

The Local News.

COMMENCED
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ALEXANDRIA, SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

THE CITY MARKET.—The show of business made at the City Market was the smallest we have seen on a clear Saturday morning for a long time. Both demand and supply fell off from last week, and prices ranged about as usual. Meats and poultry unchanged; Irish Potatoes 32@36c. $\frac{1}{2}$ peck. They were sold on the streets from country carts at 85c. $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel; Sweet Potatoes 50c. $\frac{1}{2}$ peck; Apples 50@60c. $\frac{1}{2}$ peck; Cabbage 2@10c. head; Turnips 18@20c. $\frac{1}{2}$ peck; Parsnips 25c. $\frac{1}{2}$ peck; Butter 20@28c. $\frac{1}{2}$ pound; Eggs 25c. dozen, and other articles in proportion.

Prices of all kinds of provisions brought to market for sale, such as poultry, vegetables, &c., &c., are much lower in Washington and Baltimore than they are in the Alexandria market. Oysters, and wild fowl are, also, cheaper, in Washington and Baltimore than they are here.

THE FUEL MARKET.—The supply of Fuel has, during the past week, slowly increased, while the demand has somewhat lessened. Prices, however, yet maintain high rates. A few vessels from the lower Potomac region, some country carts from the immediate vicinity, and the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad are now the sources of supply. We quote:—

Coal—Anthracite—none for sale. Cumberland, Lump \$7.60; Run of Mine \$6.60. No fine in market.

Wood—Pine—Two cargoes came up via the Potomac, one of which was bought by the U. S. Baks House at \$6—retail price of small lots now in market \$6 50. Oak, seasoned \$6.75 delivered, unseasoned \$5 50.

RUNAWAY AND SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—To-day, about noon, a serious accident occurred on South Fairfax street, between Wolfe and Wilkes. A horse attached to a Spring Wagon, which was standing near the Tunnel, took fright at the whistle of a passing locomotive, and started at full speed up Fairfax street. A little girl of some six years of age—daughter of John Boyer—was crossing the street at the time, and was knocked down by the horse, which with the vehicle passed over her. She was considerably injured, but proper assistance having been given, she is now improving.

THE POOR HOUSE.—Mr. Robert Hodgkins, the newly elected Keeper of the Poor and Work House, has entered upon the discharge of his duties.

The number of residents now in the establishment is about fifty. The Work House has but a single occupant.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—The business at the Mayor's Office, this morning, consisted of a few unimportant police cases, and applications for licenses.

DETAINED.—A small schooner, which has been trading from this place and Washington to the Maryland shore, for some time, was overhauled yesterday by the U. S. brig Perry, lying off this port, and has been detained since. A guard was placed on the schooner.

THE WEATHER.—The weather all this week has been uncommonly fine, for the season of the year.

FUNERAL.—A military funeral passed down King street about noon, to-day. These processions have, of late, become so common that they have ceased to attract much attention on the thoroughfares.

RIVER MOVEMENTS.—The steamer Chamberlin, from Philadelphia, and several small vessels passed up the river this morning, from below. The steamers Diamond State, Philadelphia, City of Richmond and others, came down this morning with bread for the Federal troops.

AN ERROR.—In the notice of the Justices of the Peace, whose commissions have arrived from Wheeling, which appeared yesterday, the name of Thomas Nichols was substituted by mistake for that of Robert Crupper—Mr. Nichols was first named, but a subsequent change in the ticket elected Mr. Crupper.

THANKS.—We have received from George E. French, "Maum Guinea"—a double number of the Dime Novels.

WAR NEWS.

Gen. Harvey Brown, commanding at Fort Pickens, states, in an official letter, that after the recent bombardment was over, one of the shells thrown by the Confederates was picked up and laid aside, and that, contrary to express orders, one of his men, whilst surrounded by a crowd, knocked one of these shells against another, when an explosion occurred, which instantly killed five of the Federal soldiers and wounded seven others.

The Charleston Courier of the 9th says that a detachment of Confederate troops on Saturday last visited Beaufort, where utter silence reigned, and proceeded to destroy all the adjacent crops, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Federal troops. Seven hundred bales of cotton and a quantity of corn were burned on one plantation, and in all seventeen crops—4,000 bales—were destroyed.

The Charleston Courier of the 10th says that the Federal fleet seized a schooner on Saturday, and that a steamer was seen passing on Monday with a floating battery or dock in tow. A body of Federal troops were seen near Port Royal on Sunday.

