

The Local News.

MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 4, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA. VA.

The Great Storm—Gale of Wind—Boy Drowned in Hunting Creek—Buildings Damaged—High Tide, &c.

The storm of last week was of short duration, but has seldom been exceeded in violence. We have already noticed its commencement, and a portion of its effects. It increased in violence towards its close, and finally lulled on Saturday night.

On Saturday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, and during the height of the storm, a sad accident occurred on Hunting Creek. A son of Mr. Thomas Clowes, of this city, with two negro boys, one "Horace," belonging to C. C. Bradley, and the other "Sam," belonging to Lorenzo Lewis, of Fairfax, and now employed by Mr. Henderson—started to cross Hunting Creek Bridge in a spring wagon, drawn by a single horse. The flood at the time covered the bridge, but it was believed it could be easily forded. They had, however, proceeded but a short distance upon the causeway when the violence of the storm caused the horse to leave the causeway and carry the wagon and its load into the Creek. Mr. Clowes swam to the shore, the man Horace, also, escaped—but "Sam" was drowned. The horse and some live hogs which formed a portion of the wagon load, were also drowned, and the wagon carried off a considerable distance. It was secured and brought to shore yesterday—but the body of the negro has not yet been recovered.

The Potomac River rose on Saturday evening to a height nine inches above the freshet of last Spring, and about as high as has been ever known to the oldest inhabitant. The entire river front of the town was submerged. Union street was navigable for boats for a considerable distance—large boats ascended King street nearly to Kell's Tin Store, and when the tide retired it left a large barge high and dry on the sidewalk in front of R. R. Snyder's. The foots of all the streets running towards the river, were inundated, and the water invaded them to a considerable distance.

The flood entered nearly all the stores whose floors are not unusually high, but worked little or no damage. The tide had on the previous evening given evidence of a coming flood, and enabled dealers to place their goods beyond its reach. Messrs. Violet and Fowle lose some salt. There is, too, a very small amount of goods on private account now in the stores—the stores and warehouses occupied by the United States are generally above the reach of a freshet. Some of the warehouses were lifted by the tide and otherwise injured.

The low grounds near the city were all inundated, and considerable timber floated off.

The causeway between the mainland and Alexander's Island, near the Long Bridge was also overflowed, Jackson City alone remaining above the water. In this neighborhood, a hack belonging to Mr. Chatham became stalled, the carriage pole broke, and the driver was forced to unlose the traces of his horses, and leave the carriage behind. It will, however, be recovered.

The gale was quite damaging. Portions of the roofs of the stores of J. N. Harper, McVeigh & Co., and Cazenove & Co., were blown off, and these roofs will require considerable repairs. The Friendship Steeple was slightly damaged—a fence belonging to Capt. S. H. Devaughn, on Pitt street, blown down, and other damage done in various portions of the city.

A Washington dispatch published in the Philadelphia Journal (Adm.) says: "A conspiracy on the part of certain officers and speculators in Philadelphia and New York, against Governors Curtin and Morgan, has been partially revealed here within the last few days. The idea is to force these gentlemen into compliance with a request for the erection of fortifications in Philadelphia and New York cities." We do not know what is the meaning of this.

General McClellan remarks, in reply to a Philadelphia committee, "the war cannot be long, though it may be desperate." Other authorities think it will be "long protracted." Mr. Robert J. Walker thinks it will be terminated this winter.

MILITARY COURT.—The Military Court, Judge Freese presiding, held its usual session, this morning.

In the case of Witmer & Bro., new claims were presented from Jeffrey & Co., of New York, and Callom & Co., of Philadelphia, amounting to about \$7,000. The resident partner having been notified, the Court ordered that he have five days to make reply, and in the meanwhile the goods in the possession of the Court be held subject to these claims in common with those heretofore presented to the Court.

After considerable discussion as to the priority of claim upon the effects—relations of copartnership, &c., in which Messrs. Andrew Wylie, S. Ferguson Beach, I. L. Kinzer and Crowell, participated, the further consideration of the case was postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. J. A. English appeared in Court and stated that no notices had been served upon the city officials as suggested by the Court on Thursday last, when that case was under consideration.

The Court said that as no notices had been served, those officials could not be called to answer, and that for the present, it would make no order upon the subject.

The Court then took up the case of Sergeant Coglean, of the "Lincoln Cavalry," charged with shooting at Mr. John Kerr.

