

The Local News.

COMMENCED
October 7, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 30, 1861.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

RELIGIOUS.—The services at the several churches of the city, now open, were attended yesterday by large congregations.

At the Methodist Episcopal church, Washington street, the usual impressive exercises took place in the morning and evening, the pastors, Rev. Messrs. Phelps and Lemon officiating.

Grace church (Protestant Episcopal), Patrick street, was opened also for communion service, Rev. E. R. Lippitt preached, and the services were conducted by Rev. G. A. Smith and Rev. Kinsey J. Stewart.

At the First Presbyterian church, Rev. Elias Harrison, D. D., preached an impressive discourse.

At the Baptist church, the usual services were held, and discourses delivered by Rev. Mr. Bitting.

At St. Mary's (Catholic) church, the usual services were held, and an appropriate sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Charlier, S. J., of Georgetown, who officiates as pastor in the absence of the pastor, Rev. P. P. Kroes, S. J.

The prayer meeting at the Young Men's Christian Association was also well attended.

BUILDINGS OCCUPIED.—A considerable number of buildings are now occupied under authority of the U. S. military force, stationed in this city. We give a list of them:—the depot and workshops of the Alexandria and Orange railroad; workshops of the Manassas Gap Railroad Company; negro jail, upper Prince street; Aspen Grove, upper end of King street; private residence, corner of Washington and Duke streets; residence of F. L. Smith; residence of Edward Daingerfield; school-house and residence of the Messrs. Kemper; Mansion House; Marshall House; residence of Jas. S. Hallowell, Fairfax street; private residence, corner of King and Columbus streets; residence of Ben. H. Berry, adjoining building corner Prince and St. Asaph streets; Mr. Emerson's late residence, corner of Wolfe and Water streets; Tenneson's old restaurant, Cameron street, opposite Market square; residence of Rev. James T. Johnson; residence of William H. Fowle; residence of George W. Brent, and a few others.

ABOLITION OF "PASSES" TO WASHINGTON.—We learn that hereafter "passes" from the Military Governor of this city will not be required as a pre-requisite to visiting Washington city. This arrangement does not, however, affect, in any degree, the arrangements adopted by the Provost Marshal of Washington, so that, although no pass is required to visit Washington, a pass must be obtained at the office of the Washington Provost Marshal to return to Alexandria.

RIVER MOVEMENTS.—The Potomac river has been very quiet in this neighborhood for some time past. The steamer Pensacola and Brig Perry are still at anchor off this port. A few U. S. tugs have steamed by, but there have been no arrivals this morning.

The Lecture that formerly took place at St. Paul's Church Lecture room, on Wednesday evenings at 7½ o'clock, will, for the future, commence at the same place at 3½ o'clock P. M.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.—No cases of interest came up this morning.

G. W. Brakefield, of the Sixth South Carolina regiment, one of the wounded prisoners taken at Dranesville, died on Saturday. He is the third of the wounded prisoners who have died since the battle.

On Saturday morning, a skirmish took place between two foraging parties, who encountered each other near New Market bridge. The fight lasted an hour, when the Federal troops report, the Confederates were compelled to retreat. There were none killed on the Federal side, and but two wounded. The Confederates left three dead bodies on the field, and, it is reported, carried away a number of dead and wounded.

The New York Times, in its comments on the financial policy of the U. S. government, states that the associated banks will go no further with their loans to the government than the third fifty millions. Of the new scheme of finance proposed by Mr. Chase, the Times remarks that "it would force three-quarters of the banks into liquidation, and bankrupt the whole community."

GENERAL NEWS.

Satisfactory reports are given in relation to the welfare of the recent emigrants to Hayti. Among these latter emigrants are persons from Canada, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Kentucky, the Carolinas, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. It is stated that the U. S. government had got authority to establish a coaling station at Curacao. The Haytian republic is at peace. The difficulties with Spain are arranged, Hayti having to pay \$25,000 indemnity.

The story of "Lieut. Hurd, of the Second Maine regiment," about the escape of himself and Col. Coreoran from the Charleston jail, during the conflagration, was "a hoax." There was no Lieut. Hurd in the Second Maine regiment, and a despatch from Charleston to the Richmond papers states that no prisoners escaped during the fire.

