

The Local News.

COMMENCED
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ALEXANDRIA, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 13, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

THE VOLUNTEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—The Volunteer Relief Association held its regular meeting at Price's office, Pitt street, yesterday afternoon, Wm. B. Price in the chair, and H. Peel, Secretary.

The attendance was as usual. The usual details of the operations of the Association were presented, and discussed in colloquial style by the members present. The various committees were instructed to present, at the next meeting, a detailed report of the operations of the Association in the various wards of the city.

A donation of beef from S. Hefebower, of the City Hotel, was announced, and a resolution of thanks adopted.

The Association is progressing well, and doing a noble work.

THE SUPPLY STORE.—The distributions of this excellent charity, supported by the Relief Association, and now located on lower Prince street, is this week in excess of any previous week. The demand increases with the increase of the cold. On the last distribution day, December 6th, the store supplied one hundred and forty-nine families with three hundred and eighty-six weekly rations, being food for nearly six hundred women and children. The rations were made up as follows:

1,241 pounds of meat;
32 bushels of corn meal;
836 pounds of flour;
1,796 fish.

We trust that the store will always be as competent to supply the demands upon it, as it has proved since its opening.

THE NEWLY ELECTED COURT.—We learn that the commissions of the Justices of the Peace, chosen at the election on the 20th of November, have been received from Wheeling, and that the Justices will assemble at the Court House on Monday next to organize a county court. The court to be then organized will be composed as follows, so far as the town districts are concerned:

First District—Lewis McKenzie, Samuel Tucker, Chas. Noland, J. C. McCracken.

Second District—John T. Taylor, John T. Armstrong, Samuel Boynton, Hugh McGinnis.

Third District—Thos. Nichols, J. C. Clark, Walter L. Penn, Henry S. Martin.

Fourth District—Chas. Ware, Robt. Bell, Sen., Wm. N. Berkley, S. L. C. Sidebottom.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—The cases this morning were of a varied character, and numbered ten or twelve. Some cases of selling liquor without license were disposed of by fines. Disorderly negroes were fined, as was a white woman charged with keeping a disorderly house. A small civil debt case was also adjudicated.

RIVER MOVEMENTS.—Several small vessels have arrived from below since our last report. The steamer Diamond State came down from Washington this morning, discharged a heavy cargo, and returned. The steamers Eureka, Hugh Jenkins and James Alger arrived this morning, and are still at the wharves, the two former discharging U. S. stores, and the latter bound for Philadelphia. A large black steamer is above the half-way tree, bound down.

CHANGE IN TRACK.—Workmen are engaged, under the supervision of U. S. officials, in taking up a portion of the paving stones of South Union street, with a view to laying a double railroad track along a portion of that thoroughfare.

The Legislature of Georgia has passed a bill to prevent during the existing war monopolies and speculations in breadstuffs, and other articles of general use and consumption. The bill enumerates salt, wheat, flour, bacon, lard, cotton, osnabergs, kerseys, leather, shoes, cotton cards or wool cards, as the articles which must not be sold at speculative prices. It allows the owners of any of these articles to sell them at an advance of sixty per cent. upon their price last April.

Gen. Sigel is at present in St. Louis, confined to his house by rheumatism. His brigade is at Rolla.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

Gen. Sparrow and J. F. Semms have been chosen Senators to the Confederate Congress from Louisiana.

A party of Confederates visited Tybee Island on the 5th, and burnt the lighthouse.—The Federals shelled the Island, but none of the Confederates were hurt.

The Southern papers say the Federal forces cannot get more than one-third of the Sea Island cotton raised in the South, the value of which is only \$750,000.

The Richmond Examiner of the 30th says laborers are being hired for the immediate construction of a rail road from Centreville to Manassas.

A letter has been received from James Patrick, belonging to Col. Averill's cavalry, who was taken prisoner in the skirmish two weeks ago beyond Vienna. He states that twenty-seven of them are in the Richmond jail, all well excepting Sergeant Bryson, who during the skirmish fell from his horse, and was injured in the shoulder. The party of Confederates which effected their capture was composed of Georgia cavalry.

The Virginia State Convention, on the 23d ultimo, rejected a proposition to amend the constitution, so as to provide that the Governor shall be elected by the General Assembly, instead of by the people. The vote resulted—yeas 41, nays 60.

