

THE LOCAL NEWS.

THE LADIES' RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—The following communication from the Ladies' Relief Association to the gentlemen's Volunteer Association, organized for the same charitable purposes, furnishes an account of the operations of the ladies' society since its organization. Such operations are twice blessed—blessed on earth and blessed in heaven:

ALEXANDRIA, Jan. 1, 1862.

To the Gentlemen of the Volunteer Relief Association:

The ladies of the Relief Association unite in grateful acknowledgement for the donation of \$30, tendered them by the hand of your Secretary, (Mr. H. Peel.) As a demonstration, we send you our last monthly report.

The following is a report of the receipts, expenditures and appropriations. We have distributed, in the last month: clothing and bed clothing, 212 pieces; shoes, 18 pairs; calico, 116½ yards; cotton, 53 yards; cloth, 37½ yards; woolen and cotton flannel, 28½ yards; coffee, 75 pounds; sugar, 109 pounds; flour, 3 pounds; meal, 3 pounds; tea, 11½ pounds; butter, 2 pounds; soap, 18 pounds.

The receipts since the organization of the Society, \$119 01; expenses, \$109 61; balance in hand, \$9 40.

In our last report to you, we neglected mentioning a donation from Mr. J. Wheat of 20 pounds of coffee.

In conclusion, we would mingle our thanks with yours to the Great Giver of all good, that he has enabled us to dispense comfort and happiness to the needy, and sincerely desire that His blessing may ever accompany us in all our charities.

From the ladies of the Relief Association,
MISS C. V. DAVIS, Sec'y.

THE SUPPLY STORE.—The supply store of the Volunteer Relief Association continues its noble work—feeding the hungry. The charity distributed last week to three hundred and fifty-nine families, composed of over seven hundred persons, the following rations:

1180 pounds of meat;
32½ bushels of corn meal;
840 pounds of flour;
1780 fish.

AMUSEMENT.—The Alleghenians, Vocalists and Swiss Bell Ringers appear again to-night in one of their unique performances at Lyceum Hall. They have just concluded a series of forty-eight successful concerts in the city of New York, and discourse a variety of songs, ballads, arias, cavatinas, &c., from a repertoire of the choicest modern selections. The Swiss bells constitute a most entertaining portion of the performance. The concert last night was most successful, and the house will doubtless be filled to overflowing again this evening.

ARREST.—Dr. J. B. Johnson, of this city, was arrested on Saturday last, and carried before the provost marshal, charged with uttering "seditious language." He was at once discharged.

The sun came out this morning bright and warm. The snow on the ground and the ice in the river soon showed the effects of the sun's rays.

There continues to be skirmishing in Western Virginia, between parties of the Federal and Confederate forces. A dispatch from Wheeling says that the Confederates had burned the village of Sutton—from which the Federal troops had previously retreated.

The village of Fall's Church, in Fairfax county, Va., is represented in a letter in the Philadelphia Press, as "a deserted village"—a scene of wreck and disaster—and the old Church much injured in the interior.

A new line of steamers will soon commence running between Boston and Baltimore.

A private soldier of the U. S. A., named Lanahan, was hung yesterday, near Washington, for killing, some time ago, a Sergeant, named Brennan.

John C. Halter, the bugler, injured by Capt. Turner on Friday last, is doing well, and the physicians at the hospital in Washington, think he has a fair chance for recovery, although the ball has not yet been extracted.

Twelve of the launches from the Washington Navy Yard have gone through Georgetown per Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. These launches are manned by thirty men each.

Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, Adj. General, U. S. A., is the person in whose family a lady has been detected in correspondence with the Confederates, as the story went. The Washington Star says the whole tale is false, from beginning to end. It was one of the "they says."

GENERAL NEWS.

In the U. S. House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. R. Conkling rose to a privileged question, in relation to the reply of the War Department to the resolution of inquiry whether any investigation had been made in the Ball's Bluff disaster. That Department, it is said, had returned an evasive answer, and it was the duty of the House to compel, if possible, an investigation in the blunder which he regarded as the most atrocious military murder ever committed in our history. The subject had been made an issue between the regulars and volunteers, and a letter had appeared in the New York Times asserting that if the friends of Col. Baker sought an investigation, the friends of Gen. Stone would make an inquiry recoil upon the originators with detriment to the memory of Col. Baker. Mr. Conkling reviewed the circumstances connected with the battle, and offered a resolution declaring the reply of the War Department unsatisfactory, and directing the Secretary of War to furnish the information called for. Mr. Conkling's remarks led to a discussion, which ended in the adoption of his resolution for returning the communication to the Secretary of War, and requesting him to send a reply to the original resolution, by a vote of 79 to 64.

