

# THE LOCAL NEWS.

## ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Manuscripts of an Old Bachelor.—No. 5.

REMINISCENCES OF ALEXANDRIA.

"Pulvis et Umbra sumus."

"Dust to dust—ashes to ashes."—Burial Service.

I think I have before mentioned, in these manuscripts, a visit I recently paid to the burial grounds in the western suburbs of the town. I am told that a new cemetery has recently been laid out beyond Shuter's Hill, which is too far off—and besides, it has none of the associations and recollections connected with old Alexandria, which endear it to my heart and feelings. Doubtless, however, the new "city of the dead" may in time come to be as populous as those which I know about, and to it will repair such pilgrims as I am, to mourn over the departed—but not to mourn as those without hope!

The first grave digger whom I recollect was Pompey Gales—a black man—who it was said had his weaknesses, and was a particular favorite with young medical students. I do not know but that this was a scandal; however, the students aforesaid always stoutly contended that Pompey never poached beyond his own manor, or in other words, never allowed them a privilege outside of "Penny Hill." To him succeeded Harry Darnell, a tall, melancholy looking black man, whose appearance corresponded to his vocation. He was, I believe, strictly honest, and a worthy man, in every sense. He had the confidence of all the citizens. He was alive when I left Alexandria to take up my abode in a neighboring county in Virginia.

The original "Penny Hill," or public burial ground, was at the extreme south end of Royal street, bordering on Hunting Creek, nearly surrounded by the marsh. Here were buried many of the victims of the yellow fever in 1803—that epidemic having extensively prevailed in that year. Subsequently the present Penny Hill was purchased by the Corporation, and in it were buried such as had no lots or resting places in the grave yard belonging to the different religious denominations. The lower part of the ground must by this time have been used over and over again for the interment of the dead. I was crossing it the other day, musing upon other times, and upon the "simple annals of the poor" who lay all around me, and whose bodies are here sleeping as peacefully as if they had never known pain, and want, and hardship, when my eye rested upon a plain marble headstone, nearly concealed by bushes, on which was inscribed "To the memory of Francis Hall." I stopped and lingered at that headstone, a thousand recollections of my early manhood thronging my brain—called up by the name of the humble man, once so well known to me, and to all the citizens of Alexandria. How many of the generation now active in the streets, and employed in the business of the place, remember Frank Hall? I expect but few—though it is comparatively but a short time since he died. He was a "bar keeper"—nothing more, nothing less—of the principal hotels in Alexandria for forty or fifty years—commencing, I believe, at the old Washington Tavern and ending his career at the City Hotel, at which latter public house he had served, I have heard, under the management of Jadsby, Jesse Brown, Claggett, Newton and Wise. These gentlemen retained the services of "Frank," almost as a matter of course. He knew every body and every body knew him. He had really a good memory for names and faces, and always affected, at least, never to be at a loss on that score. I have seen him shake cordially by the hand, "a new arrival," enquire affectionately after his health, compliment him upon his appearance, and tell him exultingly that he looked just as young as he did ten years before—when to my certain knowledge he had never seen his guest before in his life, and did not know him from Adam. Amiable subterfuge! How often has "the Recording Angel" when he carried to Heaven's chancery these little peccadilloes, "blushed as he gave them in," and begged to have them obliterated!

Frank Hall was, as I have said, a "bar keeper" of the old school—and therefore I liked him then, and like to think of him now. He was no "clerk in the office"—no "caterer"—no "steward"—no "manager"—no "assistant." He had no "office"—he stood behind the counter at the bar, where he handed you the bill for meals and lodgings—received your money—gave you the change—mixed you a glass of toddy—chatted with you—received your orders politely and had them executed promptly. He was, besides, an excellent cook, and knew how to make a Welsh rabbit (or rare bit) or a mut-

ton stew—and how to prepare a canvass back, equal to any body—and, at the dinner table, always saw, when he was present, that the guests were bountifully supplied. He had vivid "reminiscences" of peach brandy from Accomac, and reached the climax of his glory, in quietly getting ready for himself and his friend, a "rum punch."

