

The Local News.

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PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

ALEXANDRIA. VA.

A WINTRY SUNDAY.—Yesterday was the first wintry Sunday of the season, and quite wintry it was. Heavy cloaks and furs on the one side, and overcoats on the other, were the order of the day. The wind was quite searching, and the streets were almost deserted, except at the close of church services, or the tramp of the "relief guard," changed for awhile the sombre aspect. Once during the day, a military funeral passed some of the principal thoroughfares, and attracted some attention by its solemn dirges. The few churches which have been opened during the war, were opened yesterday for Divine worship, but we hear of nothing taking place beyond the usual services and discourses. The day was the anniversary of one of the saddest events in our local calendar—the fire on King street, at which, in 1855, seven of our most estimable citizens lost their lives.

THE RIVER.—The river is seldom stirred now-a-days by passing craft, and when its waters yield to a passing vessel, it is either a small puny boat or United States steamer. The steamer Columbia steamed down from Washington this morning, and came in at Fowle's wharf, where she has since laid, discharging packed bread. The steamer Cœur de Lion passed down the river this morning, and since Saturday a few oyster boats have arrived up, and found ready sale for the bivalves. Wood begins to appear corded upon the wharves, as yet in small quantities, but it betokens a slackening in the demand.

LATEST FROM BELLEVILLE.—Captain Dainty's puny boat came up at noon to-day, having passed the Quantico batteries without being fired at. She reports that yesterday a large schooner passed down without injury, although a large number of shots were fired at her. He reports all quiet on both sides of the river, so far as was perceptible.

OYSTER SHELLS.—Nothing shows more readily the almost entire cessation of agriculture in this immediate neighborhood, than the large quantities of oyster shells which have accumulated upon the wharves. For years these shells have been in great demand as a fertilizer, and have sold at good rates—Now the demand for them has ceased, and we see them accumulating everywhere.

HIGH WIND.—The northwest gale still continues, and seems almost inexhaustible. It has worked considerable damage in this neighborhood, blowing shutters off, and signs and fences down, breaking trees, and otherwise injuring property.

MILITARY COURT.—The Military Court, Judge Freese, held its session this morning, at the Court House.

The number of prisoners before the Court was unusually large, taking up not only the usual bar, but a considerable portion of the parts of the building usually allotted to spectators.

The cases were of an unimportant character, but the session of the Court was protracted much beyond its usual limits.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT.—There was much disorder among soldiers yesterday, and in several cases straight-out fights occurred.—This was occasioned by the too free use of intoxicating drinks. When the soldiers are sober they are generally very orderly.

We have received from the publishers, Dick & Fitzgerald, New York, a copy of a cheap edition of East Lynne, or the Earl's Daughter, a novel highly praised by novel readers, for its plot, characters, &c.

A vessel from Savannah arrived at St. Thomas on the 28th ult.—hoisted the Confederate flag—and in a few hours hauled it down and hoisted the English flag, having been hastily transferred to British owners. The U. S. consul has protested against this.

The expenses of the present war, and the loss of life, are beginning to be calculated on both sides. No accurate estimates can yet be made, but the money spent and the blood shed by the belligerents, are acknowledged to be great indeed.

Civil Officials in Virginia.

The following order has just been issued:
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, ADJUTANT
GENERAL'S OFFICE, NOV. 14, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 99.—Complaint has been made to the President of the United States that certain persons within the State of Virginia, in places occupied by the forces of the United States, claim to be inhabitants of civil offices, State, county and municipal, by alleged authority from the Commonwealth of Virginia, in disregard and violation of the declaration of the people of Virginia, represented in convention at the city of Wheeling, on Thursday, June 13, 1861, and of the ordinances of said convention, and of the acts of the General Assembly held by authority of said convention: it is, therefore, ordered by direction of the President, that if any person shall hereafter attempt, within the State of Virginia, under the alleged authority of said Commonwealth, to exercise any official powers of a civil nature, within the limits of any of the commands of the occupying forces of the United States, unless in pursuance of the declaration and ordinances of the convention assembled at Wheeling on the 13th day of June, 1861, and the acts of the General Assembly, held by authority of said convention, such attempt shall be treated as an act of hostility against the United States, and such persons shall be taken into military custody. Commanding officers are directed to enforce this order within their respective commands. By command of
Major General McCLELLAN.

