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A CLASH.

[From the "Virginia State Journal" of the 22d.]

To the Loyal People of Norfolk, Virginia:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Alexandria Va., June 22, 1864.

I have received reliable information that Gen. Shepley, commanding at Norfolk, acting under the orders of General Butler, intends ordering the opening of a poll in that city on the 24th instant, to take a vote of the people as to whether they desire the continuance of civil government, and that should a majority of the vote cast be against the same it is the intention of the commandant of the post to prevent, by military force, the trial in the Circuit Court of said city some thirty odd indictments against liquor vendors for violations of the license law of the State.

I know of no authority in the State or Federal laws authorizing the people to abrogate the civil laws of the State in any city or county, and such act can only be considered revolutionary. The Constitution of the United States guarantees to each State a republican form of government. That form of government exists in Norfolk at this time, and to break it up would only be to substitute military government or rule in its stead which would clearly be a violation of the Constitution of the United States and its guarantees to the people. No loyal citizen, therefore is expected to vote on the proposed question.

F. H. PIERPONT, Governor.

The steamship Africa at Halifax brings European advices to the 11th instant. It was reported that Russia had proposed the re establishment of Schleswig and Holstein within the Danish Monarchy. In addition to burning the ship Rockingham, as previously announced, it is now stated that the Alabama has also succeeded in capturing and destroying many other vessels, but the names are not given. The news taken out by the Persia caused a fall of two per cent in the Confederate loan.

Hon. Henry May, of Maryland, in a card, in the Baltimore Gazette of this morning, declines the appointment of delegate at large, from Maryland, to the Chicago Convention.—He says:—"I will thank you to state that I decline holding any relation whatever with the Chicago Convention, or any political Convention not especially called to promote the interest of peace."

The United States gunboat Lavender was wrecked on Cape Lookout Shoals on the 11th instant. Nine of the crew were lost. After experiencing great suffering the survivors, fourteen in number, reached Newbern, N. C., on board the United States transport John Farren.

The Washington Chronicle whilst expressing great confidence that Richmond will be finally captured by Gen. Grant, has an article about being "over sanguine," and thinks that Gen. Grant "may be kept at bay during the dog days."

AN ORDER.

[From the Washington Star.

The following order has been issued by Gen. Augur:

HQ'RS. DEPT. OF WASHINGTON, }
22d ARMY CORPS, June 20, 1864. }

General Orders, No. 51.—I. Hereafter no citizen, commissioned officer or enlisted man, will be arrested on the report of a Detective employed by any officer subject to the jurisdiction of this Department, except in extreme cases, where there is no doubt of guilt and immediate action is needed, until the report has first been forwarded for action at these Headquarters.

II. All Officers serving in this Department, employing Detectives, will send, with as little delay as practicable, a list of those so employed to these Headquarters, specifying the authority by whom employed; and they are notified that they will be held responsible for improper action or abuse of authority on the part of their employees.

By command of Maj. Gen. C. C. Augur:

J. H. TAYLOR, Chief of Staff, A. A. G.

The National Intelligencer in an article on the strength of the Federal army says: "The maximum number of our forces should not be allowed to exceed 500,000 men. Any excess over that number tends to hasten national exhaustion and thus to defeat the avowed object of the nation in waging war. The military energies of the people are to day suffering from the waste of their strength put forth in spasmodic efforts to swell the number of our forces, under the delusive idea that our armies will be efficient in proportion to the number of men we crowd into the ranks and draw from the walks of productive industry. In this, as in all other matters of human conduct, it is appropriate to recall the Horatian maxim which inculcates the expediency of keeping within the "certain bounds" beyond which, on the one hand or on the other—whether we err by doing too little or doing too much—the right cannot consist."

For twenty-five or thirty years the noble Circassian race, inhabiting the mountainous region extending along the Northeast coast of the Black Sea, has maintained an unequal strife with the whole power of the Russian Empire; but at last a letter from Constantinople informs us of the capitulation of Vardar, their last stronghold, and that the entire population is seeking an asylum in Turkey.

Dr. Epsey's house, near City Point, is occupied by General Grant as his headquarters.—On Saturday evening Gen. Butler visited Gen. Grant at his headquarters and spent several hours in conversation with him.

New pretensions have been lately made of remarkable successes in producing Brilliants or artificial Diamonds; it would be well for the public to be on their guard against the sly artifices.

It is estimated that the number of immigrants arriving this year at New York, compared to the number arriving in the country at other ports, is considerably greater than formerly.

In the Senate of the United States, yesterday, Mr. Sumner presented a petition of a negro asking compensation for money expended by him in the purchase of his daughter. Mr. McDougall called up the joint resolution in regard to the French occupation of Mexico.—Objection was made to its reception but it was overruled, and notice was then given that the resolution would be called up at the earliest possible day. Mr. Sumner moved to take up the bill to repeal the Fugitive Slave law, but the motion was rejected. Mr. Powell called up the bill to prevent interference by the military in elections, which was amended in such a way as to render it virtually inoperative, and then passed. Mr. Johnson introduced a bill to repeal the Gold bill. It was referred to the Committee on Finance. In the House of Representatives a resolution was adopted, the Senate concurring, to adjourn on the 30th inst. The House went into committee of the Whole on the bill authorizing a new loan for four hundred million of dollars.

Gold, in New York, yesterday, went up at one time to 235. At twelve o'clock a large lot of gold was thrown upon the market at 230, which lowered the prices. Brokers bought at 220. Sterling Exchange was quoted nominal at 250@300. The Express of yesterday evening says:—"There is almost a complete suspension of legitimate trade under the vacillating course of gold and exchange, and merchants are at a complete loss to know what to do."

A meeting of bankers and brokers was held in New York, yesterday, and a committee was appointed to visit Washington to endeavor to secure the repeal or modification of the gold bill.

The steamer that sailed from New York for Europe, yesterday, took out \$188,000 in specie.

It is stated that Samuel Steer, the Federal Revenue Agent at the Point of Rocks, lately captured in Loudoun county by Col. Moseby's cavalry, has been sent to Richmond. The arrests of citizens recently made by the Federals, were for him and some others captured in Loudoun.

Gen. Buell, having been mustered out of the volunteer service, has now resigned his colonelcy in the regular U. S. army. The Indiana Journal says he will reside in Indiana.

The Washington Chronicle under the head of the "pestilence increasing," says that the medical men of the city express the opinion with daily increasing earnestness, that something should be speedily done to contravene the augmenting perils to the public health.

Gen. Grant has been presented by his friends in Chicago, with \$10,000 worth of stock in West Division Railway of that city.

It is said that President Lincoln's body-guard, at the Soldiers' Home, is a company of dragoons, all mounted on black horses.