Where is there such another bar keeper left? Hall was very amiable, courteous to all, and especially kind to young people. Hence he was a great favorite. He scarcely ever left the hotel, except to go over to market—and always had something to tell of what he had seen and heard during his half hour's absence from his post. There was a spice of humor, too, about him. "What's the play, to-night," said a traveller stopping at the hotel, one evening, as the boy ran over to the hotel with the theatre bills fresh and damp, from the old Gazette office, at the corner of King and Royal streets. The question was rather pompously put. Hall, glancing at the bill, with imperturbable gravity replied—"I see, sir, it is 'Venison preserved, or the Pot uncovered.' This was a new rendering of the title of Otway's celebrated drama—'Venice preserved, or the Plot discovered!'" The gentleman who asked the question, it is said, was satisfied with the answer!

But the old man, with his foibles, his virtues, his unpretending merit, is gone! I was not here to pay the tribute of my respect to this old acquaintance, by following his remains to the grave—but I have gladly taken this opportunity to call up, to the older citizens of Alexandria, the recollection of a very humble, but very honest and faithful man.

I find that the Presbyterian burial ground, and those belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, Christ Church, St. Paul's Church, the M. E. Church, the M. E. Church South, (the latter a new one,) the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Friends', &c., are all well enclosed, and tolerably well attended to—but there is still much room for more care and attention. These "God's acres" which were used in my time are dotted all over with marble slabs containing the names of those whom I once most valued, and whose memory I still cherish. I feel, when I am passing through these grounds, that I am once more in the company of the "loved and lost" of my early days!—and I pause, at their tombs, and think over the happy hours and days that we have spent together. I used to wonder why people had any disposition or wish to come among the graves, and "hold, as it were, converse with the dead." I do not wonder any longer. I know that we should always renew our friendships, as former ones are removed from us, and keep alive in our hearts the active sympathies of our nature with those who come upon the theatre of action, to take the place of those upon whom the curtain has fallen. But, oh! the old friends! the old friends! Oh! the friends of my youth, the companions of my boyhood, the sharers of my early sports, and joys—the participators in my griefs and sorrows—those who cheered me on, and bade me God speed, when I first started on the career of manhood—and who prayed for my success in life, without "envy, hatred, malice, or uncharitableness!" Here they are; on my right hand and on my left; before me and behind me; the green turf covering their once warm hearts, and holding down their once willing and ready hands. Busy memory calls before me their very forms and features. I see them, as it were, as they once looked and talked—as we were wont to greet each other—and, sometimes, to promise ourselves what we would do, when we were old men, and "dandled our grand children on our knees." They lie here—and I remain, a veteran, as I sometimes think, "superfluously lagging on the stage." Well, in a little time, it will be my turn, and some friendly hand may plant a flower upon my tomb in one of the Alexandria burial grounds, and give his reminiscences of the "Old Bachelor."

**LOW TIDE.**—The heavy wind now prevailing has not been without effect upon the Potomac river, already the tide is unusually low; shoals at ordinary low tide covered with water being now exposed to the sun. The coves in the suburbs are nearly clear of water. Should the wind continue to prevail the river will be very low to-morrow.

**OYSTERS.**—The retail Oyster trade is vigorously in this city whenever vessels enough arrive up to give a full supply. The Oysters are for the most part of an inferior quality, but yet sell well. On all available spots near the Oyster dock, men can be seen busy shucking the bivalves, and the entire vicinity is white with Oyster shells.

## GENERAL NEWS.

For some time past contrabands have been arriving in Philadelphia by divers ways, from parts of Virginia, of Delaware and Maryland. They are said to be in much want, and likely to suffer severely this winter.

There are three regiments now guarding the line of the railroad between Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis.

On the person of James Brown, arrested in Boston, was found a letter from Wm. L. Yancey, now in England, to his son in Alabama, speaking discouragingly of the prospects of a recognition of the Southern Confederacy by the European powers.

A vessel arrived at Holmes' Hole, reports that a large English steamer, laden with war munitions, has been captured by a federal frigate and taken into Key West.