The Washington National Monument is now about one hundred and eighty feet high from the base.

The rumors concerning the capture of the privateer Sumter turns out to have been untrue. On the 22d ult., only three days before her crew were reported to have been in confinement on board the Niagara at the mouth of the Mississippi, she was in the port of Barbadoes.

The telegraph informs us that the Confederates have captured, near Pleasant Hill Cass county, Missouri, fifty wagons and five hundred head of cattle, which were being conveyed to Sedalia. A federal force had been despatched to Pleasant Hill, in order to retake the property if possible.

Fifteen thousand troops are now at Annapolis, ready to embark. The rumor is that they are to reinforce Gen. Sherman.

Mr. Prentice, editor of the Louisville Journal, is in Washington.

The people of India, it is said, are going into the culture of cotton extensively. The London Herald says America is as yet the only reliable source for cotton.

A letter from Paris says: "A large quantity of foreign wheat continues to arrive at Havre."

The Philadelphia cars will leave Baltimore at 8:30 A. M., 1:05 P. M., 5:20 P. M., and 7 P. M. on every day except Sunday, when they will leave at 7 P. M. For Washington the trains will depart as follows: 4:20 A. M., 7:35 A. M., 9 A. M., 3:50 P. M. and 5 P. M. They will leave Washington at 6:10 A. M., 7:40 A. M., 11 A. M., 3:05 P. M. and 5 P. M.

General Fremont is engaged in preparing his defence, a document of great length.—That he has committed some errors, the General does not deny, but the responsibility is thrown upon the administration.

A fleet is understood to have gone to Pensacola, and the news of another naval exploit may be expected soon.

The loss of the Confederates at the battle of Belmont was 261 killed, 427 wounded, and 278 missing.

Joel B. Sutherland, a well known citizen of Philadelphia, died last week.

The report that Raketski, the supposed murderer of Mr. Felner, has been arrested is erroneous.

The late fire at Norfolk destroyed a large quantity of stores, including nearly all the oil in the city.

A DIAMOND RING LOST YESTERDAY.—A most liberal reward will be paid to the finder, as the ring is of more worth to the owner than its actual value. Bring back to 96 King street.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Federal troops at Port Royal are preparing for an occupation of the islands skirting the bay. They have not moved inland, but were expected to occupy Beaufort at the close of last week.

Secretary Chase's negotiations with the New York banks, concerning the third fifty millions of the government loan, have been successful.

A despatch from Cincinnati says that the first report of the battle of Piketon, Ky., turns out to be a hoax.

Gen. Dix has issued a proclamation to the people of Accomac and Northampton, in Virginia, announcing the sending of a military force to those counties, and exhorting them to remain peaceable and quiet, not to encourage or countenance rebellion, and assuring them that "special directions have been given not to interfere with the condition of any person held to domestic service."

The Richmond Dispatch claims to have information that the authorities of South Carolina have communicated with the government upon the subject of hoisting the black flag, to which allusion has been made since the attack upon the coast of that State. It is believed that Gen. Lee has received orders from the Southern War Department that "those captured must be regarded as prisoners of war."

On Friday last the two important bridges at the North Branch of the Potomac and at Patterson's Creek, east of Cumberland, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which were burned by the Confederates in June last, were entirely completed and ready for use again. This, with the repair of the iron bridge at the South Branch, fourteen miles east of Cumberland, opens at once and restores to use the road as far east as Little Cacapon, twenty miles from Cumberland.

The Eleventh and Fourteenth regiments of the United States Infantry are to be huted during the winter at Perryville, Md.—Sixteen hundred troops will thus be quartered and form a camp of instruction. Eight hundred are there already.

The London News says:—"Every branch of business with America is severely affected. The apprehended distress in Lancashire consequent upon the stoppage of the American trade, is beginning to be realized. At Stockport the increase of pauperism is characterized as alarming."

The presence of American political spies in England is made by the London Herald, the subject of protest. It calls the attention of Earl Russell to the Washington and New York detectives in plain clothes, infesting the Liverpool Exchange and the dining rooms, bar-rooms and counting rooms of that city.