James H. Hurlburt, belonging to the First Connecticut regiment, who was taken prisoner at Bull Run, was unconditionally released at Richmond in consequence of the services he rendered after the battle to some of the wounded. He has returned home and brought with him a number of maps of the country and of the defenses of Richmond, which were drawn by a Union man in that city. He had then concealed in the lining of his pantaloons.

It is said that on Saturday, at a dinner given by Mr. Seward to the Diplomatic corps, "the termination of the Mason and Slidell difficulty, was the subject of general congratulation."

Rather extensive shipments of ship timber to foreign countries are now going forward.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times who professes to have been skeptical hitherto, is now satisfied that at "some fixed time, not remote," the various divisions of the "grand army" will take part in a general movement extending from the Atlantic to the Mississippi.

The London Shipping Gazette of the 11th states that four new iron clad first class steam frigates are to be built with all possible despatch. They are to be steam rams as well as steam frigates. The projecting stem under water, is to be twenty feet in advance of the stem above the water line. These fresh additions to the royal navy are to have thirty-six Armstrong hundred pounders on gun deck and twenty-one on spar deck. These vessels are all to be larger than the famous Warrior.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press (Forney's) paper says: "If within the next three weeks the returning messengers of the English Government shall find the Confederates routed in Virginia, destroyed in Kentucky, annihilated in South Carolina, Florida, and Texas, and driven out of Missouri, there will be no recognition of the Southern Confederacy."

The recent great fire at Antwerp destroyed \$2,000,000 worth of property and killed twenty firemen. It lasted one night and a day.

Ship Tarquin, arrived at Boston, from Calcutta, brings as part of cargo, 3663 bags saltpetre and 4020 bags rice. Both these articles will pay at present figures, particularly saltpetre, which has more than doubled its value here while the ship has been making the passage.

"God save the Queen," was hissed down at a concert in Philadelphia last week.

The boa constrictor at the Garden of Plants, Paris, which swallowed its blanket some time ago, and disgorged it about a month afterwards, has just died, owing, as supposed, to its having retained so indigestible a mass such a length of time in its body.

The Philadelphia Evening Journal says: "The Trent matter causes much talk and some dissatisfaction, but it is generally believed this solution of the question is wise, as ensuring us a continuance of the kindly feelings of Great Britain. The surrender of the prisoners has been contemplated by Mr. Lincoln and some of the members of his Cabinet from the moment their arrest was announced."

In explanation of the opinion that impelled him to return home, Gen. Scott says that "the opinion in England and France was universal" that war between the United States and Great Britain was inevitable, and that he shared it himself until he reached this city. He further states that the "cause of the extraordinary anger of England is the conviction on the part of the great body of English people that the United States are resolved upon war to punish England for her concession of belligerent rights to the Confederate States."

Collector Barney, of New York, has received permission from the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury to grant clearances to vessels for Accomac and Northampton counties, in Eastern Virginia, "in cases where he has every reason to believe that the trade is legitimate."

On Thursday night a fire broke out in the kerosene oil works on the Newtown creek, back of Hunter's Point, N. Y., and soon spread into a most destructive conflagration, enveloping the whole of the extensive premises. There were 3,000 barrels of oil in one of the buildings, which became ignited, and the barrels bursting, the oil flooded the premises like a sea of fire and consumed everything. Loss \$120,000.

"THE WEIGH OF THE WORLD."—The Pound Sterling.

Samuel R. Putnam, a retired merchant of Boston, died of paralysis at his residence in that city on Tuesday morning. He was son of Judge Samuel Putnam, of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and the father of the late Lieutenant Putnam, recently killed in the Battle of Ball's Bluff.

Englishmen in this country are said to apprehend effects upon the Queen from her husband's death. Her hereditary tendency to insanity is feared.

It is reported by the friends of Carl Schurz, Minister to Spain, that he intends to resign and return home.

Lady Franklin, with her niece, Miss Craycroft, left San Francisco for Kanagawa, Japan, on November 21.

A Chicago paper insists that Cairo shall be made the headquarters of a department, including Illinois, Indiana, and Southeastern Missouri.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says there is a "renewed clamor for an onward movement to Richmond, upon the ground that after the yielding of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, there should be some conspicuous exploit by the Federal army, or else the Southern Confederacy will be acknowledged by Great Britain."

