday, were attended by large congregations.—Regulations ought to be adopted and enforced relative to throwing garbage in the streets and gutters.—A more than usual number of soldiers are on the streets just now.

CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.—Twelve Confederate prisoners were sent from the Provost Marshal General's office here this morning, to the Old Capitol. Among them was Henry L. Simpson, jr., of this city. Seven of their number were said to belong to Moxley's guerrillas. One of them was formerly the Post-master at Little Washington. Two were prisoners of War and desired to be exchanged. The remainder were Confederates who were arrested near Drainsville charged with harboring deserters, furnishing them with citizen's clothes, and passing them to Washington in farmer's wagons as marketeers.

We are informed that notice has been given the hucksters in the market, that they will be compelled to take out license as dealers, and consequently take the oath of allegiance to the Wheeling government. They have been granted till the 12th of the present month to sell off their present stock, after which time license will be required.

A fire occurred at Toledo, Ohio, on Saturday, at which five persons lost their lives by the falling of a wall, and a number were severely wounded.

ARRESTS.—Large numbers of arrests were made to-day for selling liquor to soldiers. The authorities say they are determined to suppress this illicit traffic.

George Snyder, of this place, was arrested yesterday by the military authorities, charged with declaring himself a secessionist, &c.

Geo. Francis Train, has been arrested in St. Louis, where he was about to make a public speech, and ordered out of the State.

At Montreal the snow is eighteen inches deep, at others points near there two feet and a half deep.

Cavalry Expedition to Middleburg and Aldie.

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, Feb. 7.—A detachment from Companies H and F, of the Fifth New York Cavalry, under Captain Penfield, yesterday made a raid to Middleburg, and at Aldie captured eight of the Virginia Cavalry and the Postmaster of Little Washington. They were on their way to a ball given to them by the citizens of that place, and were fully armed and equipped. Among them were, it is supposed, some officers, but they refuse to disclose their rank. Most of those captured belonged to Captain Monley's party, who have been attacking our pickets along the picket lines. They were excellently mounted, and their horses were captured.

The reconnoissance was made under the immediate orders of Colonel Wyndham, and by a part of his brigade.

The Confederates left a note at a house, addressed to the Colonel of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, expressing the hope that that regiment would soon be supplied with new revolvers, as the carbines which they now use are hardly worth the capturing.

From Before Fredericksburg.

[Extracts from the Correspondent of the Phila. Inquirer.]

STAFFORD COURT HOUSE, Va., Feb. 7.—In former communication: of your correspondent it was stated that a demonstration upon the right flank was looked for. Even in the last letter mention was made of a rumor that the Confederates were throwing a pontoon bridge across the Rappahannock at a short distance above Kelly's ford.

There was more ground for the story that many were prone to suppose. It arose from the fact that the Confederates were very active in repairing the railroad bridge across the river, which had been partially destroyed during Pope's campaign last summer. The work had been hardly more than completed when the Confederates undertook to run trains across the bridge.

They succeeded in passing several trains across without molestation, and this emboldened them to march their soldiers over it. This bridge was intended, evidently, to be used to some purpose, and our forces became fully convinced of this. A large force of cavalry was moved in the night with a view of capturing the first of the enemy who again crossed.

On Wednesday morning some of the Confederate cavalry made their appearance, and had hardly more than worked their way half across the bridge, when a volley from the carbines of the Unionists was fired. The Confederates charged, but their effort proving futile, they wheeled and hurried to the opposite side of the river from which they started. Several were killed, and a number wounded. The Union men sustained but little damage.—They remained in possession of the bridge, but did not pursue the retreating enemy.

The Confederates made a halt when once within the protection of a larger force of theirs, and in a short time reappeared reinforced.—They evinced a determination to frustrate the designs of the Union men to cross, if such was their intention. They immediately commenced to tear the structure down. The Federal force was on this side of the river, watching their movements with a jealous eye, and, not to be outdone, went to work with a hearty will in demolishing this end of the bridge.—They even went farther than the Confederates. They blew the heavy abutments up, and thus the Confederates are deprived of replacing the structure without the aid of masonry.

