

The Local News.

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

MOVEMENTS NEAR ALEXANDRIA.—The editor of the Richmond Examiner has had an interview with Judge John F. Welsh, of Auburn, California, who recently made the trip from New York to Richmond, successfully—by daring and strategem—getting through the Federal lines opposite Washington.—Having procured a carriage and horses at Alexandria, he drove to Munson's Hill. Here he found the Federal troops under orders to move, with directions to leave behind, on the hill, a small detachment of some two or three companies. At Munson's Hill our informant fell in with the Garibaldi regiment, on their march southward. Judge Welsh remained during the night in the neighborhood of Munson's Hill. Having made a reconnoissance of the picket guards and finding one point not closely watched, he passed the Federal pickets without molestation. Having arrived at Col. Ball's, he went to Doland's, where he reported himself to Col. Walton, of Gartrell's Georgia regiment, who sent him to Fairfax Court House under escort, to the Provost Marshal, who extended to him every kindness and courtesy.

The Richmond Examiner of October 17, says:—"The late news from Manassas is full of interest. Passengers from there by the Central train, yesterday, report that Fairfax Court House had been abandoned by the Confederate troops, on Tuesday night, and that the sheds in the neighborhood, previously occupied by the Confederates, for the quartering of the soldiers, had been burned to prevent the Federals from turning them to useful account. The Confederates are said to have retired in the direction of Centreville. All Tuesday night the trains from Manassas to Fairfax were busily employed in transporting troops and carrying supplies back to Manassas."

A reconnoissance in force was made on Thursday from Gen. Smith's Division, consisting of two companies of Col. Friedman's cavalry, five companies of infantry and two pieces of artillery. The result was the capture of eight Confederates, fully uniformed, beyond Vienna, and further information was obtained of the position and forces of the Confederates in the neighborhood of Fairfax Court House.

The bread-riots in France and Italy, illustrate the sagacity with which the Emperor Napoleon anticipated the catastrophe by quiet arrangements for grain purchases wherever grain is to be purchased throughout the leading markets of the world—bearing off even from England itself large supplies at moderate rates before John Bull was rendered fully sensible of his own short crops, and that the wheat supplied from England to France would have to be replaced in English markets by American and Russian grain at higher prices.

Last week the schooner George Emily, Capt. Shreve, was taken possession of by the Patuxent by a force of men near 200, who compelled Capt. Shreve to carry them to St. Mary's Md., from which point they expected to proceed down to Point Lookout, to make their way from there into Virginia, to join the army. They gave him up his vessel. A good many of them were from Baltimore and the county.

The Band at the Exhibition of the Maryland Institute, in Baltimore, is hereafter, during the continuance of the exhibition, to play National airs. The excitement that this subject gave rise to, was mentioned in yesterday's Local News.

THE VOLUNTEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—The Volunteer Relief Association met at the Auditor's Office yesterday afternoon, and no quorum appearing, adjourned to meet on Saturday evening next, at three o'clock, when it is hoped the attendance will be large.

Fanny Fern writes that sickness and disease with ladies are now unfashionable, and that good health, a fair allowance of flesh on the bones, and rosy cheeks is considered the "style."

News from the South.

The Southern Commercial Convention in session at Macon, Ga., have adopted, with great enthusiasm and unanimously, a resolution recommending Congress to suspend the collection of import duties, and to throw our ports open for free trade to all nations who maintain peace with us.

A resolution was also adopted requesting Congress to alter and adjust coins, weights, and measures to a decimal ratio.

A series of resolutions were also adopted in relation to the sequestration act, and recommending that the payment of debts sequestered be not required during the war, that claims for indemnity and indebtedness due the North be allowed as a set off; that the courts be empowered in certain cases to modify the retroactive effect of the bill; and that the property of Northern residents laboring under the disabilities of coverture of infancy be exempted.

A duel has been fought in Arkansas, opposite to Memphis, between Messrs. Lauke and Chambers, both of Mississippi, and rival candidates for Congress. They fought with rifles, at fifty paces, and three shots were interchanged. At the third fire Mr. Lauke was shot, mortally, in the head. Mr. Chambers was uninjured.

Gov. Pettus, of Mississippi, has been re-elected.