Messrs. Quinsby, John L. Smith, John Kerr, and A. J. Walker were examined as witnesses in the case.

It appeared in evidence that the accused was in the Shoe Store of John L. Smith, on Saturday night last, somewhat intoxicated; that after ordering a pair of boots, he approached Mr. John Kerr, who was sitting in the store, and asked "Are there many secessionists in this town?" to which Kerr replied that "he believed there were a few," when the accused took out his pistol, and further asked "Are you a secessionist?" to which Kerr replied that "he was an old man and did not take part." The accused then turned to Walker who had just come in, and inquired "What are you?" Walker answered "I am a Shoemaker?" As the accused turned to Walker, Kerr started to pass into the residence of Mr. Smith by a back door. The accused seeing Kerr move, cocked his pistol, and called to him to halt. Kerr did not halt, and as he passed the door, the accused fired his pistol, the ball passing through the partition above Kerr's head.—A guard was then called, and the accused arrested.

The accused soldier said he had been drinking, and was unconscious of the action, that he had never been in Alexandria before, but he supposed that while in delirium, produced by drink, he had been thinking of injuries done him whilst a resident of Georgia, and of the talk of the soldiers in regard to Alexandria being a secession place, and this led him, unconsciously to commit the deed.

The Court said that no man, soldier or otherwise, had a right to ask anybody their sentiments, and that it intended to protect all peaceable people in carrying on their business, but as it was evident there was no personal malice in this case, he would postpone its further consideration until to-morrow, to give time for the accused to present witnesses as to his character.

Other military cases were then taken up, and the Court adjourned.

SUNDAY.—The weather yesterday was quite pleasant, but the walking was bad. Nevertheless the Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic Churches, which were the only ones open, were well attended at all the services.

The morning service at the Baptist Church was especially well attended, numbers being unable to get seats, and the discourse of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bitting, was one of great ability, and produced a decided impression upon the large auditory. Rev. G. A. Smith assisted at the exercises.

In the afternoon, the Cameron Light Guard paraded, and were reviewed by a committee from the city of Philadelphia who had come to Washington to present a sword to Gen. McClellan.

Col. Lewis T. Wigfall, late Senator from Texas, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General of the Confederate army

Extracts from Richmond papers to the 29th ult., are given in the Northern papers. They do not contain much news. Accounts are given of the battle of Edward's Ferry, and of the arrival at Richmond of numerous prisoners taken in that battle. The names of twenty-two commissioned officers are given, among which are those of Colonels Lee and Cogswell, and the two Reveres. Two letters from Dumfries, on the Lower Potomac, are given, from which it would appear that active operations have been going on in that quarter, and that the batteries below Aquia Creek are defended by a strong supporting force. Contributions to the fund for furnishing supplies to the Maryland regiment appear to have been made to a liberal extent.

The New Orleans Crescent says: "There have been large remittances from Tennessee in treasury notes within the past few days to be invested in sugar and molasses. The demand for sugar and molasses for Alabama and Tennessee is extending, and heavy transactions are expected the present month." Gen. A. S. Johnston has been placed in command of all the Confederate forces in Missouri, and has issued a proclamation forbidding any property leaving the State.

The special Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, under date of Friday night, telegraphs as follows: "It is understood that the naval expedition is not directly aimed at cities on or near the Southern coast. The troops will land at thinly settled places, with spacious harbors, and will at once open cotton ports and establish a basis of operation for additional forces now mustering." Beaufort, N. C., Fernandina, Fla., and other places are named in other papers, as places for debarkation.

At Edwards' and Conrad's Ferries on Sunday all remained quiet. A day or two ago a large encampment of Confederates was pitched near the villa of Hon. Thos. Swann, formerly Mayor of Baltimore, but on the following morning it had disappeared. Mr. Swann's residence is near Leesburg, and in full view of Edward's Ferry, and from its tower can be observed every strategic point for many miles. It is not unlikely that it has long been used by the Confederates as an observatory.

