

# The Local News.

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ALEXANDRIA, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 5, 1861.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

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

The band of the Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania regiment was, as usual, in attendance, and opened the meeting at half past seven o'clock with an inspiring air.

Stephen Shinn, President of the Association, then took the chair, and called the meeting to order, when the proceedings of last Wednesday night's meeting were read by the Secretary of the Association, Oscar C. Whittlesley.

The President stated that the last meeting of the Association in electing officers, had omitted a treasurer—the office now held by Jefferson Tacey—whereupon Chas. B. Shirley nominated, for re-election, Jefferson Tacey, who was elected *nem. con.*

The President next called upon all who desired to become members of the Association to come forward and give in their names to the Secretary, when twenty-nine persons responded, and, in the absence of Judge Freese, the oath of allegiance to the United States was administered to them by Lieut. Wagner, of the Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania regiment, after which the new members signed the constitution of the Association.

While the signing was going on, Judge Jacob R. Freese, who has been absent from the city for some time, entered the hall, and appeared on the stand, when he was welcomed by long continued applause and music by the band.

The President next stated that a special object of consideration for the meeting was the formation of the proposed "home guard." He had been informed, by Captain Shafer, that there were fifty or sixty names enrolled, but as he (the President) was not a military man himself, and knew nothing of military matters, he would call upon his friend, Judge Freese, to explain how the company should be organized, and all about it.

Judge Freese thereupon arose and explained the usual mode of organizing a company, which was to procure eighty-three men, the minimum number, get them to meet or enrol their names, then let them choose a captain, and offer themselves to the general government, by which they would most certainly be accepted, and then, if they chose, they could petition to be allowed to remain at home, which he had little doubt the government would grant. He thought that it was due to the Union cause at the North that a company should be raised here on the sacred soil of Virginia, so that the assertion that there were no Union men in the South could be refuted. Actions spoke louder than words, and the raising of a Union company would show that his friends here would act as well as talk.

The Judge then produced and read a note, which he stated he had received, just prior to his leaving the city, from certain ladies, asking for information as to the particular manner in which the Union ladies should toss their heads. He had informed them, at the meeting previous to the last, that they might now toss their heads a little to one side, but whether to the right or left it was uncertain, and upon this point information was asked. The Judge said it made no difference on which side. He merely wished then to say to the Union ladies that it had been the custom of the secession ladies, prior to the passage out of the hands of the secessionists of the power, to hold up their heads and toss them to one side (exemplifying by going through the motions, which caused much laughter), and he merely wanted the Union ladies, now that the power was in the hands of Unionists, to carry their heads erect, and, if need be, a little to one side. He did not mean that evil should be done for evil, nor that there should be any unkindness or harshness. Much more could be gained by kindness, which he illustrated by the allegory of the sun and wind upon the traveler. But while they were to be kind, they must, at the same time, be firm. The power had passed into the hands of the Union men, and the Union women must act as though they were aware of the change—walking erect, and feeling that, as loyal citizens, they had a right to toss their heads—It had been said that he was for crushing

out the secessionists, but it was not so; he merely wanted to see the Unionists in power. He had seen this, and he thanked God for it. He had watched the growth of this Association with great interest, as a father watches the growth of his children, and was now proud to know that it had so succeeded. The secessionists must be made to feel that the power has passed from their hands, but now, that the power was with the Union men, it must be exercised with kindness, but firmly. There was a time not long ago, he continued, when a Union man or woman scarce dared to show his or her face, and certainly did not dare to carry their heads on one side, but the time had come when the secessionists were no longer to treat them with contempt. They could now walk boldly, and were at perfect liberty to shout for the "Stars and Stripes" without any to make them afraid.

At the conclusion of Judge F.'s remarks, and at the suggestion of the President, the band performed an air.

The President next introduced to the meeting—Evans, of New York, who proceeded to address the meeting at some length, arguing to show that the North, by superior numbers, must succeed in the present struggle, and that the South could hold out for several years; it must finally succumb, unless the stuff of which Southern men was made was so far superior to that in the composition of Northern men, that one of the former could withstand three of the latter. He also contended that the founders of the republic intended to make this a consolidated government, and read an extract from Adams' defense of the Constitution in support of his assertion.

