

The Local News.

COMMENCED
October 7, 1861.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 21, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

UNION ASSOCIATION MEETING LAST NIGHT
—A regular weekly meeting of the Union Association of this place, was held at the Lyceum Hall last night.

Stephen Shinn, President of the Association, presided, and O. C. Whittlesey occupied his position as Secretary.

The minutes of the meeting of last Wednesday night were read, at the conclusion of which the President called upon all who desired to join the Association to come forward and give in their names, when several responded to the call.

Committees were next called upon for reports—especially the committee on the home guard—a member of which stated that, in the absence of the chairman of the committee, John Birrell, he would state that the committee was not yet ready to report, but would report progress soon.

The Cameron Light Guard's band, which was present, then entertained the meeting with a fine air.

The President said that, for the edification of all, he would state that an election had been held in this city to-day (yesterday), but that the Union men had not come out as they should have done. There were upwards of four hundred and sixty members belonging to the Union Association, but they had not shown themselves at the polls. Whether it was because they were afraid of secessh, or what, he did not know, but the fact was plain that they had not voted. He liked to see men come out and show their hands—"come up to the rack, fodder or no fodder." Uncle Sam's rack had never given out. To be sure it had got low, but was again filling up, and would have enough for all. He again expressed his regret at the small vote polled.

Wm. W. White, in an excited manner, said that, while acting as clerk at the first ward precinct to-day, a man, who was now in the hall, had come in and insulted him and the commissioners. That man, he would say, was a scoundrel and a spy, and only visited the meetings as a spy, and if he would meet him (W.) in his (W.'s) cellar, he would give him his deserts. Great curiosity was manifested to know the individual to whom allusion was made, and there were calls to "name the man," but no name was given, and it was stated by White that the person had left.

A Voice—Secessed.

The Chair announced that — Howard, a fine singer, was in the hall, and invited him to take the stand and favor the audience with a song. Invitation accepted, and a song sung, after which there was music by the band.

Calls were then made for "Beach," whereupon

S. Ferguson Beach rose from his place, and proceeded to address the meeting. He said that events had developed to those who opposed the United States Government that that government was not destroyed; that it was strong, had money, an army and navy, and all things that were necessary in these troublesome times. The various parts of the machine were being called and put together, and it worked with its accustomed vitality. Cotton, he said, had been proved a humbug instead of king, and foreign governments instead of raising the blockade to obtain it, had determined to respect the blockade. The speaker next alluded to the election for new corporation officers, and justified the course pursued by the Union men. It was, he asserted, but taking the government out of the hands of disloyal, and placing it in the hands of loyal citizens, as authorized by the Wheeling convention. He thought that if the Richmond convention had a right to declare the State out of the Union, the Wheeling authorities had a right to depose the officers of this corporation, and put good loyal citizens in their place. He alluded to the action of the Common Council in passing a protest against the election, and criticized the proceedings of the Council on that occasion.—He also alluded to the legal opinion recently given concerning the election, by two of the members of the bar of this city, and concluded that the opinion showed lack of research, and was contrary to the opinion of Chief Justice Marshall on the same subject. The late election for a member of the U. S. House

of Representatives was, he also contended, proper and right, and the Common Council had gone out of its way to discuss that subject. Towards the President *pro tem.* of the Council on that occasion, and to the introducer of the protest, his remarks were particularly addressed.

At the conclusion of the speech, the bard played another air, when those who had given in their names as members of the Association (39) were called up, and took the oath of allegiance to the United States government, administered by Judge Freese, and signed the constitution of the Association.

