

The Local News.

COMMENCED
October 7, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

AN INCIDENT.—The Military Parade which passed through the principal thoroughfares this morning, attracted considerable attention. A novel attachment to it consisted of three guards and another soldier of the U. S. army, who bore upon his back a board inscribed: "Deserter—a Coward." This man was thus exhibited, it is understood, by sentence of a Court Martial. Soldiers serving out sentences by carrying bags of sand to and fro, or marching with a knapsack filled with brickbats, are no uncommon spectacle in sections of the city near Military Quarters.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—This morning several liquor-selling cases were brought up at the Mayor's Office, and considerable conversation took place relative to the sale of ardent spirits to soldiers. The Military Officer of the day said it was nearly impossible to get direct evidence of the sale of liquor to soldiers, yet it was done hourly. The Court hoped that hereafter the military guard would not bring these cases before him, but after giving notice would take every person engaged in the illicit traffic, and shut them up in the provost prison until the war was over.

THE WEATHER.—The weather has again grown cold, and ice glistens at sun-rise on all the shallow waters of this neighborhood.

THE RIVER.—The riverside has been very quiet for some days. There was no interruption to the general quiet this morning; no arrivals whatever.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The cashier of the Farmer's Bank at Richmond gives notice that the payment of \$24,543, which the bank holds as the property of Capt. R. H. Ramsey, has been "enjoined" as being liable to sequestration.

None except those known to be actual residents on the line of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, are allowed to travel upon it without passes. The Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company require "passes" from all who travel over their road.

Wm. F. Gordon has been elected clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates.

James L. Kemper, of Madison, was on the 2d inst., elected Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates.

The Confederate Court, in Richmond, have confiscated \$15,000 in the hands of the bankers Purcell, in that city, the property of Ashmead *et al.* of Philadelphia.

There has been much rejoicing over the safe arrival of James C. Herndon, late Surgeon in the U. S. Navy.

The Knoxville Register states, on the authority of an officer of the Confederate Government, that the agents of the government have already purchased in East Tennessee alone not less than 600,000 hogs, and adds: "We believe that East Tennessee has produced pork enough to supply the whole Southern army for the next twelve months, independent of the great hog raising regions of the adjacent States."

The Virginia State Convention has passed an ordinance for altering the present mode of electing Attorneys, Clerks and Constables in the State.

At the last accounts the Spanish fleet was within thirty-six hours' sail of Vera Cruz. The Mexicans were daily expecting the arrival of the allied fleet. The general feeling appeared to be hatred of Spain. No resistance, however, would be made at Vera Cruz or Tampico. The guns of the Castle San Juan d'Utoa were being carried inland, and if any Mexican symptoms can be trusted, a most determined resistance will be made to the army of Spanish invasion.

Garrett Davis was, on Tuesday, elected United States Senator by the Kentucky Legislature, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Brackinridge.

The Southampton, England, correspondent of the Dublin Freeman's Journal, after announcing the arrival of the steamer Nashville in that port, adds:—"The Nashville is to be repaired. She is in a very dilapidated state."

GENERAL NEWS.

The Washington Star says that if "revolutionary changes be made in the local law of the District, for buncombe at the North, instead of a free negro population of perhaps 14,000, in the current anomalous condition of the country the District of Columbia cannot fail to become at once the harbor for at least 50,000 negroes, practically freed as an incident of the war. With such a population, without especial restraining laws, Washington will be rendered almost uninhabitable to the white man."

The death of Senator Baker, of Oregon, was announced in both houses of the U. S. Congress, yesterday, and eulogies on him delivered by various members.

The extent to which the business of Baltimore has been injured, has never been fully brought to light. As winter approaches, however, it becomes painfully evident.—Business houses, whose sales amounted heretofore to a million of dollars annually—and of such there were many—now sell not a quarter of that amount. One house, whose sales of woollen cloths amounted to two millions of dollars annually, was compelled to close their establishment, their sales not being sufficient to pay their rent. They have moved to New York, where they now do a good business in selling army cloths.

An advertisement appears in the Hamilton (C. W.) Times calling for one hundred "healthy negroes" to enter the service of the Australian Cotton Association, in New South Wales and Queensland.