On Monday last a U. S. steam-tug passed along the shore of King George's county, firing shells at the houses above and below Matthias' Point. No damage was done.

Jeff. Thompson is fortifying New Madrid. Gen. Polk has entirely recovered, and has assumed command at Columbus. It is rumored that Columbus will probably be attacked by way of Paducah.

The Confederate Congress has passed a law allowing laundresses to the hospitals for the sick and wounded, at such rates and numbers as are prescribed by the Secretary of War.

The Richmond Dispatch proposes that every bank in the Southern Confederacy should redeem the bills of every other bank; that each State shall receive at its own treasury, as par, all paper lawfully issued; that the Treasury Department shall use public funds and securities for the redemption of any paper money in the Confederate States; and that it shall be treason to ask or receive a discount for the exchange of one sort of money for another.

WAR NEWS.

The official reports from Port Royal, received by the Navy Department, state that a naval reconnaissance to Warsaw Island was made on the 5th inst., and a deserted fortification discovered, also a battery of four guns, apparently well manned. Warsaw Island is about ten miles from Savannah, the steeples of the churches of the city being visible from the anchorage of the Federal vessels. Several important points near Charleston and Savannah were soon to be occupied in force by the Federal troops.

Advices have been received in Washington that the Confederate troops from Texas, who have for some months occupied the territory of the Mesilla valley, have been driven out by superior Federal forces sent against them.

Through Southern sources, via Louisville, we learn that a number of vessels had appeared off the roads of Savannah. These vessels are probably a portion of the "stone fleet" for the purpose of creating a blockade of important Southern ports by sinking them in the channels.

On Monday afternoon two men and a drummer boy belonging to Gen. Sickles' Brigade, went out in a boat from Liverpool Point. Venturing too near the Virginia shore, they were captured by the Confederates.

The Richmond Dispatch says the flotilla lately at Old Point Comfort has gone up the Potomac.

There are about 120 men from Charles county, Md., in the Confederate army in Virginia.

GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Charles Ellet, the well-known civil engineer—a graduate of West Point—has written, and caused to be distributed among the members of Congress, a pamphlet on the war, in which he criticizes, "pretty severely," Gen. McClellan's policy of conducting affairs so far.

The Chief Secretary of Ireland strongly denies that a famine is at all likely this year. There has been a comparative failure in the potato crop, whereby the price of food will be advanced, but he treats the idea of famine in Ireland as preposterous and false.

On Wednesday night a locomotive exploded on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, near Jackson's Bridge, by which two men were killed and a third so badly injured that his life is despaired of.

Mr. Van Wyck's Investigating Committee will report within a few days. Among the cases reported upon will be that of Ward H. Lamou, Marshal of the District of Columbia, of whose "Virginia Brigade" much has been said. According to the report of the Committee, Gen. Lamou (as he registered himself) traveled many miles ostensibly in the service of the United States, really without commission or authority, either as Colonel or General, engaged in procuring soldiers to make up his "brigade," not from Virginia, but from regiments already formed in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

The declaration of Mr. Foulke in the U. S. House of Representatives that if Mr. Lovejoy would attend more to the interests of the country, and less to that of the negroes, the former would get along better, was received with applause in the galleries.

In the Maryland Senate a resolution has been passed declaring vacant the seat of Coleman Yellott. In the House of Delegates, Mr. Smith, of Worcester, introduced a series of resolutions expressive of the gratification of the Legislature at the proclamations of Gens. Dix and Sherman respectively, and asserting the line of policy announced in those proclamations to be the true policy of the Federal Government.

A letter is published from the U. S. Consul General in Egypt, stating that Viceroy of Egypt is well inclined to the United States, has excluded all "unrecognized flags" from his harbors, and is making concessions to the growers of cotton so as to enable them, if possible, to sell to the English advantageously.

It is represented that the people of the West Indies are all indignant at the seizure of Mason and Slidell on the Trent, and that the Consul at St. Thomas has sent to England remonstrances on the subject.

Formal complaint has been made to the U. S. War Department, by Gov. Andrew, of Massachusetts, against Gen. Stone, for, as is alleged, compelling the troops from that State to assist in the restoration of fugitive slaves. Certainly the cases must be few where restorations were ever made by any troops from that State.