Judge Freese congratulated the Union citizens upon the result of the election held yesterday. It would, he said, be the brightest page upon the history of Alexandria. It was a good act. It had not pleased the secessionists, but that he did not expect. The small vote, he said, could be accounted for. There were about five hundred members of the Association, but most of them were new comers here, who were not entitled to a vote. In two years, however, they would be good Union voters. He did not consider the legal opinion given on the subject worth anything. He hoped now that the Union men would hold up their heads, and not go about with heads cast down, or slipping into places stealthily, but now that they had the power, would exercise it. He had looked for this time, and thanked God he had seen it. When he attended the first Union meeting in the town, up in the third story of a building, he had predicted that the Union men would soon get the power, and already his prediction was fulfilled. Secessionists, who had but a short time ago, looked down upon Union men with scorn, had now been made to "bite the dust," and, for the future, the Union men would continue to hold power. The Union women of the town could now carry their heads on one side, and tossed back like the secession women had been doing, and when they passed each other on the street now, and the secession women looked scornful, let the Union women say, *we* are now on the top—you at the bottom. The tables had at last turned, and loyal citizens were to hold the power and have control. The Union men who had come here were going to stay, and the population of Alexandria, which had been so reduced by those who were in Secession, would soon be as great as ever, and the city peopled with good loyal citizens. After again congratulating the Union men on the result of the election, he concluded, and the band performed another air.

Edward Henry said that Lewis McKenzie was in the Hall, and the meeting would like to hear from the newly elected Mayor.

Lewis McKenzie was then called for, and rose and stated that he had not coveted the office of Mayor. He was sorry that Mr. Price had to be turned out—sorry that he (P.) was not a good Union citizen, that he could have been re-elected. He had been selected as the Mayor, however, and could not do less than accept the office. It was a duty that the Union men of this city owed the government, that loyal citizens should be put in the offices—so far, in Alexandria nothing had been done for the government, and the election could not be avoided. He repeated that he had not coveted the office of Mayor. He said that the Union men of Alexandria had been treated very badly by their Secession brethren. The Secessionists had been very rude to the Union men, refusing to speak to them, &c. He had done nothing to them. His only crime, and that of the other Union men was that they adhered to the Stars and Stripes—that flag that had never harmed any one. He thanked God that they had Mason in Massachusetts. God in his infinite mercy had sent him to that place, that he (Mason) so much despised. He bore no malice to any one, but if there was a man on 'God's earth that for whom he felt a supreme contempt, that man was James M. Mason. What right had Mason to tell the people of Virginia that they should not vote against the Ordinance of Secession. The act done to-day, (yesterday, referring to the election,) was a good one. He was sorry that the election had not been postponed till March, but it had to be done—it was due the government. He hoped

that the salaries would be cut down, so that it could not be said that the Union men were after the offices for the money. He hoped March would soon come, so that some more suitable man would be elected Mayor, but in the meantime he should fulfil the duties to the best of his ability. He thanked the people for the confidence bestowed upon him, and took his seat amid applause.

The Chair presented to — Howard, a bouquet, which was acknowledged, and the song sung in the beginning of the meeting repeated.

After music by the Band, Judge Freese proposed three cheers for the Union officers, and three for the Stars and Stripes, which were given.

The Chair then presented Judge Freese with a bouquet from a child six years old, which the Judge acknowledged, and took occasion to discard upon the bringing up of the youth of the country in the right way. He attributed the present war to wrong teaching of the youth in the Southern States.

At the conclusion of the Judge's remarks, the band played a tune, when the President announced that the Commissioners for holding the Corporation election would meet at the Council Chamber, at 10 o'clock, and the County Commissioners would meet at the Court House at 11 o'clock this morning.

By request, the Band played "Home, Sweet Home," which called to his feet Judge Freese, who said that it was a most appropriate conclusion of the meeting—yes, said the speaker, the Union people of this city have Home, Sweet Homes, once more. They had been separated by the war, many of the fathers and husbands sending their children and wives to the North, for fear that the Southerners would get possession of the town, but there was no fear of that now, and these families were returning, and could now remain in safety, for though he and those with him had as dear ties to bind them to their homes as any, still they intended to stay here to protect the loyal people until there was not a shadow of doubt of their remaining in perfect safety. The whole government would back the loyal people of this town, and there need be no fear.

The Chair then announced that the meeting stood adjourned till next Wednesday night at 7 o'clock.

After the adjournment of the meeting, we learn that there was a supper served up in the room recently occupied by C. S. Halliwell, as a School, in the Lyceum Building, to which a large company set down. A speech from Judge Freese, and some songs, varied and enlivened the entertainment.

GENERAL NEWS.

Charles Lanman, the well known author, artist, who was Mr. Webster's private secretary, fishing-companion and biographer, has been appointed to one of the most responsible clerical positions in the House of Representatives.

One of the remarkable features of the large export of provisions now making from New York, in the immense quantity of cheese exported to England.