Corporal Lusby, of the First Pennsylvania regiment, was on Saturday arrested, at the instance of Capt. Clow, of Gen. McCall's staff, and placed in irons, to await charges of desertion and disloyalty. He has been employed in the division bakery. On New Year's day he went away without leave, married the daughter of a Confederate living at Langley, and thereafter not only refused to do further work, but expressed a determination, at the first opportunity that offered, to go over to the Confederates and fight on their side.

On New Year's Day the lady of Baron Stoeckl, the Russian Minister, presented to him a fine heir, and to the Emperor a new subject. Mrs. Stoeckl is an American, nee Miss Howard, of Massachusetts.

Mr. Ely, the member of the U. S. House of Representatives from Rochester, N. Y., lately confined as a prisoner in Richmond, is now on a visit to his home. He was received with an ovation, and is made quite a hero of.

Samuel Hirst and Robert Reed, his son-in-law, of Fairfax county, were on Saturday brought to Capitol Hill, in Washington, as prisoners, having been captured by Gen. Smith's division.

The pickets of Gen. Hancock's brigade were fired at by the Confederates on Saturday night.

A battalion, numbering 228 U. S. troops (regulars), with officers, from posts on the Pacific frontier, arrived at New York on Saturday in the steamer Northern Light, under command of Major A. J. Smith, of the 1st cavalry. They are awaiting orders as to their future movements, the impression of the officers being that they will go to Washington.

Considerable sickness of a typhoid character prevails in and about Washington.

The Knoxville Register, of the 27th ult., says: Brownlow was arrested and remanded to prison by Col. Monsarrat, commandant of this post, immediately on his discharge by the civil authorities.

As usual in New York on the day succeeding "New Year," there was comparatively little activity in business circles. Many of the leading merchants did not make their appearance on 'Change at all. The Bank officers held another meeting, with a view to bring about concord of action with Mr. Secretary Chase. The only thing they have agreed to, thus far, however, is to accept his demand notes as "currency," and to appoint a committee to go to Washington to have a talk with Mr. C. personally.

The Prince of Wales is, notwithstanding his youth talked of to fill the position of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, vacant by the death of the Prince Consort.

Rev. Dr. Bethune, who is now in Europe, has been invited by the American and Foreign Christian Union to take charge of the American chapel in the city of Rome.

Preparations are now so far completed that at any moment within the next two weeks the country may be prepared for the most stirring and stupendous events of the war.

The damage done by the recent fire at Nashville, is not so great as was at first reported.

The drug store of G. W. Lewis, and the stationer's store of Wm. Mann, in Philadelphia, were destroyed by fire yesterday. Loss \$75,000.

Of the ten lines of steamers plying between Northern ports and Europe, the Arago and Fulton are actually the only two vessels that have American owners, and of the seventy thousand passengers transported across the Atlantic, in 1861, only three thousand four hundred were conveyed in American ships.

The Boston Post says: "Hardly a day passes without an announcement from Washington of some wedding in the army. Generals, majors, lieutenants, captains, corporals and high privates, all seem to be busy marrying and giving in marriage. The only difference appears to be that the privates wed not only singly but in battalions. At least there was, the other day, an account of the marriage of forty soldiers in the grand army of the Potomac."

Some of the leading members of the New York Club gave Mr. Russell of the London Times, a dinner at the club rooms, on New Year's eve. The event, we are told, created some bad feelings in the Club.

The rumor is confirmed that Mr. Carl Schurz has resigned his position at the Court of Spain, and will return immediately to this country to take a command in the army.

Several cases have lately occurred in this place of the seizure and destruction of liquor owned by persons who do not conform to the military regulations concerning the sale of liquor to soldiers, &c.

Most of the newspapers in the Valley of Virginia and the upper part of the state generally, have been either discontinued entirely, or are reduced in size, and published only occasionally.

The poor in New Orleans continue to be liberally supplied with provisions, by the bounty of the citizens.

Parties in Washington, said to be implicated in the conveyance of intelligence to the Confederates, have been arrested. Some persons were arrested a few days ago, on the lower Potomac, charged with being concerned in transporting clothing and quinine from Maryland to Virginia.

Col. Kerrigan's friends deny that any further evidence against him has been or can be obtained.

There seems to be some approximation to a regular exchange of prisoners by the belligerent parties.

A commissioner has been sent by the U. S. government to the Indians tribes in the West.

The Committee on the Judiciary in the U. S. Senate have reported in favor of Mr. Stanton's right to the seat in the Senate now occupied by Gen. Lane of Kansas.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., has reported in the U. S. Senate, a bill to prevent army officers from delivering up fugitive slaves to their masters.

The potato crop in Maine, this year, has been abundant, and of most excellent quality. A great business is being done. The average price about 40c. per bushel.

The defalcation of Artell, the clerk in the County Collector's office in St. Louis, Mo., is about \$30,000. His property is said to be worth more than that sum.

