

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 5.

The National Intelligencer has an article on the "Retaliatory Code," and speaks of the "caution with which such awful remedies should be threatened or invoked on the one side or the other." It says, "if the waters of this Marsh are once unsealed, they may spread into a sea of blood."

The Old School Presbyterian General Assembly have resolved that it is not expedient at this time to take any decided action with reference to a re-union of the old and new School Presbyterian Churches; but they recommend the cultivation of fraternal intercourse and mutual good will and friendly feeling.

The increase of the German element in the present population of this place and the neighborhood, is proved by the publication and circulation here of a weekly German newspaper called the Alexandria Beobachter, or Observer—which is entirely in the German language.

Maj. Sherburne, and Captains McGowan and Gamble, were assailed yesterday, from a house between the Aqueduct and the Chain Bridge, by a party of soldiers and others.—They called up a guard and had the party arrested, not, however, before Maj. S. had wounded a man who threw a stone at him.

At the late election in this county, W. W. White, A. C. Harmon, J. L. Dyson, J. R. Sherwood, C. C. Wade, Wm. B. Lacy, and J. A. Sisson were elected Magistrates. Oliver Cox was elected Surveyor. H. S. Wunder overseer of the poor. J. H. Russell, Commonwealths Attorney.

The vote in Fairfax county for annexation to Western Virginia was 155 for it; against it 30. Geo. Tucker was elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax.

The New York Times says, "The order putting the department of Major General Dix under the command of Major General Hooker, was issued on Monday. It is presumed that Gen. Dix will ask at once to be relieved from duty."

The Chicago Canal Convention was largely attended, and had a harmonious session. Resolutions were passed in favor of the construction and enlargement of the canals between the Mississippi river and the Atlantic.

The 16th Virginia regiment, U. S. V., formerly commanded by Col. J. T. Close, have been mustered out of service, the regiment never having reached the minimum in numbers required by the regulations.

The result of the primary Ward meeting in Baltimore for the election of delegates to the nominating Convention for Congress, is in favor of the friends of H. Winter Davis.

The prisoners confined in the jail in Washington recently made an attempt to escape, but were foiled in their attempt.

The immigration of foreigners into New York continues to be very large.

The drouth is very severe in North Carolina.

WAR NEWS.

The dates from Vicksburg are to Sunday last. Gen. Johnston was reported to be advancing between the Yazoo and the Big Black rivers, with the intention of retaking Haines's Bluff, and breaking the Federal communications on the north. On Wednesday, the 27th, one army corps took seven days' rations and marched out to meet him. His force is variously estimated at from fifteen to thirty thousand. It is reported through Confederate sources that General Grant, having been unsuccessful at every point of the Vicksburg defenses, had fallen back upon the line of the Big Black, and was fortifying his position there to prevent Gen. Johnston from crossing. The siege operations on the river side were kept up on Saturday last, the mortar boats firing day and night upon the Confederate works. Another dispatch, however, states that there had been no material change in affairs up to Sunday, and that there had been no fighting for several days, but that the siege works were being energetically pushed forward by Gen. Grant.

A dispatch from Washington contains extracts from a Richmond paper of Wednesday, stating that General Grant had demanded the surrender of Vicksburg on Thursday last, but the Confederate commander replied that the garrison would not surrender. Federal advices up to Sunday represent that the siege was progressing with reasonable satisfaction, and that there was no immediate pressure upon Gen. Grant's rear. Gen. Banks was investing Port Hudson.

Col. Kilpatrick has made another raid in lower Virginia. At the conclusion of Stoneman's raid, it will be remembered, Col. Kilpatrick's command remained at Gloucester Court-house. Last week he was ordered to again join the main army, and on Saturday morning, May 30th, he started on the march to Urbanna, on the Lower Rappahannock.—He destroyed considerable property, and arrived at Aquia Creek on Wednesday morning.

On Wednesday morning the Confederate pickets on the Rappahannock were considerably strengthened.

