

# The Alexandria Gazette.

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SOUTHERN NEWS.—Joint resolutions of thanks to Gen. Robert E. Lee and the officers and soldiers under his command were passed on the 4th instant in Congress.

Hon. George Davis, of North Carolina, has been appointed Attorney General of the Confederate States vice Watts, elected Governor of Ala.

Five hundred Confederate prisoners lately arrived at Richmond from Point Lookout, Md., having been exchanged.

At a recent sale of slaves in North Carolina, one brought \$6,550, another \$6,450, and another \$6,000.

Flour is selling in Richmond at 1a5a\$150 per bbl., and wheat at 16a\$20 per bushel, potatoes \$10 a bushel, butter \$4.50 per lb, in Confederate money.

A bill has passed both houses of Congress abolishing exemption from military service on the part of those who have heretofore furnished substitutes.

ORANGE, C. H., Jan. 12.—Moseby is still harassing the enemy's rear, but it is reported badly defeated at Harper's Ferry, with some loss. The ice in Richmond is three inches thick.

The Richmond Sentinel of Jan. 15th contains the following:

CHARLESTON, Jan. 11.—Three shells this morning, and six this afternoon, were thrown into the city.

The enemy have opened two more embrasures, one bearing on the city and one on James Island.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 13.—The bombardment of the city has been continuous since the last report. A large number of transports filled with troops have been observed going south.

It is reported there is an increased fleet at Hilton Head.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 14.—The enemy have kept up a lively shelling all day. Since Tuesday night 471 shells have been thrown at the city, causing some damage but no casualties.

The enemy have unmasked two or three more Parrott guns at Fort Gregg. The shelling is still heavy this evening.

ORANGE C. H., Jan 13.—The enemy are transferring one corps from our front to the Valley of Virginia.

The Richmond Sentinel of the 8th instant says:—"Yankee troops are being landed at Moorehead City, North Carolina. We expect stirring times on the coast this winter."

The Sentinel of the 15th inst. says: "The Wilmington Journal says that the recent presence of General Butler in Newbern, and the concentration of troops at that point, as at Washington and Beaufort harbor, leave little room to doubt that an advance of the most serious character is contemplated, and on the eve of execution, by the enemy in North Carolina. The enemy may advance in the direction of Kinston and Goldsboro'. No doubt the enemy are increasing their forces at Washington and Plymouth, and we may expect an attack on the railroad near Rocky Mount and Weldon."

The same paper says:—"On Sunday night the steamer Ranger, from Bermuda, with valuable Government stores, was beached about six miles and a half west of the steamer Bendigo, (also lost.) She was set on fire by her crew. The firing heard yesterday was probably over the Ranger. The above took place near Lockwood's Folly Inlet."

"The Adair met with an accident to her machinery while being chased by the blockaders, and after landing her passengers on the coast her officers were compelled to beach her."

The Montgomery Advertiser says:—"Gen. Martiu's entire cavalry force attacked a superior force of the enemy at Talbot's Station and drove them back four miles, when they were reinforced and drove Martin back with considerable loss. The enemy remain at Mossy Creek, strongly intrenched. Our loss was one hundred and twenty."

The Richmond papers of the 15th say:—"The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad will be in running order to Bristol, Va., in a few days."

The Enquirer says: "Gen. Longstreet has gone into winter quarters at Morrinstown.—General Ransom is at Morrisburg."

"The formation of ice in the canals has prevented the packets from making their way toward Richmond for the last two or three weeks."

"The people of Montgomery, Ala., were busy on the 4th inst. taking in ice an inch and a half thick."

"The ladies of Mobile are making socks from carpet ravelings."

"A Quartermaster has been discovered to be a defaulter to the amount of \$5,000,000."

The Washington Chronicle in commenting upon the letter of the Pope to President Davis says: "There is a tone in it that will win the Pope no favor with loyal Americans. When he expresses the wish that 'the other peoples of America and their rulers' may be equally desirous of peace &c., he insinuates much that will be distasteful to the people of the United States; and when he expresses the hope that the rebels will be attached to him by a perfect friendship, he further alienates the good will of the American people. In fact he betrays a sympathy which, he of all foreign rulers ought to be the last to entertain."

The London Times says:—"The new year opens with threatenings and gloom on all sides. There is not a quarter of the world free from war or the imminent danger of war. The speech of the Emperor Napoleon, expressing his conviction that peace will be maintained, discloses the only ray of hope amid the madness of nationalities and the recklessness of theorists. It gives Europe assurance of his own good intentions. May he be true to his own words."

Among the intercepted letters recently captured by the blockading squadron, on board the vessels which were attempting to run the blockade, and published in the Northern papers, are a number written by Mr. Charles Lamar. They relate principally to speculations, cotton purchases, and business transactions.

## United States Congress.

In the Senate yesterday the resolution for establishing a new rule of the Senate, requiring all members to take the oath of loyalty prescribed by the act of July, 1862, was made the special order for to-day at 12 o'clock. Mr. Howe introduced a bill to establish a Bureau of Emancipation. The resolution for the expulsion of Mr. Davis was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill amendatory of the Enrollment act was taken up. A number of attempts were made to modify the section in relation to ministers and all having conscientious scruples against bearing arms, but they all failed. An amendment was adopted defining the killing or death of any officer, from any violence by those resisting the draft as murder, to be tried and punished in the United States Courts. The bill was finally passed by a vote of yeas 30, nays 10. Joint resolutions voting the thanks of Congress to Major Generals Hooker, Meade, Howard, Banks and Burnside, and to Cornelius Vanderbilt were passed.

In the House of Representative, Mr. Dawson of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution, prefaced by a long preamble, to the effect that the President be requested to make known, by proclamation or otherwise, to all the country, that whenever any State now in insurrection shall submit herself to the authority of the Federal Government, as defined in the Constitution, all hostilities against her shall cease, and such State shall be protected from all external interference with the local laws and institutions, and her people shall be guaranteed the full enjoyment of all those rights which the Federal Constitution gave them. The resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 79 to 56. A resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the fifth section of the act to modify existing tariff laws as imposes an ad valorem duty of twenty per centum on printing paper, unsized used for books and newspapers exclusively.—Mr. Cox offered a resolution looking to the appointment of a Board of Commissioners, who can by negotiation reach the authorities South with a view to the immediate exchange of prisoners under the cartel heretofore agreed upon, and that the negotiation be withdrawn from the hands of Major General Butler, who, as it is reported, is unable, from causes connected with his past military conduct, to hold intercourse with those charged with the business at Richmond, and that all communications not already published with reference to prisoners be transmitted to the House. This resolution was also tabled. Mr. Davis of Maryland, asked leave to make a report from the select committee on the Rebellious States, but the House refused to suspend the rules for that purpose. The Senate resolution appointing a joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was concurred in.

California is a bad State for insurance companies. The losses more than double premiums.