

The Local News.

COMMENCED
October 7, 1861.

ALEXANDRIA, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 13, 1862.

PRINTED AT THE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE OFFICE.

SUNDAY.—The weather was exceedingly warm for the season, the temperature being that of a pleasant spring day.

The Churches were well attended, and the exercises of the day were participated in by devout congregations.

St. Paul's (Protestant Episcopal) Church was opened for religious worship, the first time for many months. The congregation was large, and the services of a most solemn character.

Rev. K. J. Stewart read the services, and followed then with a short discourse appropriate to the reopening of services in the old sanctuary. Rev. G. A. Smith then preached the discourse of the day, from the 9th psalm 9th verse:

"The Lord, also, will be a refuge for the oppressed; a refuge in times of trouble."

We are glad to see the sanctuaries of the city again opening their hallowed courts.

Christ Church was open in the afternoon for the usual service by the U. S. Army Chaplains.

At the Baptist Church, Rev. Mr. Bitting preached morning and evening to a large congregation.

At St. Mary's (Catholic) Church, Rev. Mr. Tueffer officiated, and preached at morning service, in the absence of the Rev. P. P. Krues, S. J.

Rev. Elias Harrison preached at the usual services at the First Presbyterian Church, Fairfax street. The usual prayer meetings were, also, well attended.

The usual services were held at the Methodist Episcopal Church by the pastors, Rev. Messrs. Phelps and Lemmon.

ARREST.—Some of the pickets of the Federal Army, yesterday arrested George W. Hutobins and Henry Brown, two civilian citizens of this place. They had been for some time within the lines of the Confederate Army, pursuing their avocations. Since the arrest they have been in custody of the Provost Marshal.

We learn that intelligence has been received of the death of Mr. JOHN T. JOHNSON, of this place, who has been residing for some months past in Prince William county, Va. Mr. J. was an active, energetic citizen, and had many warm friends. His death will be lamented by all who knew him. He was ardent and impulsive in his feelings, but had a kind heart and generous disposition.

Heavy cannonading was heard down the river on Saturday night and early yesterday morning. The steam frigate Pensacola, it was said, yesterday weighed anchor in Washington's reach, and proceeded down the river about 2 o'clock, A. M. A schooner which came up at about one o'clock, reported that the frigate had passed the batteries and gone on at about 5 A. M. It was also said that the batteries had fired at her without effect, except in one case. Another report, current to-day, is, that the Pensacola has not passed the batteries, but is ashore on Mattawoman shoals. The National Intelligencer of this morning says that the steamer Pensacola arrived at Annapolis last night.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.—The Mayor's Office was crowded this morning; the cases, though numerous, were of a petty character, being mostly drunkenness, disorderly conduct, &c.

If those having the power here, would force several scores of lazy, worthless, insolent negroes to go to work, or properly behave themselves, they would be doing, in that respect, good service.

It is said that the former residence of Mrs. Beteey C. Mason, at the north end of the town, was broken into on Thursday last, and some valuables taken off.

RIVER MOVEMENTS.—The U. S. steamer Harriet Lane is anchored off the port. The schr. Shining Light, Capt. Walker, arrived here to-day with a cargo of oysters and terpepins from the Eastern Shore. This is the first arrival from that section of Virginia since the opening of the war. The Shining Light reports passing the Pensacola in tow of two steam tugs off White Point, near the mouth of the Potomac river.

The N. Y. Herald says: "Parties are so equally divided in the House of Representatives that conservative members claim a majority of only about five votes on perfectly defined questions between themselves and the radicals, while on side issues they are in constant danger of being outvoted. The radicals in the Senate have a majority of at least six votes. Nevertheless, they do not dare to adopt universal emancipation as a key note, but steadily adhere to the policy of undermining the government on more plausible grounds."

The Orleans princes have returned to Washington.

The small pox continues to prevail to a very considerable extent in Washington.

Mrs. Sweeny, residing near Washington, was thrown from a wagon on Saturday, and instantly killed.

Preparations are being made to receive some female prisoners at Fortress Warren.

The Northern papers all say that the simultaneous "advance" movement of the federal army has been commenced in several quarters.

People were "making their jack" in New York last week, out of the money, panic-selling gold, shaving treasury notes, &c., &c.

The Union merchants in Baltimore have formed a new Flour and Corn Exchange.