H. Rowan Helper, of North Carolina, author of the "Impending Crisis," has been appointed Consul to Buenos Ayres.

The regiments in the Pennsylvania Reserves have been paid off in gold and five and ten dollar treasury notes. Some of the peddlers who have been permitted to visit their encampments have passed off on them a number of counterfeit one dollar bills.

It is reported that the five and ten dollar treasury bills have been counterfeited, and are in circulation. We have not seen any of them.

Prisoners report that the fortifications at Port Royal have been occupied since the 9th of July last by a small garrison of South Carolina infantry. They were built by Maj. Lee, of South Carolina, and are well constructed earth works, their main defect being in the parapet, which was too low to sufficiently shelter the men. Bomb-proofs were to have been added, but time was not given for that.

The name of New Granada has been changed to that of the United States of Columbia.

A special despatch to the Memphis (Tenn.) Avalanche, dated Little Rock, Nov. 31, says that the State Legislature of Missouri has passed the Ordinance of Secession.

Thus far no decision has been made in regard to permitting trade at Beaufort, S. C., or its vicinity.

A letter from Montgomery, Ala., says factories are going up in every direction.

The Virginia State Convention met on the 13th instant.

The Louisville Courier of the 8th, contains Richmond correspondence, saying that Gen. Humphrey Marshall is to command the Eastern division of the Confederate army in Kentucky, and Gen. John C. Breckinridge returns to Southern Kentucky, to organize his brigade, and put the Provisional Government of Kentucky in motion.

Gov. Toucey is in Washington testifying before the Senate investigating committee concerning the burning of the Norfolk navy-yard, &c.

Radski, the supposed accomplice of Mrs. Marks and her sister, Mrs. Flaum, in the murder of Felloer, the diamond merchant, has been arrested near Buffalo, N. Y.

Gen. McKinstry, late Quarter Master General, under Fremont, has been placed under arrest at St. Louis.

The New York World thinks that every indication shows an early onward move from the Potomac lines, on the side of the federal army.

For some reason, not known, the Canadian press is, to a large extent, against the North in the prosecution of the existing war.

The Charleston Mercury bitterly condemns "the manner in which the Confederates have neglected to prepare for the emergency," at Port Royal. It affirms, however, that Charleston is well protected and defended.

At a large meeting at Worcester, England, the Earl of Shrewsbury and Sir J. Packington made speeches on American affairs, pronouncing democracy a failure, expressing a belief that the separation of the States was inevitable, and (Sir J. P.) wishing that the great powers would remonstrate against the war.

It appears that Mr. Holt considers the recent victory of Gen. Nelson at Piketon as of vast importance to the Union cause.

The Norfolk papers state that the Federalists were engaged in taking negroes from the farmers along the Rappahannock river, and that some two hundred had been captured. A vessel engaged in this business had been driven off and considerably injured.

The recent pronouncement of the London Times, in favor of the establishment of the Confederate States, attracts much attention in England and on this side of the Atlantic.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**CAMERON MILLS FLOUR, CORN MEAL, &c.**  
ORDERS for FAMILY, EXTRA and SUPER FLOUR, CORN MEAL, RYE MEAL, FEED, &c. manufactured at Cameron Mills, of superior quality, may be left with B. T. PLUMMER at the Coal Office, King street, near the wharf, and will receive prompt attention.  
TERMS—CASH ON DELIVERY.  
no5-1w\* EDMUND HUNT.

**A CARD.**  
DURING the suspension of my regular School Exercises, I am willing, for the sake of congenial employment, to receive a few students, to whom I will give thorough daily instruction in all the solid English branches, together with Composition, Book Keeping, Mathematics, and the Physical Sciences.

This will afford a rare opportunity for improvement to such young men and youths, as desire the quiet, order, and retirement of a SELECT SCHOOL, together with the personal instruction of an experienced Teacher.  
TERMS \$12.50 per quarter—Drawing \$2.50. No extra charges whatever. Hours of instruction from 9 A. M. to 1 P. M. Exercises to be commenced on the 2nd of December.  
11 no 7-1m\* CALEB S. HALLOWELL.

