TWENTY-NINE YEARS AGO.

A MEMORABLE DAY FOR OLD ALEXANDRIA.

Reminiscences by a Resident of the Stirring Times at the Outbreak of the War—Survivors of the Brave Men Who Went to the Field.

[Written for The Times.]

ALEXANDRIA, May 24.—[Special.] While THE TIMES' man was on his rounds in the western portion of town to-day, looking up recent improvements and building going on out there, he went over and meandered through the burying grounds, where the profusion of flowers and groups of people here and there recalled the fact that this was Memorial Day, when it is customary for some to strew the graves of soldiers with flowers—quietly generally—without ceremony.

These groups were composed of middle aged people and women with wrinkled faces and hands, silvery hair and becoming infirm from advancing years. A few men representatives of the Lee Camp, I also noted to be there at the same time, with similar duties to perform.

TWENTY NINE YEARS AGO.

The twenty-fourth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, was a memorable day for old Alexandria. At that time Alexandria had a population of twelve thousand five hundred souls, and in mercantile pursuits there seemed a bright future about to dawn for her.

War came on as a storm in summer. It was seen afar off, and when it came people here were prepared to make the best of it.

UNDER THE SHADOW.

Alexandria lay right under the shadow of the capital, and when the heat of political and sectional troubles became unbearable she felt their evil influences, deplored it as much as any, and when her hour of suffering and trial came she bore it as she should have done.

In this sketch the aim is merely to chronicle the principal scenes that exasperated the people there prior to the real bloodshed of the late war, which has been told in another chronicle already, although there were many political meetings about this time, caused by two sorts of emergencies, and it was first necessary to put the military on a strong footing. There were two military companies here in the autumn of 1859—the Mount Vernon Guards and the Alexandria Riflemen. These resumed their drills and added many names to their recruiting rolls, and in December another company, the Old Dominion Rifles, was formed of young men—the bone and sinew of the "old dorg." Captain M. D. Corse was put in command of this new company, while Captains Morton Marye and Samuel H. Donaldson commanded the Guards and Riflemen, respectively.

"TO HARPER'S FERRY.

These latter companies went to Harper's Ferry at the time of the John Brown affair, and there got a taste of camp life and real discipline. Captain Corse was a much-esteemed citizen, and had served in the Mexican war.

FORT WASHINGTON.

During the first week of January a force of marines was sent down to Fort Washington, the old garrison on the other side of the river, within sight of here. Workmen were also sent there to put the place in order and make it impregnable in case of attack. The guns were mounted, and the old place was soon itself again.

ALLEGIANCE TO VIRGINIA.

The action on the part of the government in this instance called forth considerable comment, and Colonel Marye's company (the Riflemen) resolved "that our first allegiance is due, and shall be, rendered to Virginia; that we obey her commands and abide with her fortunes; and that in her defense against all assailants whatsoever, we are ready to risk life and all that renders life desirable; and that for the vindication of her sovereignty and her honor, we pledge the faith of soldiers and the affection of sons."

ARTILLERY COMPANY.

The new artillery company, Captain Delaware Kemper, passed like resolutions a couple of days later. About this time Mr. James Jackson, who kept the hotel at Fairfax Court House, came here and purchased the old Marshall House on the southeast corner of King and Pitt streets, opening it on the 19th as a first class hotel—the kind that old Virginia gentlemen might wish to stop at, etc. The house was of three stories, with dormer windows, and had a back building of two stories. [The interior was destroyed by fire some years ago; the walls are still standing.—R.]

THIS WAS THE QUESTION.

The question was secession or not. The Unionists here prevailed, and on February 2nd, there was a grand Union torchlight procession and speaking by George William Brent and others. In his speech Major Brent said that "if the time should come when the safety of Virginia demanded the severance of the bonds which united her to the Federal government, she would be a unit, and there would be no division among her sons." The same ideas that Hon. Lewis McKenzie expressed in the House of Delegates, about the same time.

Major Brent was chosen to the convention—the reference to secession, was carried.

BATTALION ORGANIZED.

Soon after this the military here were organized into a battalion, with Captain Corse as major commanding. Lieutenant Arthur Herbert became captain of the Rifles.

These companies, with the artillery and the five line companies, had the customary Washington birthday parade. Dr. Herald Snowden read Washington's farewell address from the portico of the Lyceum, and Mr. K. Kemper delivered an oration, and at night there was a military address ball. On the 25th of March Captain De Vaughn's company was presented with a flag by the ladies. Dr. Snowden presented this, and they took it and went to Washington, to visit their old commander, Captain M. Snyder. They elicited considerable favorable comment. The flag was the stars and stripes on one side, and State coat of arms was on the other side.