The seventy-nine bales of sea island cotton brought from Port Royal, were sold at auction in New York last week, the auctioneer announcing that the cotton would be sold for cash, invited an offer for the first lot, of five bales, 1,435 pounds. The bidding commenced at 40, quickly went up to 57, and then more slowly to 63 per pound, at which price it was knocked down. Lot No. 2, nine bales, 2,765 pounds, at 56½. Lots 3 to 7 inclusive, 46 bales, 15,206 pounds, at 62½. Lot 8, five bales, 1,566 pounds, 56½. Lot 9, unmerchantable short staple, twelve bales, 4,043 pounds, 27. Lot 10, unmerchantable short staple, two bales, 697 pounds, was sold at 18. The proceeds of the entire sale were \$14,071 98½.

Capt. Tansill, of Prince William county, Va., has been released from Fortress Warren. J. Hanson Thomas, of Baltimore, declines to accept the release offered him for thirty days.

Joseph G. Cogswell, LL.D., has resigned the superintendency of the Astor Library, in New York, owing to infirm health and advancing years.

Mr. Blair, from the Military Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives, is to report a bill relative to the collection of direct taxes, the confiscation of the property of persons in arms in the Confederate States, and the release of the slaves of all such persons, and the hiring of them to employers leasing government lands or on the public works, &c.

The Van Wyck Committee on contracts had several sutlers from Blenker's division before them, inquiring about the tax which it has been alleged has been levied upon them. One sutler testified to having paid one hundred dollars down on the first of each month to Blenker's Adjutant. Some regiments, it appears, have two or three sutlers, who each were paying "taxes." It has not been developed what Blenker's Adjutant did with the money.

"Contrabands" are reported as escaping from Loudoun County, Va., and thereabouts, into the Federal lines, at the Point of Rocks.

The Washington Republican of to-day, says: "Treasury notes are held throughout the city at from 5 to 6 per cent. discount.—One and two dollar bills are in great demand, and in extensive circulation. It is almost impossible to obtain specie in the city for Treasury notes."

In the nine Government hospitals in Georgetown, Alexandria, and Washington, according to the last report, there are 1,347 patients. One-third, at least, of this number are sick with typhoid fever.

Rittenhouse & Fant report a decline in gold—buying at two per cent. premium and selling at three—treasury notes 2½@3 discount, and exchanges on New York 1-

A soldier, in Washington has been arrested for drawing a pistol upon a citizen, and threatening to kill him.

Cheever, in his recent lecture in Washington, is reported in the Washington Star as saying that the whole class of slaveholders in the South ought to be exterminated, and other such sentiments. He berated the military authorities for not advancing, and said that if the President refuses to issue a proclamation for emancipation Congress should do it.

It appears that three of the soldiers who were in the boat which was run down by the tug on Wednesday night, in Annapolis harbor, and who were supposed to be drowned with four others, who were with them, are alive, having managed to make their way to shore some distance below the harbor.

The assertion that Gen. Fremont has been called before the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War is unfounded. He will probably not be examined until the investigation of the battle of Bull Run is concluded.

The Rev. Dr. Butler, lately of Washington, has accepted a call to the Church of the Advent in Philadelphia.

Mr. Cheever delivered yesterday, in the Capitol, at Washington, an abolition sermon, speaking of the delay being occasioned "by the acceptance in high places of such mulish conservatives as Jannes and Jambus, who poisoned the ear of Pharaoh."

The police in Washington have "come down" upon the hackmen in Washington—make them conform to city regulations.

Anxiety is beginning to be expressed for the safety of the British steamer Rinaldo, having on board the Confederate ambassadors, Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and their secretaries. The Boston Journal says:—"It was understood by the pilot who accompanied the Rinaldo from New York to Provincetown, that she was only to proceed to Halifax with her passengers, but so much time has now elapsed since she left, that, if safe, she must have gone to England." There she has probably gone.

The St. Louis Republican reviews General Hunter's course since he has taken command in Kansas with much severity, charging him with having sanctioned the outrages perpetrated by Col. Jennison in Jackson and Cass counties, where seventy farm houses, some of them the homes of Union men, have been destroyed.

The U. S. State Department is in receipt of a despatch from Count Rechberg touching the seizure of Mason and Slidell. Austria declares the proceedings not in accordance with international law. No other Continental Power, except France, has yet spoken, but similar despatches from Prussia and Russia are looked for by an early steamer.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Herald says:—"On Thursday night, between eight and nine o'clock, while the army of the Potomac was enveloped in a dense fog, a mysterious occurrence took place. It was ascertained that the halters of many of the horses in the First New York cavalry regiment, in Gen. Franklin's division; of the Eighth Illinois cavalry regiment, in General Sumner's division, and of the batteries were unloosed, the horses running all over the encampments. Upon examination it was found that the halters had been severed with sharp knives, and that several individuals must have been engaged in the business.—The First New York cavalry had nearly two hundred horses turned loose, five or six of which have been lost." Some persons living in the neighborhood have been arrested.