By an arrival from Havana we learn that the schooner Break of Day had arrived from New Orleans. She left on the 20th ultimo, and came in with the Confederate flag flying. A cargo of six hundred and twenty-five negroes had been landed upon the south-east coast of the Island of Cuba. Five vessels had sailed from Havana, and, it is said, they intend to run the blockade under English colors. Three of them had arms and ammunition.

Late advices from Richmond bring the information that the young woman who has already figured in the newspapers under the name of Nina, has been arrested in Richmond as a Federal spy. Conclusive evidence, it is said, has been obtained to show that her frequent visits to Virginia were not, as she pretended, for the benefit of the Southern Confederacy.

When it was announced, in the House of Representatives that a Republican caucus would be held in the evening, Mr. Wickliffe, of Ky., spoke out so as to be generally heard, that if Republican caucuses were to be called he would summon a Union one.—But half of the republicans attended.

Large numbers of wild fowl have appeared on the Ohio river, near Wheeling.

A man in Boston has invented a machine for making a boot in fifteen minutes.

The New York World says, "It is idle to disguise that there has been some disappointment among the people that the army on the Potomac has remained so completely stationary through the fall, and, to all appearance, is to continue so for an indefinite period longer.

Three United States iron plated ships are now in process of construction—one in New York by J. Ericsson, another at Philadelphia by Merrick & Son, and a third at New Haven by Bushnell & Co. The cost of these vessels will be \$1,290,750.

The Medical Bureau at Washington, with Surgeon-General Finlay at its head, is again in trouble, and have appealed to Gen. McClellan in reference to some arrangements about small pox patients.

It is said that the newspaper statements relative to the active movements of troops in Canada, and the expected reinforcements from England, are incorrect.

The war between the ultra wing of the Republican party, and the friends of a more conservative policy, continues at the North, and may give rise to two antagonistic political parties there.

The Confederate privateer Sumter, at the last dates, was cruising in the West India seas.

Gen. Jackson's force, consisting of one brigade, (four regiments of about seven hundred men each,) is located five miles east of Winchester. His men are principally residents of the county, were plentifully supplied and clothed, and were generally contented. Ashby's cavalry are moving about in the neighborhood of Martinsburg, and Pendleton's battery is understood to be on its way from Bath to Winchester.

Hon. George W. Jones, ex-United States Minister to Bogota, is on his way home from his late mission.

British subjects in Cuba are reported as highly incensed at the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell on the Trent.

Mr. Sumner, of Mass., it is said, in his speeches on the deaths of Senators Bingham and Baker, introduced the subject of slavery in his peculiar style and manner, and entirely out of place. The Washington reporters speak of it as "perverting the occasion."

It was the U. S. steamer Richmond, as already stated, that was so badly injured at the bombardment at Pensacola. One shell, from the Confederate batteries killed seven men on board of her, and another struck her so as to cause a bad leak. She had to haul off. The Niagara was not injured much.

The President of the United States attended the Senate, on Wednesday, to hear the eulogies on the late Senator Baker. One of the Orleans Princes has attended a session of the Senate.

Sutlers and those who supply them with goods have combined by taking action to protect their interests from the effects of the movement made by Senator Wilson to abolish sutlers in the volunteer forces.

Col. Ingalls, of the U. S. Quartermasters Department, who went North for the purpose of making arrangements for procuring forage for the army of the Potomac, has returned. An order has been issued by the department to buy no more oats while the parties holding them demand exorbitant prices.

It is said that the "Republican" caucus in Washington, on Wednesday night, determined in favor of confiscating the property of all persons in arms against the United States, and their aiders, and abettors, and the unconditional emancipation of their slaves.

The Western Virginia (Wheeling) Legislature is receiving stringent resolutions in favor of requiring oaths of allegiance from all in office, and excluding from office others; and also exempting the people of the Kanawha valley from taxation, and opening discussion on slavery.

It is said that proposition will be made to create the grade of Admiral in the United States Navy; and to increase largely the number of cadets at West Point, and of midshipmen at the Naval School.

The New York Tribune says there are rumors of an increased Confederate force near Goose Creek; and that the Confederates have shelled the camps of the First Massachusetts Regiment.

Heavy firing, in Southern and Western directions, from Alexandria, have been heard frequently within the last two or three days.

An order has been issued by the U. S. Secretary of War that no more independent regiments, batteries or companies will be received by the Governors of States, except on special requisitions, and the recruiting for volunteers in the several States be placed under the superintendance of officers appointed by the Secretary, and named in the order.