The Baltimore correspondent of the New York Herald gives the following estimate of the Confederate forces now in the field:

Department of the Potomac	150,000
Department of Chesapeake and rest of Virginia	90,000
Department of Kentucky and Tennessee	117,000
Department of Missouri	60,000
On the line of the Mississippi	39,000
At Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and Galveston	40,000
Total force in the field	496,000

The New York Herald of yesterday says: "We learn from St. Louis, on the authority of a loyal citizen just returned from the camp of General Price, at Neosho, Newtown county, that the latter general and Ben McCulloch had united their forces—30,000 strong—at that place. Large quantities of clothes, medicine and other supplies had reached Price, and he expected a number of rifled cannon to arrive, in charge of Gen. George B. Clark. It was said that Price intended to give Fremont battle at Neosho, where he hoped to defeat him, and then march on St. Louis, and make his winter quarters in Central Missouri."

A distinguished physician, who died some years since in Paris, declared: "I believe that during the twenty-six years I have practised my profession in this city, 20,000 children have been carried to the cemeteries, a sacrifice to the absurd custom of exposing their arms and necks."

James Leslie, chief clerk of the War Department, has resigned, and been appointed Consul to Nice.

A hospital has been established in Dumfries, Va., by Dr. Garnett, formerly U. S. naval surgeon.

The arrival of Col. J. E. Scruggs, of Fauquier, at Richmond, is announced in the Richmond papers.

Capt. R. J. T. Scott, of Fauquier, is said to have headed a charge at the battle of Edward's Ferry.

Reports from the Naval Expedition.

When the steamer Georgeanna left Old Point on Saturday evening, it was reported (?) that one of the government steamers, having on board upwards of eight hundred soldiers, had been wrecked some thirty miles south of Hatteras, and that only one hundred and fifty men were saved. Another vessel, loaded with cattle, had been blown on shore, and the few cattle that were not drowned escaped into the interior. The Government steamer George Peabody, which had made a harbor in Hampton Roads, dragged her anchors during the gale, and was on shore at Hampton Bar. Several steamers were engaged during Saturday endeavoring to get her off, but without success. The weather in the lower part of the bay and on the coast is reported to have been equally as severe as any experienced for a number of years. A steamer with a flag of trace, which left Old Point for Norfolk on Friday, was compelled to make a harbor at Sewall's Point, and had not returned up to Saturday night. We shall doubtless be shortly compelled to record much loss and suffering from vessels on the coast.

The New York Herald of yesterday says: "By the arrival of a vessel at Baltimore yesterday afternoon, we learn that the fleet 'was off Cape Hatteras on Wednesday evening, at which time the weather was remarkably fair, and the squadron was moving along finely. The captain of this vessel reports that the gale commenced north of Cape Hatteras, and gives it as his opinion that the fleet did not encounter it at all, as the ships had passed south of that point before it commenced."

The Baltimore American of to-day says: "We learn from passengers by the Norfolk boat that the rumor on the streets Saturday morning that three of the ferry-boats connected with the expedition had returned disabled, is altogether unfounded. None of the vessels had returned except the two small tugs which arrived at Old Point on Thursday, unable to stand the weather on the coast."

The Wheeling Intelligencer says:—"We learn from Dr. Griswold, United States Sanitary Inspector, who has just returned from a tour of inspection up the Kanawha, that the Federal army under Gen. Rosecrans is at present in a state of rest, and measurably recovered from the terrible exposure at Sewall Mountain to the severe rains and cold that fell upon them with fearful effect."—There is much sickness in Gen. Rosecrans' army.

The steamer City of New York has arrived with Liverpool dates to the 24th ult. Cotton is advancing. Breadstuffs are easier. The London Times says the blockade at the South must be more efficient, or it will not answer—but it is evidently against "recognition" for the present. The Shipping Gazette continues to denounce the blockade, and calls for interposition. The reports of the failure of the crops in France have been exaggerated. Cotton from India is promised in another year. Affairs of the Bank of France excite some uneasiness.

Gen. Scott, after his retirement from the army, went on to New York, in company with the Secretaries of the Treasury and of War and other friends, in a special car provided for him, and was received along his route with demonstrations of respect and attention, wherever he was known or expected. He stopped for a day or two at his home in Elizabeth City, New Jersey.

"Personne," the Charleston Courier's correspondent, writing from Fairfax Court House, Va., on the 5th inst., says: "I learn that Gen. Beauregard has lately received a present from a young lady in Alexandria. It was simply three elegant shirt studs, with the words, 'Let-us—out' respectively enamelled on each."

Barons de Sayne and de Schonen, descendants of Rochambeau and Lafayette, have volunteered to join the U. S. army as officers, and been accepted.

The late gale commenced in New York on Saturday morning. Considerable damage was done to the shipping.