The expedition to South Carolina seems to be very popular with the army, if one might judge by the numbers of applications at the army headquarters, which come from the colonels to go on some of the numerous expeditions which are fitting out for the Southern coast.

Pork packing has commenced quite briskly in Cincinnati, but at much lower rates than for several years.

At Wheeling, Va., last Saturday, there was a slight snow storm—sufficient to whiten the roofs of houses.

Snow was 4½ inches deep at Cheat Mountain Summit, Va., Nov. 6th.

Mrs. Pyle, the widow of an ex-Laureate, whose name is hardly known to the readers of the present generation, died in London a few days ago, at the age of 91.

The wedding of Den Rice, the Union stump speaker and showman, took place at his farm, near Girard, Penn., on the 5th instant, Miss Charlotte Rebecca McConnell, of Girard, being the bride. His residence has recently been rebuilt, and fitted up in a style of peculiar taste.

The English frigate *Warrior* had arrived at Queenstown after a sea trial trip, in which she realized the highest expectations. It was reported that she reached seventeen knots per hour under steam and canvas.

The Charleston Courier says that one day last week, many beautiful damsels appeared in the streets of that city in "war bonnets," and insists that the example will be followed.

The Missouri correspondent of the New York World, a strong Union paper, and an ardent advocate of the prosecution of the present war, says that the conduct of the federal troops in that State while under command of Fremont, and the course of Gen. Lane, with reference to the slaves, (quite as much to the loss and injury of the Union men as to the Secessionists,) have, he fears, produced "a great change in the sentiments of the people," and that the Union men declare they will charge front if such an "anti-slavery war" is to be continued by Lane. He describes the pillage, and slave abductions of Fremont's and Lane's troops, as wholly unjustifiable, as well as impolitic.

WAR NEWS.

Advices from Port-Royal to Saturday last report that the stores and ordnance of the army of occupation had nearly all been landed, but that Beaufort, though deserted had not yet been taken possession of by the federal troops. It is believed that there were no Confederate troops within twenty miles of Gen. Sherman's position at Fort Walker.—Straggling bands of negroes from the deserted plantations were flocking into the federal camp, and were set to work on the new docks and fortifications. The transports and store-ships having discharged their freight, were about to return to Northern ports for fresh troops and supplies. A quantity of cotton has been found on such plantations as have been visited. Very little of it, however, appears to have been baled; some of it was ungrained, and on many fields it had not been picked.

On Saturday, four boats, with armed seamen, were despatched for the gunboats *Hercules* and *Reliance*, lying in Pocumoke bay, at Syke's Island, near the main land of Accomac county, and of which possession was taken. Formerly there were about 140 inhabitants on the island, but all but 30 had left. These are said to have gladly received the proclamation of Gen. Dix, and were promised the protection of the United States.

The Richmond Whig of the 9th says the Confederate army in Virginia is to be reorganized. The State constituted a department, comprising three armies, viz:—Of the Potomac, the Valley and Aquia, under chief command of Gen. Johnson. Gen. Beauregard is to command the army of the Potomac, Gen. Thos. Jackson that of the Valley, and Gen. Holmes the army of Aquia. The army of the Potomac comprises four divisions, the first being under Gen. Dornan, the second of Gen. G. W. Smith, the third of Gen. Longstreet, and the fourth of General Kirby Smith.

Col. Canby having made a requisition on the Governor of New Mexico for twelve thousand militiamen for the United States army service, the latter issued an order to the Major Generals of divisions in which he designates the proportion of men each is to furnish. The forces thus raised will be stationed at the different posts in the territory to garrison them whilst the regulars and volunteers are in the service in the field.

The gunboat *Conestoga*, on a reconnoitering expedition up the Tennessee river yesterday, discovered a Confederate battery near the Tennessee line, and threw shell routing the enemy from their guns. Still further up another battery was discovered and an engagement ensued in which the Confederates were driven off and a number killed. The *Conestoga* was but slightly damaged.

General Butler's auxiliary expedition to the Southern coast, which has been for some weeks past in progress of organization in the Eastern ports is getting ready to sail.

Gen. Halleck has superseded Gen. Hunter in command of the department of Missouri, and has entered upon his new duties.