It was stated in his speech on the "Sutler's bill" by Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, that the bread provided by the U. S. government was thrown away while the sutler's supplies were consumed at the expense of the soldier's pay; and of a single regiment he heard of \$11,000 of their pay for one month going in this way, and companies thereof owing \$600 for things charged at enormous profits.

The Washington Republican says that "on to-morrow the barbecue, pig and sack race, and other arrangements in connection with the flag presentation to the Twenty-third Pennsylvania volunteers, at Camp Graham, comes off. Preparations on the largest possible scale have been made. An ox and fifteen pigs are to be roasted whole for the benefit of the men."

It is said that instead of the Confederate loss at the late skirmish at Dam No. 5, C. and O. Canal, by "15 or 20 killed and many wounded," as reported in the telegraphic dispatch, their loss was really "one man killed or wounded."

An U. S. vessel of war is to be despatched forthwith to the Mediterranean.

It is reported that the Federal troops at Port Royal "are making an arrangement for an advance, in order to attempt cutting off the communication by railroad between Charleston and Savannah."

The Federal troops in Accomac county, Va., have lately been making some arrests, and taking all the arms of the county military.

The proceedings of the court-martial of Col. Kerrigan yesterday substantiated the charges of insubordination, but not those of furnishing valuable information to the Confederates.

A number of fugitive slaves, confined in the Washington city jail, according to law, have been recently, also, according to the existing law, been given up to their masters.

It is probable that the first military execution for desertion will take place speedily. Private Johnson, who deserted from Company D, Lincoln Cavalry, is now on trial.—The proofs against him are conclusive.

A letter in the Northern papers, says that hundreds of thousands of feet of lumber have been already transported for the use of Heintzleman's and Franklin's Divisions, and the hills are fast being covered with a crop of huts and cabins, sprung up like mushrooms. The soldiers have almost ceased to hope for an immediate engagement, and seemed to have resigned themselves to comparative inaction till spring.

The Toronto Leader says a hundred thousand volunteers will be in arms in Canada before the dawn of Spring, and that twenty-five thousand regulars will be ready to support them.

Bermuda papers to the 1st inst., received at Halifax, say that the Mexican difficulty has been settled, the Mexicans having submitted to the terms of the allies—and also that the British gun-boat *Laudrill*, on the West India station, had been stopped by an American vessel, which fired a shot across her bows. This, it is alleged, had caused great excitement at Bermuda. Both accounts are doubted.

In Washington on Wednesday night some parties were arrested charged with dealing in passes—selling them, transferring them to be used by other parties, &c. The charges against the parties arrested were sustained, and they placed in confinement.

Two privates, belonging to the 49th Pennsylvania regiment, who were performing picket duty from Gen. Smith's division yesterday, having strayed beyond their lines, attempted to return, when, on being ordered to halt by the guards, turned and run. One was shot by the guards in two places, and has since died; and the other was taken prisoner by them. As the guards had been changed during the absence of these pickets, they supposed them to be enemies.

A Confederate deserter from Leesburg, who left there about ten days ago, states that that town there were four regiments of Mississippi Infantry, armed with Mississippi and Enfield rifles, and smooth bore muskets, one regiment of cavalry, who are used as skirmishers, and one battery of artillery, consisting of three small field pieces, making altogether upwards of three thousand men. Gen. Evans is commanding there.

DIED.

At his residence, near Horse Head, Prince George's County, Md., on the 18th ult., CLEMENT R. CONNICK, aged 70 years. The deceased was a man of strong and vigorous mind, taking a plain and practical view of all questions brought to his attention. He was an honest man and practiced the good old precept to "owe no man anything."

On Saturday last at Long Old Fields, in Prince George's County, Md., of consumption, Mrs. CHRISTIANA DARSEY, consort of Mr. Francis Darsey, aged about 35 years.

NEW BUCKWHEAT, HAMS AND CITRON. THE SUBSCRIBER has just received the following articles, and invites the attention of customers and citizens.

2,000 lbs. new Buckwheat, in large and small packages;
1,000 lbs. small Family Hams and Breast Pieces Raisins, Currants and Citron; also, an assortment of small family cakes and crackers, to wit: Jumbles, Johnny Lind Cakes, Ginger Cakes, Ginger Snaps, and Tea Cakes, Soda, Water and Sugar Crackers, all of which will be sold at low prices for cash.
JOHN T. COOKE,
dec 13 Corner below Post Office.