At the conclusion of the speech, the band again favored the audience with an air.

The President stated that it was yet early, and hoped that before he declared the meeting adjourned, some of the Union brethren would make a few remarks, when there was loud calls for Howard, Snyder, Manypenny, and various others, and finally the President announced that J. Snyder would favor the meeting with a song.

J. Snyder thereupon arose, and sang a song in memory of Col. Ellsworth, of the First New York Fire Zouaves, who was killed by Mr. J. W. Jackson, at the Marshall House.

At the conclusion of the singing, there was great applause, and calls for Howard, who however did not respond.

Just as the President was about to declare the meeting adjourned, Judge Freese stepped forward and said that he must, after the song just sung, add his mite to the tribute paid Ellsworth. He had known him well, and he was brave and impulsive. He had met him but a day or two before his death at the President's House, when he was full of life, and sanguine of success. His (Ellsworth's) deed had shown that he was not afraid to die for his country.

The Judge then took his seat, and, after music by the band, the meeting was declared adjourned till next Wednesday night, at half past seven o'clock.

**THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.**—The Mayor's Office this morning showed less business on its docket than has been usual for some days. But few persons visited the office during the morning hours; and the business was confined to the adjudication of a few trifling police cases.

A wretch in Washington, named Agustin Frank, a German, has been arrested and sent to jail charged with a horrible assault upon two little girls. It was with difficulty the people were prevented from lynching him.

Martin S. Harris, of New York, appointed acting master in the navy, on temporary service, and Eli Bowen, of Marblehead, Mass., and Robert Simms, of New York, who were appointed acting master's mates, have deserted after drawing two months' advance pay.

The West India Mail Company in consequence of the Trent affair, had ordered all their agents to furnish no more coal to United States vessels.

We published yesterday, an extract from the Report of Secretary Cameron, in relation to the Slave subject, as given in the Northern papers. It now appears that although the passage was in the original report, it was subsequently erased, and the following substituted in its stead:—

"It is already a grave question what shall be done by the slaves who are abandoned by their owners on the advance of our troops into Southern territory, as at Beaufort district, in South Carolina. The number left within our control at that point is very considerable, and similar cases will probably occur. What shall be done with them?—Can we afford to send them forward to their masters, to be by them armed against us, or used in introducing supplies to maintain the rebellion? Their labor may be useful to us; withheld from the enemy, it lessens his military resources, and withholding them has no tendency to induce the horrors of insurrection even in the rebel communities.—They constitute a military resource, and, being such, that they should not be turned over to the enemy is too plain to discuss.—Why deprive him of supplies by a blockade, and voluntarily give him men to produce supplies? The disposition to be made of the slaves of rebels after the close of the war can be safely left to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress. The representatives of the people will, unquestionably, secure to the loyal slaveholders every right to which they are entitled under the constitution of the country."

According to the New York Tribune the erasure and substitution were by express direction of the President—though we observe, in other quarters it is affirmed that the Secretary himself made the alteration desired by the President. The Tribune further makes the following statement, the correctness of which, the public will, no doubt, be farther informed:

"On Sunday night, the President, having found time to read it, found it not in his heart to agree with the Secretary's doctrine of the right and the duty to make a military use of the slaves of Confederates—to arm them, if necessary—and in all ways to use them as we would any other property of the Confederates to suppress this rebellion. He sent for Mr. Cameron, and required him to suppress this whole portion of his report, on the ground that its recommendation was premature and ill-timed. The Secretary promptly and resolutely refused to suppress a word of it. The discussion between them was protracted. It ended as it began, the President insisting upon the alteration, and the Secretary respectfully but firmly refusing to change a syllable of his recommendations. A subsequent interview in the afternoon had a similar conclusion of debate, but a new and strange conclusion of Executive will. The President announced his purpose to strike out the entire passage about the emancipation and arming of the slaves before sending in the report with his Message to Congress. Mr. Cameron declared he should not recall or suppress the document in the hands of Northern and Western editors, and that the printers were at liberty to do with his report what they pleased."