FALL OF SUMPTER.

Stirring times came with the news of Sumter's fall, which was on Tuesday evening. The excitement was intense. The news was joyful, and the artillery company fired a salute in honor of its capitulation.

THE FLAG RAISED.

On the 17th a Confederate flag, stars and bars, was raised over the Marshall house at the instance of Mr. Jackson, the proprietor. The staff was nailed to the chimney that ran up from the outer wall, and so high and so prominent, that it could be easily outlined in Washington. The flag was raised in a wind, and at a given signal it was shaken out, and gracefully its folds caught the brisk afternoon breeze wafted across from the South, and as it waved in the bright sunlight, the crowds standing in King and Pitt streets cheered, and the mighty cheer echoed far down the street, while the artillery out in the jail lot two squares beyond pealed forth its salvos too. The excitement after this was so intense that it was deemed best to call the battalion and inaugurate a detailed guard to watch the movements of the Federal troops now gathering in force all around north of the Potomac. This was considered the best thing to do under the circumstances, and on the night of the 23d a detail was sent out on the turnpike to the junction of the two roads just this side of Jackson City at the south end of Long bridge. These pickets, it is believed, were nearer to Washington than any Confederate pickets ever got.

WATCHING THE FEDERALS.

They were ordered to watch the movements of the Federal troops, and this is about all they did. One day Judson—"Ned Buntline,"—the author of the "Jack Harkaway" stories, was brought in by one of the guards, who took him at Little Bridge. The man was merely asking some questions which he hoped to get answered for a Northern newspaper article. He was returned to the place and ordered to git. There was no interruption in communication between the two cities as yet. In fact several extra stages had been recently put on the route, for the mail boat at night went on by without stopping.

Sunday night two heavy guns at Fort Washington told that the government had taken charge of the river, and that vessels passing would have to call there for examination, etc.

SENTRIES STATIONED.

Just afterwards one of the Alexandria Guards, for sentries were now placed all over town and along the river front, noticed that the lading of a tug boat with produce meant something for Fort Washington. He accordingly ordered the captain to hold up, but the captain's reply was in throwing off the hauser and giving the craft a shove. The guard intercepted him, however, the Guard was called out, and the vessel was not allowed to depart.

COMPANIES COMING IN.

The Leesburg and Front Royal companies came down about this time, and so did Captain Ball's Fairfax cavalry and the Fairfax Rifles, who did guard duty too. Adams' Express shipped large quantities of arms and amunition through here southward about this time, and preparations for war were surely forthcoming after the discussing of these things. A couple of orders from the upper counties caused several companies to go up there, and returned next day. They had pleasant times, however, and considered such a necessary excursion.

The troops here were put in good quarters, barracks being provided for each of the companies in different sections of the city. The lyceum opposite where the monument now stands, was the rendezvous, and sentries were placed one and two blocks apart. On the 12th the Pawnee dropped down and anchored off Cameron street. She opened her ports and showed her metal. What all this meant nobody seemed to know, but all agreed that Uncle Sam still possessed the Potomac.

VOTE TO WITHDRAW.

At sunrise, on May 23d, the polls were opened and the vote on the ordinance of secession begun. The day was one of intense excitement, as can easily be imagined.

Washingtonians had threatened to take Captain Jackson's flag down for some days, and he being a very resolute man, vowed he would kill the first man who attempted it. He had, it is said, placed a small cannon up stairs in his house and loaded it with slugs to use in case a body of troops came there after the flag, but this he had been prevailed upon not to do, and finally consented to take the cannon down in the yard. This was the most conspicuous, but not the only flag in town. It was the one that was seen from Washington, and when hundreds of telescopes pointed at it on that eventful week, there is no wonder that there were threats made by some.

The election was orderly, but excitement ran high, and the result was quite unanimous.

That night there was a crowd to greet William Gardiner Cazenove the delegate elect, and the old gentleman, at his fine old hospitable home on King and St. Joseph street, united in the big guns, and there was a feast in store, for Mr. Cazenove had considerable Holland gin, Jamaica rum and wines of his own importation, and plenty of it, and on this night he was not the man to hold back.