It is denied that the Confederate flag was carried in the procession that welcomed Gen. Prim, in Havana. The flag was hoisted—but the Cuban authorities had it taken down, it is said.

A British war steamer arrived off the harbor of Annapolis on Monday—with a large force on board.

Various dangerous counterfeit notes on Rhode Island and Vermont banks are noticed in the newspapers.

There is no business interest which has suffered more severely by the present war, than that of newspaper publishing. The great source of "supplies," for newspapers, advertising, has been nearly dried up at the South, except in particular localities—and has most materially diminished at the North. It will take years to bring this interest back to its former condition.

The shores of Gaspé bay, in Canada, have recently been strewn with the remains of the cargo of some wrecked vessel.

Civil war, in its worst aspects, appears in portions of Kentucky and Missouri. Persons in arms are arrested and threatened to be hung—and then retaliation threatened upon prisoners. Gen. Halleck, in St. Louis, has suspended his recent order for levying contributions upon certain citizens of that place, to support reported refugees coming into his lines.

A battle in the Indian Country between Union and Confederate forces, the latter

The U. S. fleet near New Orleans and Lake Ponchartrain are said to have recently captured some Confederate steamboats.

A letter in the Philadelphia News says that there are over 400 patients in the Mansion House hospital in Alexandria, which is under the superintendence of Dr. Porter, U. S. A.: that the Free Masons connected with the U. S. A., had a Masogic Supper at Phoenix Hall last week, and are talking about getting up a new Lodge; and complains of the carrying off of the relics of the old Washington Lodge so that the U. S. officers and soldiers could not get them for their use. Another letter from Alexandria, in a Philadelphia paper, says that Christ Church is now in the possession of the U. S. military authorities, who use it for church purposes, and have service there every Sunday—the army chaplains officiating.

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, objection was made to swearing in Mr. Starke, elected a Senator in the place of the late Senator Baker, on the ground that he is a "secessionist." The case lies over until to-day.

"Immediate legislation towards the inauguration of direct taxation," is urged by the National Intelligencer.

The burning of the Richmond Theatre was caused by an incendiary. It is said, it will be immediately rebuilt.

Complaint is made in some of the Richmond papers at the rowdiness in the streets of that city.

WAR NEWS.

On Saturday last, a force of Confederates under Gen. Jackson, arrived opposite the town of Hancock, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and attacked a regiment of Federal troops stationed there. After a skirmish the Federals retired to the Maryland shore to await reinforcements, and in the meantime the Confederates destroyed the railroad, the bridges and the telegraph lines, thus cutting off communication with Cumberland. Gen. Lander arrived with reinforcements during the night, and on Sunday morning Gen. Jackson demanded the evacuation of the town by the Federal troops, but the demand being unheeded, his troops attacked the place with shells, and continued the bombardment up to the latest advices received, without causing much damage to the town or injury to the troops. The Federal forces responded to the attack with their artillery, but with what effect is not known. Further reinforcements were sent up from Frederick yesterday, and all the troops comprising Gen. Banks' division were under marching orders.

A telegraphic dispatch states that on the 4th inst., at Huntersville, Pocahontas county, Va., four hundred Confederate cavalry and three hundred infantry were dispersed, and a large quantity of army stores destroyed, by a force of Federal troops—number of the latter not given. The dispatch states further, that after the capture of the stores, and hoisting the U. S. flag, the Federal troops returned to Huntersville.

Reports from Kentucky state that the bridge over Green river is completed. As the movement of Gen. Buell's army depended on the completion of this work, an early advance may now be looked for. The Confederates in the eastern portion of the State have retired before Col. Garfield, who is advancing towards Prestonburg, where Gen. Humphrey Marshall is stationed with a large force. Gen. Schoepff is reported to have made several ineffectual efforts to draw Gen. Zollicoffer into an engagement outside of his entrenchments at Somerset.

From Missouri we have the report that Gen. Jennison, with a body of Confederate troops, on their way to Sedalia, had passed through and burned the town of Rose Hill, in Johnson county.

By an arrival at New York, from Port Royal, we have the Federal report of the battle at Port Royal ferry on the first inst. The advance was made by Gen. Stevens' brigade, four thousand five hundred strong, supported by several gunboats. After a short action the Confederates fell back to their fortifications, which are said to be very extensive and defended by twelve thousand men. The Confederates under a flag of truce had one hour to bury their dead. The Federal loss is reported at only eight wounded. Gen. Stevens is holding his position awaiting reinforcements from the North.

A despatch from Cairo, dated the 5th inst., says:—"Six hundred submarine batteries have been planted between Columbus and Memphis by the Confederates. A gentleman who witnessed the experiments made with these batteries stated that they were en-