The N. Y. Herald "entirely approves" of "the wisdom and propriety" of the course of the U. S. government in the release of Mason and Slidell. It is thought that the administration papers will generally acquiesce in the surrender.

From Fortress Monroe, we learn that considerable excitement existed at Yorktown, the Confederate forces there believing that Gen. Burnside's expedition was designed to operate there.

The Richmond Dispatch states, on the authority of a special order from Gen. Magruder, that the defensive works at Yorktown are now in a condition to resist the most powerful attacks.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Herald says, "The ultra abolitionism faction are smothering their vexation at the settlement of the Trent affair, and preparing for a tremendous effervescence in Congress."

On Saturday the officials in Washington "laid an embargo upon the transmission by telegraphic dispatches of anything whatever in reference to the Mason-Slidell affair. Not even private dispatches, alluding to the settlement, were allowed to pass. It was desired that the official dispatches of Lord Lyons should be allowed to go out by the steamer, unanticipated by any popular announcement of the result."

A dispatch from Boston says:—"The public here received the announcement of the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell very philosophically, having generally anticipated such a result as the most direct means of averting a foreign war."

WAR NEWS.

Dispatches from Charleston to the 26th instant state that a fleet of twelve Federal gun-boats had entered the North Edisto, and approached to within twenty miles of Charleston, at a place called White Point. Demonstrations were made against the South Carolina troops under Gen. Evans stationed there and at other points in the vicinity. Five Federal steamers had anchored off Cole Island, and an engagement was hourly expected there.

It is reported that the English steamer Gladiator, laden with a large quantity of arms, ammunition, &c., had entered a Confederate port.

The brigade under command of General Wadsworth went to the vicinity of Fairfax Court House, on Friday, and brought away a large quantity of forage. The only evidence of the presence of the Confederates there was a few mounted pickets.

Col. Burnside's Expedition, fitting out at Annapolis, increases in men and vessels, every day. There are now twenty vessels ready, and of all sizes, from a ferry-boat to a big ship.

Reports from Kentucky state that there are only fifteen hundred Confederates at Cumberland Gap under Col. Rains. The pickets extend to six miles on the Kentucky side of the Gap. It is stated that a fight took place on Tuesday last between one hundred and eighteen Confederates and forty-seven Federals, in which sixteen of the former were wounded, but none of the latter. Confederate accounts of the situation of affairs at Bowling Green, Ky., also indicate that no immediate engagement is expected there.

From Missouri, it is reported that Gen. Price is retreating towards Arkansas.

The heavy cannonading near Gardner's bay, which was the subject of a telegram from Stonington, was caused by Gen. James and others of Gen. McClellan's staff testing the James cannon.

The Federal troops at Tybee are still building entrenchments on the island, while Fort Pulaski kept a continual fire on them, but without doing any damage as yet.

It is said that Gen. Scott did not see the Emperor Napoleon at all, while he was in France. His conversation was with Prince Napoleon.

The Baltimore American (Union and Administration paper) which has, we believe, opposed the surrender of Mason and Slidell, now says:—"The sudden announcement that the difficulty in relation to the Trent affair has been finally settled has taken most persons by surprise, and is received with emotions, varied in their character, &c. The U. S. are demonstrated to be *legally* in the wrong; and a good deal to our chagrin—it must be confessed—are turned out of court upon what is little better than a "quibble" in international law, and that "quibble" is made use of by a power that in all times past trampled down all law and all precedent in going onward to the accomplishment of its purposes."

The Paris shoemakers have recently sent off a splendid pair of top-boots to Garibaldi, as "a testimonial of their admiration."

A melancholy bachelor in Waldo, Oregon, has sent his photograph and a letter to the New Bedford ladies, and requests them to communicate with him on the subject of matrimony. He says—"I am 29 years old. I am six feet one inch high and weigh near 200. I am well able to take care of a wife."

Sunday preaching now at Barnum's Museum, New York.

A chemical invention, to take the place of steam, has been submitted to the Emperor by a French savant, who claims that it is without odor, requires no fuel, and twenty barrels of it will carry a vessel to India.

There was a report at Havana when the Karnak sailed, of an outbreak at the city of St. Domingo against ex-President Santana. It was said to have been quite serious, and that many lives were lost. A party from the country endeavored to aid the revolted citizens, but were prevented by a Spanish force sent out against them.