It is said that despatches have been received at Washington confirming the report, mentioned elsewhere, of the total disbanding of Humphrey Marshall's Confederate troops in Kentucky, upon the approach of the Federal troops.

Rumors prevail that the Federal troops have taken two steamers, proceeding up the Cumberland river with munitions of war, clothing and provisions for Gen. Zollicoffer's forces. The locality of the seizure is not stated.

Gen. Meagher is now in the camp of the Irish brigade, U. S. A., near Washington.

On Sunday, it was reported that Gen. McClellan's health was improving—that he was quite convalescent.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Herald has a long letter on what is called "the conspiracy of the radicals against the administration," which sets out with declaring that "a fermentation exists in political circles in Washington, which menaces serious trouble within the next few days; the sum and substance of the agitation is slavery; but the ostensible attacks upon the administration include only side issues; discontent has finally crept into portions of the army, particularly among Western and Northwestern officers and their men, with respect to the inactivity of Gen. McClellan; this is fostered, by every means, by the abolition ultras." The writer adds that "the military in the District of Columbia and Virginia are profoundly indignant at the outrages and abuse to which they are subjected by radical agitators. Just in proportion to the experience of officers, they fully approve of and endorse General McClellan's course."

The flag of the U. S. Consul at Southampton, England, Captain Britton, was hoisted at by a detachment of the Royal Engineers who were marching past his house on the 19th of the December. He had hung the usual emblem at half-mast in observance of the death of Prince Albert, when the company gave three groans as they passed, and many of them pointed their rifles at it with menacing gestures. Captain Britton resented the insult by making an immediate complaint to the Commander-in-Chief.

At the time of the death of the young King of Portugal, Don Pedro V., a month or two ago, there were sinister rumors in Lisbon, and grave suspicions were entertained that he had been poisoned. For some reason or other the crime was attributed to Spaniards, or to persons under Spanish influence. For a day or two the excitement in Lisbon against the Spaniards was very great. Many of them left the city, and there was a talk of obliging all to leave, for the sake of avoiding a mob. But an official publication declared that the King's death was from natural causes, and the popular agitation was allayed. It appears to have been suddenly revived again. Those who believe the King was murdered have hinted that his young wife, who died a couple of years ago, was also made way with. The bare suggestion of such crimes, in the court of a civilized nation, in an age like this, is appalling.

The Democratic Convention of Indiana, has passed a series of resolutions re-affirming the old party doctrines and creed of the Democratic party and deprecating "a war for conquest or subjugation, and denouncing abolitionism or interference with slave property."

A villain named Edmand Price, a private in the Fifty-first N. Y. Regiment, has been arrested near Annapolis, for seizing, carrying off, confining and attempting to injure, a little school girl while she was on her way to school.

Senator Wilson spoke in his place in the Senate of "a man, one Cyrus Seymour, who, with the consent of the Secretary of War, was appointed brigade sutler of the Sickles' brigade, and other sutlers pay him two thousand two hundred dollars per year, and he does not furnish a copper. No such officer is known to the law. Another sutler was appointed inside the brigade. Another man was appointed sutler to seven regiments, and he was making seventy-five thousand dollars a year, underletting the whole."

The late telegraphic canard of an attempt to blow up the Mansion House Hospital in Alexandria, is published everywhere—and frequently without explanation or contradiction. The Philadelphia News contains an account of another attempt to fire the Mansion House, the guard firing at the incendiary—the escape of the incendiary—the placing of a double guard round the building—an order from Gen. McClellan to close all the stores on the lower story of the building, &c., &c. We have heard nothing of all this here.

DIED.

On the 12th instant, of Catarrh Fever, MARIAN SUMTER, youngest daughter of Clement S. and Emily M. Arnell, aged nine months and one day. The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral on Tuesday morning next, at 10 o'clock, from the residence of her parents, No. 127 Princess street.

WANTED—By a respectable small family, a small DWELLING HOUSE, in a good neighborhood. Address N. B., Gazette Office. Jan 13—1t*

FRIENDSHIP FIRE COMPANY.—An adjourned meeting of the Company, will be held at the Company's Hall, this evening, Monday, at 7 o'clock. JOHN MUIR, Corresponding Secretary. Jan 13—1t

MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the Bank of the Old Dominion, will be held at their Banking House, on Tuesday, 14th day of January next, for the election of Directors to serve for the ensuing year. P. E. HOFFMAN, Cashier. Dec 31—td