By a private dispatch, says the Richmond Examiner of the 6th, from a perfectly reliable source, and received in an official quarter, we have information that the Federal flotilla, which for some days past has been concentrating at Old Point Comfort, has passed up the Potomac, its destination, doubtless, being the batteries at Evansport. There is reason to believe that this demonstration on the river may be intended to be contemporary with an attack upon the Confederate lines at Centreville, which, for the past two weeks, has been almost daily anticipated.

According to the Richmond Examiner of Tuesday last, the Confederate forces on the line of the Potomac were held in readiness on the previous Saturday and Sunday, for a decisive movement. Battle is said to have been offered by Gen. Beauregard, but was declined by Gen. McClellan.

According to the Columbus (Ky.) Confederate News, the reported battle at Morristown, in which the Unionists under Brownlow were said to have achieved a victory, turns out to have been wholly false.

Gen. Zollicoffer, in Kentucky, is again reported to be retreating, thus defeating the plan of the commanders of the Federal forces, who were endeavoring to cut off his communication by getting in his rear.

The letters from Pensacola to navy officers state that the ordinance of the Confederates is much superior to that of the Federal forces.

The fleet of old stone-laden vessels, which have been fitting out at Boston for the closing up of Charleston harbor, left that city on Thursday.

Gen. Prentiss' command was to move from Platte city to Richfield on the 11th instant. A Confederate camp, numbering 3,000 men, is reported near Albany. The report that Gen. Prentiss had bagged 500 Confederates is not true.

Rumors are rife to-day of an expected engagement on the Peninsula. Magruder evidently expects the attack to commence on Norfolk.

"Christmas is coming," and almost here—but it will not be the "Christmas" here, which has been kept from the earliest recollection of the oldest inhabitant. The times are not such as would induce the old time celebration.

The report of the stoppage on the high seas, somewhere off Bermuda, of the British gun boat Landrail, by a U. S. corvette, has been received in Halifax, through a letter from Bermuda. The report excites much comment—but it is not known to be true.

The Scientific American says it anticipates for petroleum a more rapid extension to a great variety of applications than marked even the introduction of India rubber.

The Mexican cotton manufacturers are getting their cotton from Texas at the low rate of nine cents per pound.

A man was hung at Knoxville, Tennessee, on the 11th, for bridge burning.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The English papers are full of comments on the capture of Mason and Slidell. It is evident that there was much excitement at the reception of the news, as was shown by the public meeting instantly held in Liverpool on the subject. The Times is cautious, but it says the federal government must not provoke war, and it says to Mr. Seward, that whatever may be the issue, whether the act be declared legal or illegal, "the voices of the Southern Commissioners sounding from their captivity are a thousand times more eloquent in London and in Paris, than they would have been heard at St. James' and the Tuilleries." The London Chronicle and the London News are very loud in their condemnation, and call for reparation or action. So are other British journals. The London Star, the organ of Cobden, &c., takes ground, and it says the law officers of the Crown also do, in favor of the right assumed by the federal government, and "advises that no irritation be shown at such annoyances as must inevitably arise in the course of such a struggle."

The London Chronicle of the 28th ult., has the following: "The following important statement is said to have been made on the authority of the Confederate Commissioners, who are at present in this country:—The law officers of the Crown have given their opinion that the Nashville, 'being a regular commissioned ship-of-war,' of the Confederate States, is entitled 'to repair and refit' in British ports. Mr. Adams, the Minister of the Federal Government, has been warned by Lord Russell that the stopping and overhauling of any royal mail steam packet by a Federal ship-of-war will be considered as an insult to the British flag, and, should bloodshed ensue, as a *casus belli*."

The Havre journals state that Gen. Scott, who arrived at that port in the Arago steamer, was, on landing, honored with quite an ovation by officers of the American merchantmen lying in that port. On leaving the vessel, the general had to pass under an immense American flag held by several officers, and was cheered by an enthusiastic crowd of his countrymen all the way to the hotel, which was profusely decorated with American and French flags, as were also the American vessels in the docks. Gen. Scott is now in Paris.

The London Star of November 26th says: "A numerous party of Unionists met on Monday in St. James' street, London, to celebrate by a dinner the victory of Port Royal. The company heartily approved that Gen. Scott should be entertained at a banquet in London."

In the midst of the excitement created by the Mason-Slidell affair, attention in London was drawn to the fact that agents of the Federal Government had recently purchased, at extraordinary prices, all the saltpetre in the market and to arrive in port, to the extent of three thousand tons. Such a sudden and imprudent mode of buying, "seemed to denote," it was alleged, "an intention of offering an outrage to England, such as might render it difficult to obtain supplies hereafter. It was assumed that, under the circumstances, the British government would summarily prohibit the clearance of such "contraband of war."