The latest accounts of the progress of the second famine in Ireland—caused by the potato rot, short crops of cereals and a general want of employment—are gloomy enough. In the provinces of Connaught, Munster and Leinster the field of potatoes, it is stated, will not come up to one-half the usual supply.

In Baltimore, on Monday, Messrs. Haversham and Johnson, connected with the U. S. Navy, about two years ago, were arrested at Barnum's Hotel, by a squad of soldiers, and sent to Fortress McHenry. Nine of the prisoners at McHenry were transferred to Warren. The residence of W. R. Howard was searched for a Japanese sword stolen from the Japanese embassy, when they were in Baltimore, but no such sword was found.—The searchers seized two guns, a flag, and the regimental roll of the former Maryland Guard battalion.

The Washington Star says that the revision of the report of Secretary Cameron was made by himself.

## GENERAL NEWS.

A regular and systematic exchange of prisoners has been urged upon the Washington authorities by Gen. McClellan. The effective forces at the disposal of the government are estimated to number six hundred and sixty thousand men.

A letter from Capt. Bowman, at Richmond, states that he and seven other officers are confined in one cell, and treated like felons. They were selected to abide the fate of the Savannah privateers-men.

Mr. Henry May has been released from the parole on which he has been since he was permitted to attend his brother's funeral, and the disposition of his case left to Congress.

A letter from Barbadoes, dated November 9, reports that the British brig Falcon was boarded November 4, eighty miles northeast of Barbadoes, by a bark propeller, which refused to give her name, and stated she had not been in an American port for four months. It is supposed that the propeller referred to was the privateer Sumter.

Secretary Welles opposes the return of fugitive slaves by the navy, and adds that if the latter cannot employ them, they may be turned over to the army for use, receiving wages; and failing there, they must be allowed to proceed freely to any loyal portion of the country, to seek a livelihood, without restraint.

The Wheeling Intelligencer of Monday says:—"Gen. Rosencrans has determined to remove the headquarters of the Army of Western Virginia to this city."

The New York Board of Canal Commissioners have resolved to close the navigation of the canals of the State on the 10th inst.

At the skirmish on Cox's farm, near Anandale, Fairfax County, on Monday, where two Confederates were taken prisoners, one of the Federal troops was killed, and three are still missing.

Farmer Cox, of Fairfax County, and two of his sons have been arrested, and are now confined at or near Gen. Blenker's headquarters.

The Boston Commercial Bulletin's list of business changes in the United States gives five failures and suspensions in Boston, eight in New York, four in Philadelphia, two in Baltimore, and thirteen in other places—a total of thirty-two for the week.

No more cavalry will be accepted by the U. S. Government, and it is the purpose of the Commanding General to muster out of the service all cavalry recruits in incomplete regiments, unless they will consent to come in as infantry. The number of the cavalry already amounts to between 60,000 and 70,000, much more than the Government can use.

The Secretary of War will soon issue an order to the Governors of the Free States to the effect that no more regiments, battalions, or independent companies must be raised or received by them, except on the requisition of the War Department. General Superintendents are to be appointed, and the recruiting will go on according to the system of the regular army.

Prominent Freemasons of the District of Columbia propose to send a valuable "gavel" to Garibaldi, who has been elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Italian Masons.

The Western (Wheeling) Virginia Convention have determined that the name of the proposed new State shall be Western Virginia, and not Kanawha.

The New York Times says, we have reason to believe that the Confederate steamer Nashville, which had arrived at Southampton, England, will return with a very valuable cargo of supplies and munitions for the Confederates. A Southern gentleman has boasted to his friend in this city that he has a heavy venture in her.

Advices from St. Thomas, says that the Captain of the privateer Jeff. Davis was aboard the steamer Trent when Messrs. Mason and Slidell were captured.

Mr. Opdyke, the newly elected Mayor of New York, was the Republican candidate.