

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 20.

The Washington Chronicle states that Mrs. E. C. Hyde and Miss Constance Cory, who lately arrived in this place, from Richmond, have been taken in charge, in Washington, by Gen. Martindale, and will be sent outside the Federal pickets. The Chronicle alleges that "they only came in to purchase supplies, intending to get passes to go back, and were very indignant at being summarily ejected, and felt particularly outraged when the officers declined to permit them to take articles already purchased."

On Wednesday night some person succeeded in stealing an iron safe belonging to Adams' Express Company, from the baggage car of an express train of the Northern Central Railway Company, whilst on its way between Cockeysville and Parkton. The express messenger in charge of the same is Captain Witzell, late a conductor of the Pennsylvania Central Railway, and but recently engaged by the Express Company. Rumors state the safe contained about \$260,000 in United States Treasury notes and securities, but Mr. Samuel M. Shoemaker, of the firm, states that the bank and other bills exceeded \$40,000, and that payment had been stopped on all the individual securities. The Express Company has offered a reward of \$5,000, for the recovery of the money and the detection of the robber.

The Aquia Creek boat, yesterday afternoon, brought up Major Breckinridge and thirty other Confederate prisoners, captured on Wednesday last in the cavalry engagement near Kelly's Ford. They were placed in the Central Guardhouse for safe keeping.

At the Baltimore Cattle Market, yesterday, beef on the hoof sold at from \$4.50 to \$5.75, according to quality. Coal oil 38@40 cts., wholesale. There is a reduction in the price of hard sugars.

The Philadelphia Inquirer in its Washington letter says:—"The Confederates taken prisoners state that some six or eight of the Federal gunboats had passed Fort Sumter on Monday, and that on Tuesday Charlestown was being bombarded. It needs confirmation.—We could learn nothing from them regarding Vicksburg.

An agent of the Bankers in Amsterdam, is now in Washington, and has made a proposition to the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury, to furnish a loan of fifty millions in gold, to be deposited in Amsterdam, subject to the draft of the treasury.

The negro expedition, which, according to the reports and rumors in the Northern papers has been lately defeated or captured in Florida, was under the joint command of Col. Higginson, commanding officer, First South Carolina (negro) volunteers, and Col. Montgomery, formerly of a Kansas regiment.

A steamship line has been established between Washington and New York. The fine steamship Baltimore will make the first trip.

Two more of the soldiers injured by the railroad accident, yesterday, have died.

There was a fall of snow this morning.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF PORT HUDSON.

The Richmond Whig of the 17th says:

"The bombardment of Port Hudson commenced at 2 o'clock on the 14th inst., and at 12 o'clock at night desperate engagement took place, the enemy attempting to pass our batteries under cover of darkness. The firing was terrific. One gunboat passed in a damaged condition and the United States sloop-of-war Mississippi was burnt to the water's edge in front of one of our batteries. One large vessel was completely riddled and a third badly crippled and the rest driven back. Our victory was complete. No casualties, on our part.—Thirty six men and one midshipman of the Mississippi were brought in by our cavalry, several of them severely wounded. Commodore Farragut's flagship went down the river disabled.

The account given in the Richmond Examiner of the 17th, dated Port Hudson is substantially like that taken from the Whig of the same date, with the additional facts that the bombardment on the 14th commenced at 2 o'clock and continued till 5 o'clock. The Federal vessels, it says, fired slowly, but the Confederate batteries did not reply. The subsequent desperate engagement spoken of continued from midnight until two o'clock in the morning. The boat that passed the batteries, the despatch alleges, is doubtless so much disabled as to render her achievement fruitless.

Yesterday's Richmond papers contained nothing further from Port Hudson."

The Washington Chronicle says:—"A grumbling Alexandrian complains that the prices of all marketings in that city are much higher than in Washington. If this assertion is correct, we pity the people of Alexandria—that is all."

It was reported by officers that came on the boat last night that Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Doster of the Fourth Pennsylvania cavalry, and recently provost marshal in Washington, was wounded in the cavalry fight near Kelly's Ford.