The Richmond Examiner of the 17th says:—"The Georgia Legion now encamped at the Fair Grounds, under command of Hon. Howell Cobb, were yesterday furnished with one thousand Enfield rifles, with sword bayonets attached. These celebrated weapons need no praise. They are in the hands of parties who know how to use them."

The Norfolk Day Book of the 16th inst., says:—"The steamer Roanoke, Capt. Hobbs, arrived here last evening, about 8 o'clock, from Roanoke Island. The Roanoke left the island 6 o'clock Monday afternoon, and her Captain reports that the Confederate steamers Curlew, Fanny, Raleigh, Winslow, and Edwards, left Sunday afternoon, under the command of Commodore Lynch, for Hatteras. Very heavy firing was heard on Monday following in the direction of Hatteras, which began at daylight and continued until 8 o'clock; but no reports from the expedition had reached the island when the Roanoke left. The Captain further states that it was reported that two Federal war steamers were cruising in Pamlico Sound previous to the departure of the expedition, but that they were chased out by the Confederate steamers.

On the 23d, learning that a large force of the Confederates was advancing towards Edward's Ferry, the Federal troops were withdrawn from the Virginia shore, both at the Ferry and from Harrison's Island, and returned to the Maryland shore. Gen. Stone removed his division in the night, which was stormy. No attempt to attack the retiring Federal forces, it is said, was made.

The papers are publishing the most contradictory accounts of the number of killed and wounded in the late battle near Leesburg. The Washington Republican (Administration) has the following: "We learn from undoubted authority that not more than four hundred of the Fifteenth Massachusetts remain alive. A most every officer, commissioned and non-commissioned, is either killed or wounded, while the loss of arms is without parallel." In this gallant regiment there is probably not a gun left, and but two swords were brought from the scene of slaughter."

MILITARY COURT.—The time of the Court this morning was occupied nearly entirely by military cases.

THE WEATHER.—The atmosphere to-day has been exceedingly disagreeable. The air is damp and raw; overcoats and hot fires are in demand.

It is intimated that Gen. Fremont will soon publish his version of the history of his command in Missouri.

The second number of the "Manuscripts of a Bachelor," will appear in the News to-morrow.

Col. Hilton, of the Confederate army, it is said, was killed at the battle near Leesburg.

The correspondents of the New York Tribune and the New York World represent the late battle at Edward's Ferry as a disastrous one to the Federal forces engaged. The World says: "The scene at the river side was horrible in the extreme. The Confederates came to the edge of the hill and fired down upon our retreating masses. The one boat filled and sunk, and those who did not attempt to swim across were forced to surrender. Many were drowned in crossing, and the Confederates kept up a murderous fire on those struggling in the water. The remnant were gathered in a dismal ra'n on Harrison's Island, and the carnage ceased."

The Tribune says: "The loss on our side is unquestionably very large—larger than that of the enemy. Lieut. Col. Wistar, of Col. Baker's regiment, was brought from the field with a leg, an arm, and his lower jaw shattered. Assistant Adjutant General Harvey, of the brigade, and Capt. Markoe, were captured. The brigade returned to its former encampment, five miles from Conrad's Ferry, the same evening. Scores of men, nearly naked, arrived at the camp yesterday, having thrown away their clothes to swim the river. Upwards of 1,000 were missing yesterday."

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The engines and hose carriages of the Relief Fire Company were on yesterday morning returned to their engine house, on Prince street, from the carriage factory of Mr. Prettyman. The U. S. military forces now retain possession of but one engine and house—that of the Star Fire Company.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun probably judges correctly when he thinks that the action of Great Britain and France, in relation to affairs in this country, will be regulated solely by a regard to their own interests.

The election on the question of the division of the State, as ordered by an ordinance of the Wheeling Convention, passed at its recent session, came off throughout Western Virginia on the 21st. The vote in Wheeling city and county was largely in favor of a division. Reports from other counties, as far as received, show a greater unanimity.

The Adjutant General in ordering all Chaplains not "regularly ordained Ministers of a Christian denomination" to be mustered out of the service, and none others to be mustered in, followed the phraseology of acts of Congress, one relating to the volunteer, and the other to the regular service, passed at the last session.

J. A. McMaster, editor of the Freeman's Journal, has been released upon taking the oath of allegiance, to which he added a protest denying the legality of such oath. 108 prisoners yet remain at Fort Lafayette.