GENERAL NEWS.

Letters from Port Royal, published in the Northern papers, say that the Confederates approach by night the vicinity of Hilton Head and carry off property and "contrabands," that were supposed to have been brought under Federal jurisdiction. On the other Islands and on the main, they are setting fire to all the cotton they cannot take away, and sometimes include in the conflagration their dwellings and storehouses.

Some of the regiments of the U. S. troops, encamped a little north of Washington, is going into winter quarters.

Capt. Thos. Kerrigan, of the 25th Reg. N. Y. V., who was wounded on the night of the 15th of Sept., while on picket duty at Ball's Cross Roads, Va., died on Thursday. Capt. Kerrigan is a brother of Col. Kerrigan.

Burnside's expedition was expected to sail from New York to Annapolis to-day. Forty-five vessels, it is said, are employed in this expedition.

W. H. Johnson, a private in the Lincoln Cavalry, arrested as a deserter, was publicly executed on Thursday. The execution took place in the presence of Gen. Franklin's Division. Eight soldiers at first fired, and then four more, before life was extinct in the person doomed to death.

The sutlers are holding meetings and combining, to prevent the passage of the bill for abolishing sutlers in the U. S. Army.

The court-martial for the trial of Col. Kerrigan, U. S. A., has adjourned to Monday.

Efforts are being made for the appointment of T. F. Meagher as Brigadier-General in the U. S. A.

The water will in a few days be let out of the canal at the Georgetown aqueduct, which is to be planked and used as a carriage way. This will increase the facilities for communication with the Virginia shore.

The railway carriages in France are now warmed very comfortably by means of the exhausted steam from the engines.

It is stated that Gen. Sickles has asked that his brigade be made independent of Gen. Hooker's division.

Mr. Johnson, the provisional Governor of Kentucky, in a message to the Confederate Legislature, says he will gladly resign his position when Magoffin shall escape from his virtual imprisonment at Frankfort.

A letter in the Philadelphia Gazette says that a Federal fleet with 25,000 men reached Hilton Head on the 4th, to operate against Charleston and Savannah.

The war feeling in Canada seems to be getting up, more and more.

Gov. Brown, of Georgia, in his message to the Legislature of that State, says that State will now sooner perish than yield, in the struggle commenced.

One day last month, a building of seven stories, in High street, Edinburg, suddenly fell, burying nearly the whole of the inmates in the ruins. The house was several centuries old; the whole gave way at once, collapsing inwards; twenty-two bodies have been taken out dead, and twelve injured.

The N. Y. Journal of Commerce condemns the course of the ultras in the U. S. Congress and says there be Union meetings in New York to sustain President Lincoln and to oppose Abolitionists.

A man by the name of Morgan has been captured by Gen. Heintzleman's brigade.—He had a heavy amount of Georgia and South Carolina money in his possession.—He said he was broker.

On Friday night last, Mr. Madegan, residing in Euclid, Ohio, awoke with a sense of suffocation, and discovered that during his sleep he had swallowed a partial set of teeth, with the gold plate to which they were attached.

A St. Petersburg telegram of the 18th announces severe frost. The ice was fixed beyond Cronstradt. Snow fell in large quantities for two hours on the 16th in Paris.

The chairmen of the various business committees of the U. S. House of Representatives, met together at the residence of Speaker Grow, to consult relative to the progress of the business of the House. Full debate on leading questions is to be allowed during the present session, and an adjournment during the holidays was agreed upon.

Col. Mulligan has been reinstated in the command of his regiment.

DIED.

In this city, on the night of the 5th inst., EDWIN, youngest son of Elizabeth and the late Daniel Monroe, in the 36th year of his age. After long and protracted suffering, "he sleeps the sleep that knows no waking." As a devoted son, an affectionate brother, a kind and indulgent master, his memory will belong cherished.

TO CONSUMERS OF GAS.

The following orders have been passed by the Committee on Light and are published for general information:

- At a meeting of the Committee on Light, the following orders were passed:
1. That the Superintendent collect all gas bills in specie or its equivalent.
 2. That all sales of coke or other materials be made for specie funds.
 3. That all new consumers be required to deposit a suitable sum of money before the gas is turned on, said deposit to remain until such consumers become permanent residents.
 4. That all bills of transient customers be collected monthly.
- THOMAS DWYER,
Superintendent.