**JOB PRINTING, HANDBILLS, CARDS, BILL HEADS, CIRCULARS, &c.**  
neatly and expeditiously printed on the lowest terms, at the Alexandria Gazette Office, near the corner of Prince and Fairfax streets.  
nov 6-1w

**DR. MCCONNELL, DENTIST,**  
FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.  
WILL visit Alexandria on Wednesdays and Saturdays, professionally, each week.  
OFFICE—Corner of King and Washington streets, next door to the office of Judge C. Neale, lately occupied by Douglas E. Forrest.  
nov9-2w

**I. LOUIS KINZEE,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WILL ATTEND to the prosecution of Claims for damages sustained by citizens of Alexandria and vicinity, by the use and occupation or destruction of their property by the U. S. troops.  
oct 15-4w\*

**DRUGS, CHEMICALS, &c.**  
**LEADREATER & CO. DRUGGISTS,**  
Established 1792.  
No. 54 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

HAVE in store a full stock of Drugs, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Acids, Genuine Patent Medicines, Dye Stuffs, Surgical Instruments, Perfumery, Soaps, Sponges, Congress Water, Medicine Chests, Spices, Coal Oil Lamps and Chimneys, Pocket Medicine Cases, and all other goods usually found in a well conducted Drug establishment.  
10 no 29-eolm

**PORTLAND KEROSENE.**  
400 GALLONS of the above, which is universally acknowledged to be equal, if not superior, to any other, received and for sale at a reduced price.  
HENRY COOK & CO.  
Sarepta Hall, King street.  
nov9

**OIL! OIL! OIL!!!**  
LARD OIL, Machine Oil, Linseed, both raw and boiled, Ethereal Oil, pure Neatsfoot Coal Oil, Train and Tanners' Oil, received and for sale by  
nov9 HENRY COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**  
**HENRY C. FIELD,**  
BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER,  
No. 74 King street, Alexandria.  
KEEPS on hand, and is prepared to manufacture BOOTS and SHOES of all kinds. MILITARY BOOTS or SHOES made at the shortest notice, and of the best material. Persons in want of a good article in his line, will do well to give him a call.  
oct 7

**WOOD.**  
**PRICE REDUCED**  
**OAK WOOD! OAK WOOD!!!**  
I AM AUTHORIZED to take orders for OAK WOOD to be delivered at \$3.75 per cord. Call at Wise & Co's Count Office, King street.  
nov 15-1m\* B. T. PLUMMER, Agent.

**GROCERIES.**  
**JOHN T. COOKE,**  
**CHEAP FAMILY GROCER,**  
Corner of Prince and Pitt Streets,  
(OLD POST OFFICE CORNER.)

ALWAYS on hand a large and well selected stock of FAMILY GROCERIES, which will be sold on terms to suit the times.  
nov 5-1m

**CURRENTS, CRANBERRIES, AND RALPHSONS,** for sale by JOHN T. COOKE, Old Post Office Corner.  
nov 14

**NEW BACON.**—A new lot of HAMS and BREAST PIECES, just received, and for sale by [nov 11] JOHN T. COOKE.

A GOOD article of GROUND COFFEE, just received, and for sale by JOHN T. COOKE.  
nov 11

**DRY GOODS.**  
**NEW GOODS.**  
**HARPER & BRO.,**  
ARE now in receipt of the following goods, viz:

Black French Cloths and Cassimeres  
Velvet and Silk Vestings  
Cassimeres, Woollen Shirts and Drawers  
Silk and Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs  
Stocks and Neck-Ties, Suspenders  
White and colored Flannels  
Canton Flannels, Brown Drillings  
Brown and Bleached Cottons  
Calicoes, Bleached Jeans, Pins and Needles  
French and English Merino  
Mouselines, Corsets, Merino Shawls  
Carpets and Rgs. Floor Oil Cloth  
Alpacas, Carpet Chain  
Blue Domestic, Irish Linen  
Black Muslin, White and Col'd Cambric  
Cloth and Silk Mantles  
6-4 Filled Cloths, Linseys, &c., &c.  
Also on hand a lot of Silks which will be sold very low.  
oct 7-1f

**DRY GOODS.**  
**BRYAN & ADAMS, AGENTS,**  
No. 76, King street. oct 7