

The Local News.

COMMENCED
October 7, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 27, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

THE VOLUNTEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—The Volunteer Relief Association held its regular weekly meeting at Price's Office, Pitt street, yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, Wm. B. Price in the Chair, and H. Peel, Secretary.

The attendance was as usual, and the greater portion of the time of the Association was occupied in the colloquial discussion of the working of the Association.

The Treasurer submitted his report, which was ordered to be made in full to the 1st of January, and submitted to the first meeting of that month.

The Association then adjourned.

THE SUPPLY STORE.—The Supply Store, at lower Prince street, which the systematic charity of the Volunteer Relief Association keeps in operation, continues still its beneficent work. During the week ending with the 20th day of December, it supplied one hundred and fifty-two families with food for some six hundred women and children, made up as follows:

1160 pounds of meat,
33 bushels of corn meal,
824 pounds of flour,
1750 fish, (mackerel and herring.)

This is larger than the distribution of any previous week.

RELIGIOUS SERVICE.—In our notice of the religious exercises of Christmas Day a mention of the services at the Methodist Episcopal church was inadvertently omitted. A large congregation attended that church upon Christmas, at 11 o'clock, and an appropriate and eloquent discourse was delivered by the pastor in charge, Rev. E. P. Phelps.

ACCIDENT.—Our town enjoyed, this year, a happy exemption from the accidents which usually accompany the observance of the Christmas holidays. The only accident of which we hear was a slight one to a lad, son of Mr. John Arnold, caused by the incautious use of a pistol.

RIVER MOVEMENTS.—The U. S. steamer Pensacola left her anchorage off this city at noon to-day, and steamed down the river.—A small oyster vessel, the only arrival, reports all quiet below.

THE MAYORS OFFICE.—Several hours were occupied this morning in the disposal of the cases which came up for adjudication.—They were quite numerous and consisted principally of violations of law arising from the improper use of or sale of intoxicating drinks.

Two cases of selling liquor without license were disposed of by the imposition of fine—a case of drunkenness, but remitting the offender to the watch-house until he grew sober.

Several mercantile licenses were granted during the morning.

ALARMS OF FIRE.—The reflection of the light of the conflagration which destroyed the U. S. stables near Georgetown, last night, occasioned an alarm of fire in this city.

Another alarm of fire was given to-day and called out the fire engines. It proceeded from the appearance of smoke issuing from a house on Royal street, next to the market square.

A U. S. naval chaplain, who has recently visited the great pyramid of Cheops, in Egypt, says that, taking a hundred of the New York churches of the ordinary width, and arranging them in a hollow square, 25 on a side, you would have scarcely the basement of this pyramid; take another hundred and throw in their material into the hollow square, and it would not be full. Pile on all the stone and brick of Philadelphia and Boston, and the structure would not be as high and solid as this greatest work of man.

A son of Mr. Harnaday, of Vienna, who was a private in the Indiana Volunteers, died at Otterville, Mo., on the 18th ultimo. His father telegraphed for the remains, and some days after the arrival of the supposed body the coffin was opened, and it was discovered that another person's remains occupied the coffin.

A clergyman in Boston preached, Christmas Eve, on "The End of the World about 1864 '68." Discouraging to young people, isn't it?

The steamer City of Hartford left New York at 4 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, but in consequence of the ice was able to go no farther than Middletown.

GENERAL NEWS.

The committees of the U. S. Congress, to whom was referred that portion of the President's message, relating to the construction of a national military road across the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, have under consideration a plan for the connection by railroad of the great centres of the railroad systems of the North and South. This plan meets the approval of the President, to whom it has been suggested by Gen. Leslie Combs, of Kentucky. It contemplates the connection, by a direct railroad, of Chattanooga, Tenn., with Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati. To complete this connection, it would be necessary to construct about two hundred and twenty miles of railroad.

Mr. Faulkner was welcomed in Richmond, by the Governor, the Mayor, and a large concourse of citizens. He said in his speech of thanks that Messrs. Mason and Slidell feel confident that "Great Britain will protect them and her flag." Mr. F. thinks "if they are not given up, war will ensue—if they are, the abolition sentiment at the North will overwhelm the administration."

During Gen. Sumner's indisposition, Gen. Heintzleman is to take command of Sumner's division, with his own.