The company remained both late and early, and the cavalry officer so long that his men waiting for him got gobbled up by Heintzleman's corps, which came down the pike. They also tell a story of the old gentleman just honored with the election. The servant who went up with his coffee or toddy, as it was, casually remarked that "de yankees heb done come." "What is that?" exclaimed the old gentleman, jumping from his couch. The negro repeated what he had said, and, sure enough, as Mr. C. looked out of the front window there came the Yankees marching up the street to the airs of martial music.

He did'nt stop for his toddy, nor anything else. He ran down stairs and out, and only when the negro with his pantaloons overtook him out crossing Hunting Creek, did he decrease his gait, and then he kept exclaiming hysterically to the man: Come on! Come on! Don't you hear me? Gimme, gimme my pants!!! He was assisted to don them, and he crossed the creek, and got to Richmond some way or other.

THE ALARM GIVEN.

It was between 4 and 5 o'clock that hazy morning that Willie Morrill, of the Riflemen, standing guard on Cazenove's wharf caught the sound of moving oars, and then came his challenge "who goes there?" twice repeated. He fired his piece, and a volley replied from the boat. The alarm was given and the have companies formed at the corner where the monument now stands, and marched out Duke street over Stone bridge. Colonel Terrett in command of the city received a flag of truce, and accepted the terms which Mayor Price agreed to also.

The Old Dominions, who were out on the old Fair grounds, did not get the order to advance when the others did, and came near sharing the fate of Captain Ball's cavalry, or having a fight with a full regiment. Ball's men were taken to Washington, and there confined for awhile in the old capitol prison. They were later released. Before the Alexandria troops got out of town a portion of the New York First Zouaves, of the column that came over by river, were marching up the street, and the Jackson-Ellsworth tragedy had been enacted.

WORKS ON SHUTER'S HILL.

The Federal troops stayed in the city for some time, and then began to throw up works on Shuter's hill. The five infantry companies and one of artillery, the battalion marched out as far as Watkins' mill, where they halted and hailed the train, which they were customary to send up the road at night for safe-keeping. They were at Manassas by the afternoon, and that night slept as comfortably in the old box cars in which they came as circumstances would allow them. They now got their equipments, and there, on the 10th of June, they formed, with reinforcements from the neighboring localities, the Seventeenth Virginia Infantry, 997 men on roll. Company A, the Alexandria Riflemen, Captain Morton Marye; Company B, the Warren Rifles, Captain Robert H. Simpson; Company C, the Loudoun Guards, Captain Tebbs; Company D, the Fairfax Rifles, Captain William H. Dulany; Company F, the Mount Vernon Guards, Captain S. H. Devaughn; Company F, the Prince William Rifles, Captain G. S. Hamilton; Company G, the Emmet Guards, Captain J. E. Towson; Company H, the Old Dominion Rifles, Captain Arthur Herbert; Company I, the Accomac Guards, Captain S. W. Prentman; Company K, the Warrenton Rifles, Captain B. H. Shackelford. Major M. D. Corse was made colonel of the regiment, William Mumford lieutenant-colonel, George William Brent major, with Dr. M. M. Lewis surgeon and Dr. Harrold Snowden assistant surgeon, Lieutenant A. J. Humphreys adjutant and W. W. Athey sergeant major.

THE MEMORIAL.

The services of these men in the four long years following these incidents are recorded—if not here, on high. Many of them—General Corse, Captain Bob Knox, Captain Arthur Herbert, Major Duffey, W. P. McKnight, Dick Latham, George Wise, Mark Price, Billy Hall, Alexander Lyles, Edgar Warfield, John R. Zimmerman, Chas. S. Taylor, Jr., Captain Herbert Bryant, Captain Henry Clagett, Charles Sipple, John J. Jamison, Dick Avery, Isaac Rudd, Captain Hooe, and others who went out with that little battalion that Friday morning, are worthy townsmen and prominent merchants and tradesmen here now—all of whom I pass on my daily rounds. Others are dead. To the eighty-odd killed in battle the "Appomattox" memorial is erected. This evening it is garlanded with flowers when veterans visited it, and the chaplain again offered an invocation for the souls of those who "died in the consciousness of duty faithfully performed."

BELL.

OVER THE SEAS.

Many Matters by Mail and Cable From Other Lands.

Among the recipients of the Queen's gracious birthday honors will be Judge Johnston, of Quebec, and Judge Puisent, of Newfoundland, who will be knighted, and Mr. Hall, British delegate to the Maritime Conference, who will be made a knight commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Stanley's Cap.