Some fifteen or sixteen houses were burned at Guyandotte; the majority of the buildings in the town were not buried. The burnt district, however, comprises the most valuable business houses and dwellings.

There are contradictory accounts of the negroes on the coast of South Carolina, some asserting that they are pillaging, and running away to the Federal troops—others that they are attending to and saving property and remaining at their homes. Gov. Pickens, of South Carolina, in his message to the Legislature speaks of the free negroes in that State as having conducted themselves in a peaceful manner, and being deserving of protection.

The captain of the British steamer Trent is said to have given up Mason and Slidell, "under protest."

Salt appears to be a very scarce article in the South, and to be daily increasing in price. Salt works have recently been established on the coast of South Carolina.

Snow has recently fallen at several places at the North. Cold weather seems to be coming upon us.

It is stated by the correspondent of the Philadelphia Press that the U. S. government is determined to raise the blockade of the Potomac, and to destroy the Confederate batteries on the river.

The Northern papers continue to assert that the U. S. troops on the Potomac line will shortly advance, and that the programme for future movements onward, has been determined on.

Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island, has determined to send a vessel for the open landings on the coast of North Carolina, loaded with sugar, coffee, salt, &c., for exchange for cotton, &c.

The Collector at Boston has received instructions from Washington to stop the exportation of saltpetre and gunpowder.

A despatch from Charleston to the Richmond Enquirer of Thursday last, states that Gen. Sherman had taken possession of Pinckney Island, seized all the able-bodied negro men and sent them to the fleet.

Topeka has been selected as the State Capital of Kansas.

The New York Post of Friday evening says:—"A large issue of counterfeit one hundred dollar notes of the Shoe and Leather Dealers' Bank has just been detected."

The steamship Arago, from New York, for Southampton, passed Cape Race on Thursday morning. It was impossible for the press yacht to board her. A frightful gale prevailed and no small boat could have lived in the sea. It was impossible, therefore, to put aboard the news of the victory at Beaufort, as was intended.

A Lieutenant of the New York Eighteenth, in command of pickets near Anandale, was severely reprimanded by General Franklin, a few days ago, for negligence in extinguishing the flames in a dwelling in that vicinity, fired by the Garibaldians.—The dwelling had been deserted, but the furniture had been left in it. Large shade trees fronting it were girdled, and the entire property destroyed. Gen. Franklin caused an order reprimanding the Lieutenant in severe terms to be read at the head of every regiment in his division.

The number of Americans arriving in Canada from northern States, is daily augmented.

Secretary Chase was in New York last week endeavoring to negotiate with the Committee of Bank Presidents for a third loan of fifty millions of dollars.

The entire coast from Charleston to Savannah is an archipelago—sea of islands.—These islands are separated by numerous channels of rivers and inlets from the sea, thus affording inland navigation between the two cities. There were two such avenues of escape towards Savannah for Com. Tatnall's fleet of small vessels. But the inland routes towards Charleston debouch at the head of St. Helena Sound, which point is commanded by the fleet.

Accounts from the Northern cities state that the war is not much felt there; that many are making fortunes out of it, and that the people, as a mass, would not consent to a peace, except upon the conditions alluded to by Gen. Scott.

The Charleston Mercury, of November 11th, declares the federal blockade off that port ineffectual. Two large English merchantmen had just succeeded in entering the port, and found no difficulty in doing so.

A destructive fire occurred at Memphis on Thursday night week. It occurred in what is called the Briukley Block, on Main street, south of the Park.

At Columbus, Tenn., Nov. 12, a Dahlgreen gun exploded, killing two lieutenants and six privates. Gen. Polk narrowly escaped. A portion of his clothes were torn off.

There seems to have been concerted action touching the naval movement against Beaufort, the burning of the bridges in East and West Tennessee and Georgia, and the advance of Gen. Nelson toward the southeastern extreme of Virginia.

Thomas Smith, who was arrested as a spy last week, claims to be a resident of Berkeley, opposite Williamsport. He says he recently paid a visit to Manassas, and has important information; and that he was recently arrested and imprisoned at Winchester for assisting in capturing two secession spies, from whom he made his escape.