After dark on Friday evening two brothers—Thomas and Peter Branigan, 63d New York regiment—went out near the railroad track to collect some boards for their cook house. An engine, of whose approach they were unaware, struck Thomas, dislocating his hip and otherwise injuring him severely. When Peter was picking up his brother, the engine reversed and hurt him. Thomas was conveyed in an ambulance to the hospital in Alexandria.

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, Mr. Hale, of N. H., made a speech against the release of Mason and Slidell, and in favor of war rather than their release. Mr. Sumner seemed to think Mr. Hale "spoke without knowledge." Both Houses have adjourned until Monday next.

Gen. Hooker, U. S. A., on the Maryland side of the Potomac, has recently tried some Parrot rifled guns he has received. Several were fired across at the Confederate batteries—without, it is said, any damage being done.

The Charleston Mercury says that a sharp engagement took place, on the 19th, near Port Royal, in which a flat boat with a number of Federal troops was sunk and "many killed."

A letter from ex-Gov. Lowe, of Md., was read in the Virginia House of Delegates, on the 17th, and several speeches made in response to the sentiments it contained of sympathy for the South.

The Fredericksburg Recorder complains of the inefficiency of the Potomac blockade, and says the Federal forces have succeeded in placing buoys at the mouth of Aquia creek. A shell thrown from the Maryland shore on Sunday fell in the camp of a Georgia regiment, and wounded two men.

A large Powder Mill for the Confederate States is being built at Petersburg.

Richmond is said to be now one of the busiest and gayest cities in the country.—Numbers of the former residents of Alexandria are there. All kinds of business are prosperous.

Mr. Ely is in high spirits at his release from confinement as a prisoner. He has gone on to Washington. Mr. Vorhees, of Ind., who recently was at Fortress Monroe, has, also, gone on to Washington.

The Richmond Dispatch argues that "all things unite to force on two great battles in a few days—one in Kentucky, and the other on the Potomac lines. The latter seems doubtful.

The United States government is still buying up the steam ferry boats in New York harbor to send them South.

The price of pork is declining in Cincinnati and the West generally.

The N. Y. World says that Com. Dupont and Gen. Sherman, at Port Royal, do not agree in their plans.

Cholera is making great ravages in India.

The N. Y. Herald is very severe upon Mr. Cummings, who has lately had a good deal to do with government contracts, and has since gone or is about to go to Europe.

Sills for the Railroad between Aquia Creek and Richmond are advertised for in the Richmond papers: G. W. Robinson advertises for broom corn: a Confederate reading room has been opened in Richmond.

It has not yet been ascertained who started the hoax of the "great victory gained in Tennessee by Parson Brownlow."

The London News of Dec. 6 says:—"The Confederate war steamer Nashville went into the graving dock at Southampton yesterday to be repaired. The Federal armed mail steamer Arago will, it is expected, come up Southampton Water on Wednesday next, instead of remaining at Cowes, so that the two ships will be "within shot" of each other."

The London Times comments favorably upon the late Message of Mr. Davis to the Confederate Congress, and pays him many compliments.

There is said to be continued trouble in the Indian country among the Creeks, Seminoles, and Cherokees, some taking sides for the Confederate States, others for the U. S. government.

Much interest is excited among the lovers of flowers by the *Bonaparte Juncea*, in bloom at the nurseries of Ellwanger & Barry, in Rochester. The plant has remained in their possession since the foundation of their colossal establishment, about twenty-two years ago—when it was obtained by them from Prince's nursery, at Flushing. How old it was when thus obtained is not known. It continued unchanged, about the size of a peck measure, during that long period, until the 1st of October, when it began to throw up a stalk, which grew so fast, making five or six inches a day, that it reached about thirteen feet—flowers appearing and blooming in succession along nearly the whole surface of the stalk.

The sutlers, it is said, have lost their lien upon soldiers' pay, as the U. S. Paymaster General will soon inform them in a general order, founded upon the act recently passed by both Houses. But they are straining every nerve to defeat the other measures for the curtailment of their oppressive privileges, which are in contemplation.

The public are beginning to laugh at the various statements published in the newspapers, professing to give accounts of Cabinet meetings in Washington.

There was considerable "noise and confusion," several severe fights, some stabbing cases, &c., in Baltimore on Christmas Day.

Considerable portions of some of the New York papers are occupied each day in contradicting the reports of other papers, relative to the Trent affair.

Col. Bordan, U. S. A., has been seriously injured, in Washington, by the bursting of a breech-loading rifle.

Several regiments of Gen. Heintzleman's division marched on Christmas Day to near Pohick church, and saw a small company of Confederate cavalry, and fired a cannon. Nothing farther ensued, and the Federal troops returned to their encampments.