Mr. H. M. Stanley has sent to the Stanley and African Exhibition the white cap which has been so often represented. This cap was designed and made by Mr. Stanley himself from a piece of tenting at Fort Bodo, in the Great Forest, and was worn by him during the last two years of the expedition. The cap is shown in a case in the main hall of the expedition, together with a sword richly mounted in gold and ivory, presented to Mr. Stanley by the late Sultan Seyyid Bargash, and was carried by him across Africa, and was always recognized as a talisman by the Arabs. The explorer has added many other interesting objects to the exhibition.

The Czar and His Subjects.

It is related of the Czar, says an exchange, that when he was staying at Gatchina a man working in the grounds of the castle, every time he saw the Emperor approaching, ran away and hid himself. This occurred so often that the man was taken to task and and asked the reason why he did this. He replied: "I am so afraid that the Czar, if he sees me, will take a great dislike to me, when perhaps I should be sent off to Siberia, so I hide myself to keep out of danger." This ingenuous answer shows how the Great Father, as he is some times styled, is regarded by his subjects.

Sister Rose Gertrude.

Sister Rose Gertrude writes from Kaluri Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands to England that she is not going Nolokai, at any rate at present. "There is a new leper station here, and the President of the Board of Health says I shall be more useful here." She describes with much feeling the moving of the "suspects," as persons are called when the symptoms of leprosy first appear. "They cried so," she writes, "of course they knew that all hope was over."

Dinner to Stanley.

The London Chamber of Commerce gave a dinner Wednesday evening in honor of Henry M. Stanley and his colleagues. Sir John Lubbock presided. Miss Tennant, Mr. Stanley's fiancee, was present. Mr. Stanley in a speech said he desired to reiterate his former statement of the value of the possession of the mouth of the Congo. He made an affecting appeal in behalf of the civilization of Africa. He deplored that there was any question in dispute between England and Germany.

Parisians and Bull Fights.

The new bull ring opened in Paris excites much criticism. On the opening day there was a cry of disgust when a horse was gored in a shocking manner, and led out of the arena bleeding. Several ladies fainted at the sight. One of the bull fighters was twice trampled on by the bull and covered with dust. The authorities may yet interfere to prevent this barbarous sport, although there are Spaniards and Spanish-Americans enough in Paris to give it ample support.

Improvement in Pipes.

This year is the two hundredth anniversary of the invention of the improved tobacco pipe—the bowl, the tube and the mouth-piece. Up to the year 1690 the only medium of enjoying the fragrant weed was by means of a cylindrical instrument fashioned from the crude clay, and smelling of the earth earthy. The inventor of the present combination pipe was a physician, Dr. Vinarius, of Vienna. The first tobacco pipe manufactory was established in 1690.

The Art of War.

Probably no simple aggregation of figures gives such a wonderful idea of the advance in modern warfare as the description of the new Krupp gun which has just been ordered for Cronstadt. It throws a ball weighing 2,000 pounds a distance of twelve miles. The gun is forty-four feet long, and it can be fired twice a minute. Every time it is fired it costs the Government $1,500. It will not be used for the purpose of firing Government salutes.

The Czar's Esteem.

At last the heirs of the late Rear Admiral Baldwin are permitted by the act of Congress to receive a gold and diamond snuff-box presented to the Admiral a number of years ago by the Czar of Russia as a mark of his esteem.

A Healthful Stimulant.

The London Lancet recommends a beverage made from the new Kolanut as a substitute for tea and coffee. It contains very little tannin, not much more caffeine, and its power of rehabilitating after fatigue, and allaying the pangs of hunger, are such that it might be used by an army on the march in place of regular rations.

Bismarck and His Temper.

Bismarck says that he has to have some immediate relief when his fits of temper come on; and that on one occasion, when he had been sorely tried in a conversation with the old Emperor, he ran into a room in the palace and smashed a wash-bowl. He frequently asks people: "What do you do when you are angry? How do you manage?"

Isabella Still Recognized.

Ex-Queen Isabella, who arrived in London on Tuesday, visited Queen Victoria at Windsor, and afterward attended the State ball at Buckingham Palace.

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Simply apply "Swayne's Ointment." No internal medicine required. Cures tetter, eczema, itch, all eruptions on the face, hands, nose, &c., leaving the skin clear, white and healthy. Its great healing and curative powers are possessed by no other remedy. Ask your druggist for Swayne's ointment.

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