Three Israelites were yesterday arrested at the Point of Rocks, by Government detectives, upon the charge of trying to go South. A quantity of jewelry, valued at \$2,500, and about \$3,000 in money, was taken from them. An Englishman was also taken into custody there, upon a similar charge, and the officer reporting there says he has "got the dots on him;" but whether anything else was found upon him he does not state. Louis Pollock was also arrested in the cars at that point, with a trunk full of goods, and the express car also contained about \$3,500 worth of goods belonging to him, for all of which he had no permit.

A letter from New Orleans in the N. Y. Post, dated March 8 says:—"As already explained in this correspondence, the situation of Port Hudson renders an attack on the front by a land force an impossibility. Troops must be landed below to move upon the enemy's works from the rear. Bombardment by the fleet will be attended with the disadvantage encountered at Island No 10 and Vicksburg, from the height of the bluff on which the defences are placed. But preparations have been made that the bombardment may be as effective as possible. The principal vessels to be engaged besides the mortar boats, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are the Hartford, Richmond, Mississippi, Monongahela, Genesee, Kineo, Itasca, Essex, and Sportsman."

THE LATE CAVALRY AFFAIR.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

The cavalry expedition which made the raid into Secessionia returned last night. Tuesday morning it arrived at Kelly's Ford and discovered a small number of dismounted cavalrymen on the other side, occupying rifle pits. The cavalry made a charge through the river, the First Rhode Island in advance, singly but *en masse*, some wading up to the saddle-girths, some swimming their horses. While crossing, a battery a mile distant opened fire on them.

Our flying artillery replied, and after a brief skirmish, took the rifle-pits and thirty prisoners, and then pushed on to take the latter, which was soon found to be missing. Report then reached Gen. Averill that General Stuart and Lee, with a large force, were approaching. Averill pushed on to meet them, and came within about four miles from the river. They were drawn up in line of battle. The cavalry charged them, and for three hours fought it hand to hand, sabre to sabre, neither gaining an advantage, while at the same time the artillery were firing at each other. The Confederate infantry could not engage, for the reason that so mixed up were the two parties they could not distinguish friend from foe. At this time fears were entertained that we were run of ammunition, and a retreat was ordered, which was done in good order, with but little disposition on the part of the Confederates to harass our retreat. They followed us to the edge of the stream.

We have over a hundred prisoners. The loss, in killed and wounded is equal to, if not exceeding, ours. The wounded and the killed are so scattered, that nothing like a correct list of names can be had until reported to headquarters. Fitz Hugh Lee was recognized and seen to fall from his horse wounded. The cavalry did nobly.

The subscriptions of Wednesday to the first twenty U. S. loan amounted to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The subscriptions to the same loan were over four hundred thousand dollars. It has been predicted that within a week the daily subscription to this loan will be more than half a million.

Hon. Jas. L. Pettigrew, a distinguished senator of South Carolina, died in Charleston last Monday, after a protracted illness. He was 70 years of age.

Baker's detectives, yesterday, arrested Martin Syfat, a colored resident of Washington, at the Long Bridge. Syfat was attempting to cross the Long Bridge with a complete basket of canteens under his overcoat. The canteens were all filled with whiskey.

John Trimble, the great Union man of Nashville, has made his slaves—thirteen in number—a present of their freedom.

A bill has been introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature to have certain cases tried without a jury, as in England, with chances of adoption. Eminent lawyers favor the idea.

Five hundred dollar counterfeit bills of the Central Bank of Worcester, Massachusetts, have been detected. The execution is perfect. Several had been sold in Wall street before detection.

From our last dispatches from the Union Convention in Kentucky, we learn that Joshua F. Bell, an unconditional Unionist, has been nominated as a candidate for Governor, and that the convention has expressed the unbending adherence to the government of the United States.

Recent intelligence from Liberia, in Africa, represent that country to be now in a flourishing condition, and steadily improving.