A bill to establish diplomatic relations between Hayti and the United States, has been introduced.

A resolution has been passed in the United States House of Representatives thanking the officers and soldiers engaged at Springfield, Mo., and ordering the name of Springfield to be inscribed on the colors of their regiments.

Col. Mulligan is being lionized in Washington.

Indian depredations have been renewed in New Mexico, on a large scale. The merchants of the territory have been directed to hand in their money for "a government loan."

It is proposed to call a Convention in Maryland to form a new State Constitution.

The U. S. Government has replied to the invitation of England, France, and Spain, to take part in the expedition against Mexico, declining to have anything to do with it.

It is said that some of the friends of Fremont, will make statements against regular army officers who made unfavorable reports concerning Fremont, which will damage their credit for reliability.

The report of the United States Secretary of the Treasury is playing the mischief with tea-kettles already. The New York speculators have further advanced the price of green teas, and the chances are that it will go a peg or two higher. The sugar dealers have likewise been trying to run prices up.

The scarcity of cotton is beginning to be severely felt in New York in certain branches of manufactures. The raw material is worth between 30 and 40 cents. The speculation in printing cloths and other cotton goods continues lively, with a steady enhancement in value.

It is understood that Thaddeus Stevens says that he did not make the remarks in reference to General McClellan, at the Republican caucus of Monday evening, imputed to him by letter writers.

IN COMMON COUNCIL.

The members elected to the Common Council, at the election held on the 20th day of November, 1861, assembled at their chamber on the 22d day of November, 1861.

James L. Dyson was appointed to act as clerk pro tem., and thereupon proceeded to read the returns of the Commissioners of Election.

Of the Councilmen appearing by said returns to have been elected, there were present the following:

From First Ward—Samuel Baker, Garret Hulet, James F. Carlin, John Eveleth.

From Second Ward—James L. Dyson, John T. Taylor.

From Third Ward—Henry S. Martin, S. Ferguson Beach, S. A. Garwood, James A. Stoutenburg.

From Fourth Ward—S. L. C. Sidebottom.

Lewis McKenzie, the newly elected Mayor, appeared before the Council, and produced a proper certificate that he had taken the oath required by the convention of Virginia, and the oath of office, and he thereupon administered the same oath to the members present.

Wm. D. Massey was unanimously chosen President of the Board.

Mr. Massey not being present, S. F. Beach was chosen President pro tem.

On motion, the rules heretofore governing the proceedings of Council were adopted as the rules of the present Council.

On motion, James A. Stoutenburg was appointed a committee on behalf of this Board to look after the condition of the Poor House, and report what action, if any, is necessary in relation to it. Council then adjourned, to meet on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at 7 o'clock, p. m.

S. F. BEACH, President pro tem.

JAS. L. DYSON, Clerk pro tem.

IN COMMON COUNCIL.

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of Alexandria, held November 26th, 1861, there were present:

S. F. Beach, President pro tem.;

Samuel Baker, John Eveleth, Jas. L. Dyson, John T. Taylor, H. S. Martin, S. A. Garwood, J. A. Stoutenburg, S. L. C. Sidebottom.

His honor, Lewis McKenzie, administered the oath of office to the following members: Caleb S. Hallowell, Wm. Arnold and Chas. B. Shirley.

An application was made by Wm. Gregory for a reduction in his taxes.

On motion, the application was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Stoutenburg, from the committee appointed to examine into the affairs of the Poor House, reported that the present keeper would continue to act until his successor was appointed.

B. M. Franks was nominated and elected clerk of this Board.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the President pro tem. appoint the committees on finance and salaries and light. The following were then appointed as members of said committees:

On Finance and Salaries—Hallowell and Carlin.

On Light—Arnold and Stoutenburg.

A communication from E. Henry was read, and referred to the Committee on Light.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the appointment of all the city officers be postponed until the next meeting.

S. F. BEACH, President pro tem.

JAS. L. DYSON, Clerk pro tem.

MARRIED.

On the 10th instant, by Rev. E. P. Phelps, Mr. GEORGE POTTER, and Miss ANN LYLES.

DIED.

On Thursday night, the 4th instant, EDWIN, son of the late Daniel Monroe, in the 36th year of his age.