A middle aged Northern woman, and very well dressed, with strongly marked masculine features, was arrested on Wednesday, on suspicion of being a spy, at the instance of Dr. Shippen, having charge of the division hospital in Gen. McCall's division. She pretended to have powders and liquid tonics.

By examination it has been ascertained that nine-tenths of all the sickness in the Federal camp is caused by sleeping on the ground, and the neglect being susceptible of improvement, causes much dissatisfaction among the soldiers.

Various kinds of petitions, resolutions and bills are being referred, in the U. S. House of Representatives, to the Committee on the Judiciary, having for their objects different schemes affecting slavery. Some are out and out radical, others more moderate.

There are no new developments in relation to the Trent affair.

The war fever is still on the increase in Canada. Ordnance has been sent to the cities in the west, and more will follow soon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee is inciting the Irishmen to take up arms and fight for Canada.

The Kentucky House of Delegates has unanimously adopted a resolution to the effect that "all statements in the public prints that Kentucky contemplates the emancipation of her slaves are without truth. Kentucky is attached to the institution of slavery, and can and will maintain it."

Gen. Sumner's injuries are more serious than was at first supposed. His spine suffered so severe a shock from his fall, that it is thought doubtful whether he will ever be again able to mount his horse.

Parson Brownlow is still under arrest at Knoxville, Tenn. His steam engine for his press is used in a Confederate armory for turning machinery.

By the arrival of the steamer Marion at New York, we have late advices from Port Royal and Tybee Island. The Marion transported the Seventh Connecticut regiment from Port Royal to Tybee. The cannonading heard in that direction was from Fort Pulaski, which threw a number of shells at the Marion while she was discharging her cargo. It is expected that Gen. Wright will have command of Tybee. Gen. Stevens, now in command at Beaufort, whose brigade has recently been reinforced by two regiments, is expected soon to make an advance on the mainland of South Carolina for the purpose of occupying a point on the railroad between Charleston and Savannah.

The New York Herald says: "Our Washington correspondents inform us that the soldiers of the Potomac army are beginning to suffer considerably from the cold weather."

The National Intelligencer thinks it possible that Louis Napoleon may consider "the danger of war so imminent as to justify his making an informal proffer through General Scott, to which the latter attaches so much importance as to think he will serve his country by submitting it in person to the government."

The Hudson river is blocked up with ice from Hudson to Albany.

The Santa Fe mail, with dates to the 9th inst., arrived at Kansas city on the 24th inst. The Territorial Legislature of New Mexico was convened on the 2d, and on the 4th Gov. Connelly read his annual message. The Governor recommends all the Indian tribes to be placed on reservations, under very strict regulations, as the only way to prevent the constant recurrence of troubles with them. The message expresses strong Union sentiments.

The New York World says:—"It is certainly remarkable that, with a war raging along the whole Southern border, not a single outbreak, so far as we can learn, has occurred among the blacks. Should this fact continue during the war, it will serve to modify many theories respecting the blacks which have been widely disseminated by the negrophilists of the Tribune and its disciples."

The New York Herald says:—"If the abolitionists should succeed in their endeavors to make the present war one of emancipation, the people in certain localities who are now fighting harder and risking and suffering more in the cause of the Union than those of any other section would be unconstitutionally and unjustly robbed of over five hundred and ninety thousand slaves, valued at the lowest estimate at upwards of two hundred and ninety-five millions of dollars."

DIED.

At Warrenton, on the 11th instant, JOSEPH MARION ENGLISH, aged about 36 years. He was kind and generous in his disposition, and his memory will be fondly cherished by all that knew him.

At Warrenton, on the 25th of November, JAMES HENRY, only son of Joseph H. and Mary E. Watson, aged 5 years.

COAL! COAL!! COAL!!!
250 TONS ANTHRACITE COAL,
EGG AND STOVE WHITE AND RED ASH,
received, and for sale at the office on King,
near Water street, lately occupied by Wise & Co.
T. J. McHAFFEY,
B. T. PLUMMER,
Agents.
dec 27—dlw*

RED ASH COAL.
130 TONS RED ASH COAL, cargo of Sch. S. G. King, from Philadelphia, now delivering at Vowell's Wharf, for sale by LEWIS MCKENZIE, Union street.
dec 26—3t

FOUND.—A BUNCH OF KEYS, which the owner can have by applying at this office, and paying for this advertisement. dec 27—3t