The Boston Traveller has the following.—A gentleman just from New Orleans, holding a position in connection with Farragut's fleet, gives an account of an expedition up the Red river to Shreveport, where the Confederates had a navy-yard. Two iron-clads of great power were found upon the stocks. They were blown up and destroyed. It is believed they were powerful enough to have destroyed the whole Mississippi fleet. The iron for them had been sent from Richmond.

The British prize steamer Dolphin about which there has been considerable talk on the other side of the Atlantic, has been condemned by the Prize Court at Key West, as a lawful prize. Enfield rifles and sabres were found to constitute a portion of her cargo. Several valuable prizes have been captured recently—among them the Spanish steamer Union, the English steamer Eagle and a number of schooners.

The U. S. ship De Soto, Capt Walker, overhauled on the 17th ult., in the Gulf of Mexico, the Confederate steamer Cuba, which had sailed with a valuable cargo. The Cuba was set on fire by her officers and crew, when they found escape impossible, and taking to their boats, their vessel was burned and sunk. The boats were picked up by the De Soto and the officers and crew carried to Key West.

Lieut. Com. Walker, who took possession of Haines' Bluff after the abandonment of the works at that point by the Confederates, states that he found one gun there which he spiked, and burned the carriage. He also destroyed some forty tents and a steam saw-mill. On his arrival at Yazoo City he burned three vessels at the navy yard there, which were in process of construction. One of these was the Mobile, a screw vessel of which the frame was completed ready for planking—another—the Republic—which was being fitted out for a ram; whilst the third was the "monster" vessel spoken of by Admiral Porter, three hun-

dred and ten feet long and seventy feet beam. The latter does not, however, appear to have been in a very forward state, as we are told that she was "on the stocks." The Navy Yard with its mills and machine shops had been fired previous to the arrival of Lieut. Walker; but he completed the work of destruction, and burned large saw mill above the town. Most of the public stores he states had been removed. Whilst the vessels comprising the expedition were on their return to the Mississippi they were attacked near Liverpool Landing, and had one man killed and eight wounded.

Gen. Ullman, commanding the negro troops in General Banks' department, has issued a card, in which he reports Captain Sawyer, Ninth Conn. volunteers, and provost marshal at St. Bernard's Parish, as having used violent invectives against the organizing of colored troops, and doing all he could to prevent the recruiting of such soldiers. General Ullman says he will report him to Secretary Stanton.

The U. S. Government has at last determined to reform the mode by which the Army of the Potomac has been furnished with newspapers, and to break up the monopoly by which the soldiers have been forced to pay ten cents a copy. The cost of any paper sold is not to exceed five cents a copy. The privilege of acting as newspaper agents is to be confined to discharged or disabled soldiers, and given to the highest bidder, the amount to be paid into the proper hands as a hospital fund. It is understood, also, that the privilege of supplying officers' messes at headquarters is also to be awarded to the highest bidder on similar terms.

Admiral Foote has been detached from his bureau and ordered to relieve Admiral Dupont as commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Admiral Foote will sail from New York in the Tuscarora. The report that General Gilmore is to relieve Gen. Hunter as Commander of the Department of the South, is renewed, and General Gilmore is at Washington making preparations for some new duty.

The city government of Portsmouth was organized yesterday. The inauguration of the city government of Norfolk will be delayed about ten days, from some cause not explained. The keys of the public buildings have been given up by the military authorities, and the necessary order to subordinate military officers will soon be promulgated.

The Princess Metternich made her appearance in the streets of Paris lately in a dress of Havana-colored silk, ornamented with leather trimmings, studded with steel-headed nails.—The bonnet was of the same material, ornamented in a like manner; and so was the parasol. (But, what color is "Havana-color?")

The large collection of paintings belonging to Rev. Henry Ward Beecher were sold at the Derby Gallery, New York, on Wednesday evening. The catalogue comprised about 50 pieces, some of which sold for good prices.—The whole collection netted several thousand dollars.

The Provost Marshal General has appointed Major G. O. Haller, 7th U. S. Infantry, Acting Assistant Provost Marshal General for Maryland, headquarters at Baltimore.

Information has been received that the Confederate steamer Alabama boarded a British sloop off the coast of Campeachy on the 12th of May.

The subscriptions to the National Loan yesterday amounted to \$1,357,300.