Had the structure remained intact, the probability is, that the Confederates would have succeeded when we least expected them, in working a large force of theirs from the other to this side of the river. This being done, they could have used their cavalry and artillery with great effect upon our extreme right. The party that was crossing at the time, is supposed to have been merely the advance of a much larger force in the rear. This was confirmed by the appearance of a large body shortly after the attack, who were apparently working conjointly with that who had just retreated. The destruction of the bridge is a timely thing for us as our right flank has been so long menaced.

In the woods about eight miles beyond here, toward Dumfries, where a line of pickets extended through the woods, a large body of Confederate cavalry, on Thursday, made an impetuous dash upon our pickets. They killed two of them, wounded several, among whom was a lieutenant, and captured twelve. These all belonged to the Seventeenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

The Confederates were so overwhelming in number that it would have been worse than useless for our men to oppose them.

The Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry has been in the field but a short time, and during that period has probably seen harder service than any other regiment in the corps.

On the same day upon which the above occurrence took place, a foraging party that started out from the vicinity of the "Spotted Tavern," was attacked when several miles from that place, and two of their number wounded one of whom has since died.

The Confederates emerged from the woods, outnumbering our men two to one. But this

did not deter us from replying to the insult.—They returned the fire, and after a contest of a few minutes, the Confederates retired, minus two of their number, who were captured. Several also were wounded, but managed to escape with their comrades.

The Confederates are very audacious, and it appears that they are daily growing bolder in their attacks upon small parties of ours, who are far inferior to them in point of numbers.

During the past few days the Provost Marshal has seized and confiscated about twenty gross of bottles, containing various kinds of intoxicating liquors, from "Soothing Syrup," up to the real "Old Rye Whisky" itself.

It is astonishing to know the quantity of this mean stuff that is smuggled in almost daily.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamer Hansa arrived at New York, Feb. 8, from Liverpool, with advices to the 28th ult.

The submarine cable between Cagliari and Trapani, 200 miles in length, had been successfully laid.

The French monthly Eastern mail steamer, on the 20th ult., took out £340,000 sterling in gold. It is believed that the requirements of the French Cochin China expedition are large and continuous.

The Emperor Napoleon has received the Prussian Ambassador in grand state. The *Moniteur* says the Ambassador dwelt upon the friendly relations existing between France and Prussia; adding his conviction that the treaty of commerce recently concluded would strengthen the ties of friendship.

The Turin official paper of the 9th denies that financial difficulties compelled the Italian government to ask the Chambers to authorize the immediate conclusion of a new loan.

A new Spanish ministry has been formed:—President and Council of War Minister, Gen. O'Donnell; Foreign Minister, Count Serrano. Fuad Pasha is dead.

The election of a President of the Greek Assembly was to take place on the 19th, and fears are entertained lest the present crisis will lead to civil war. Should the Duke of Coburg accept the Greek throne, Prince Alfred would not immediately succeed him on the Coburg throne, and a council or regency would provisionally administer the government in the Duke's name.

On the London Exchange, short loans were in request at 2½ per cent. U. S. 6's declined ½; Virginia 5's 1, and do. 6's ½ per cent.

The English coasts were visited by severe gales on the 19th and 20th ult.

The ship J. H. Elliott, for New York, is ashore off Liverpool. Her crew has been saved. Ship Jane S. Stores is also ashore, and has had two men drowned. She was bound to Kingston. Both vessels are a total loss.

The ship Yorkshire has arrived from Australia with £300,000 in gold.

The *Times* of the 22d says that consols tended downward, consequent on the idea that the Bank of France may resolve on a fresh advance to six per cent. on its rate of discount, necessitating another step on the part of the Bank of England, which otherwise would not be immediately anticipated.

Mr. Wall, of N. J., made a speech in the Senate, on Saturday, in which he said, that in his opinion, it would be "as difficult to accomplish the purpose of restoring the Union by adopting the measures of the extremists and ultraists, as it would be to build a house from the roof down, or to make gunpowder from pulverized ice."

Senator Turpie, of Indiana, made a speech in the Senate on Saturday, in opposition to the course and policy of the administration in the conduct of the war, and advocated the strictest adherence to the provisions of the Constitution, and the maintenance of the rights of the States.