Another Confederate privateer has made her appearance on the ocean. She makes a long gun amidsthips. She ran the blockade off Charleston on the 10th inst. Three days afterwards she succeeded in capturing the brig Grenada, from Nuevitas for New York. The privateer is called the "Sallie."

The Confederate Ministers to England and France, Messrs. Slidell and Mason, are said to have safely arrived at Cardenas, Cuba, in the steamer Theodora, from Charleston.—They are said to have arrived on the 16th instant. Should this report be correct, they are by this time on their way to Europe in one of the West India mail steamers.

The steamer Salvor was recently captured by the U. S. steamer Keystone State, while attempting to enter Tampa Bay with a cargo of contraband goods.

The shock of an earthquake was distinctly felt at Calais, Me., on the 23d inst.

Owing to the closing of the Potomac the United States transports now loading in New York are to go to Locust Point.

The report that Gen. Scott is making an effort to supersede Gen. McClellan is said to be without the slightest foundation.

The United States continue to import from England and the Continent large quantities of arms and munitions of war.

During the past six days a little girl, daughter of Mrs. Wilson, on First street, Albany, has been sick from a severe fever.—Yesterday the child took a sudden relapse, and to all appearance died. Although cold, the body was not stiff, but as limber as life. Every symptom was that of death, and so the family believed. Arrangements were made, and the body was washed and clothed in the grave habiliments. A coffin was ordered and the death notices prepared for the newspapers; but about eight o'clock last evening the supposed dead child made a truly terrific scream, and the next moment began to breathe. Heavy perspiration poured off the body in great quantities, and the pale form assumed a healthy red appearance. The mother rushed to the body, enclosed it in her arms, and removed it to a bed in the side room. The physician applied proper restoratives, and the child is now in a fair way of recovering.—Troy Union October 10.

There were found upon the person of Col. John A. Washington, and forwarded to the War Department, two revolvers (Colt's Navy,) one pair of spurs, one opera glass, one large bowie-knife, one pocket compass. Gen. Reynolds retained one of the revolvers, and requested of Secretary Cameron permission to present it to Sergeant Lieber, of the 17th Indiana Regiment, who undoubtedly shot Col. Washington.

The fleet from Annapolis in part reached Old Point on Monday night about nine o'clock, and made a very imposing appearance. Officers connected with the Navy state that the expedition will probably sail in the course of three or four days, and that no one connected with it has any knowledge of its destination. The entire fleet consists of nearly thirty vessels, and at least twenty thousand men.

A gentleman from Memphis, via Paducah, reports that the arsenal and cannon foundry at Memphis has been entirely destroyed by fire. He also says it is reported that most of the Confederate troops at Columbus, Ky., under Gen. Polk, have gone to New Orleans and Mobile, and that only 800 men are now at Columbus.

The number of troops which the President is authorized to accept is not limited to 500,000. By accident or design two acts were passed, each authorizing him to raise 500,000. Besides this, some States have not yet raised their contingent. New York is still some 25,000 behindhand.

The N. Y. World argues that the advance of Gen. McClellan and the operations of the Naval Expedition will be simultaneous—that the first battle on the advance from Washington will probably be at Centreville, and that the war is to be actively prosecuted in all quarters before winter sets in.

The accounts now brought to New York, of the recent naval fight at the mouth of the Mississippi, states that neither the Vincennes nor the Preble were sunk. They were aground, but were towed off without much damage. The Federal fleet, however, retired from the attack of the Confederate gunboats, and drifted down the river.

It appears by advices from Nevada that that territory abounds with mineral treasures, but according to the report of the Surveyor General of California, that State still holds the foremost rank in extent and variety of valuable minerals.

Gen. Strong is engaged in arranging the accounts and contracts of Gen. Fremont, for the inspection of the Secretary of War.

General McClellan has returned to his headquarters from a recent visit to the upper Potomac.

There continues to be fighting and skirmishing in Western Virginia, between small bodies of the opposing forces.

Gen. Polk is said to be a rigid disciplinarian. He burns the midnight lamp in studying military tactics.

NOTICE.—The members of the "Volunteer Relief Association" will hold an adjourned meeting at the Auditor's Office, on Saturday afternoon next, at 3 o'clock. Members will please be punctual in attendance. oct 25—11