

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIII.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 24, 1862.

NUMBER 133.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.
OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Stone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

GENERAL NEWS.

The N. Y. Tribune notes the arrest of Lieut. Patrick Higgins, of the Irish Brigade, for conspiring with Confederate prisoners to release them from Camp Douglas for a consideration. For a certain sum, to be paid in advance by each prisoner who desired to regain his liberty, he would assist them to pass the guard and escape. One man, it is said, agreed to pay him \$150; others, smaller sums—the price of liberty having no fixed rate. Colonel Mulligan discovered the treachery of the speculating Higgins through one of the prisoners, and he was arrested.

The N. Y. Herald, complains "of the continued violation of the proclamation of neutrality, issued by the Queen of Great Britain, by her subjects"—and says "that these violations will have to be accounted for at some future time." It also refers to the capture of the Circassian and Bermuda laden with arms and ammunition, and adds that every thing shows "the perfidy of English speculators."

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, Mr. Sumner's resolution was adopted directing the judiciary committee to consider what legislation, if any, is needed to "protect persons of African descent in Washington from unconstitutional seizure as fugitive slaves, or from seizure by disloyal persons." A bill was introduced by Mr. Wilmot, of Penn., requiring an oath of allegiance from all persons claiming fugitive slaves, and compelling the claimants to swear to their past loyalty; false swearing to be punished with imprisonment of not less than five years, and a fine of not less than five hundred dollars. Fugitive slaves are also to be allowed to testify in their own behalf. Another bill, introduced by Mr. Wilson, of Mass., proposes to reorganize the courts of the District of Columbia. This probably has some connection with the subject of fugitive slaves.

On Thursday evening, about 6½ o'clock, Maj. Watrous, residing at a respectable boarding house in Prince street, New York, was shot by his partner in business, Mr. Corson, residing at No. 30 East Fourteenth street. No cause was assigned for the act. Corson escaped, and had not been found at a late hour. Maj. Watrous made his deposition to Coroner Wildey, and was expected to die during the night.

Four States, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Illinois, have already responded to the call of the President for more U. S. troops, to the extent of the proportion of each State. The War Department, it is said, will confine the increase mainly to additions to be made at the recruiting offices.

Edward Everett, in company with a party of friends, visited Camp Douglas, Chicago, on the 16th. Mr. Everett, after leaving the camp, visited the grave of Douglas.

The suit of R. C. Weightman against the corporation of Washington, for damages on account of personal injuries resulting from the fall of the bridge over Rock creek, near Georgetown, some years since, has been concluded in the Circuit Court, the jury giving a verdict for \$2,000 in favor of Mr. Weightman.

It is stated that Maj. Gen. Wool has awarded the contract for raising and saving the remains of the Merrimac, as well as all other wrecks in Norfolk harbor, to Mr. Sanborn, the present agent of the Adams Express Company for the Army of the Potomac. Measures will be taken at once, it is said, to commence on the Merrimac.

The weather is getting very warm down South—and the heat complained of. On the coast, fish, oysters, terrapins, and early vegetables are in great abundance.

The anxiety which pervades the public mind while great battles are impending at Richmond and Corinth, has had the effect to depress all movements in stocks in the cities, north of us, the Baltimore market closing heavy and inactive yesterday.

The Confederates last week set on fire and consumed several hundred hogsheads of tobacco, and the depot and warehouses at City Point, Va.

The clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Orleans, have come to a unanimous determination to make no change whatever in the morning service of their church.

A "confidence man," calling himself Collins, has been arrested in Wheeling. He is said to have gone about getting goods under false pretences, and writing lying letters for the newspapers.

Officers who arrived from New Orleans on the steamer Rhode Island report that the city was quietly held, but that if there was a Union man there, he would have to be sought for by a strong light.

Mrs. Dandridge, better known as Betty Bliss, daughter of the late President Taylor, is a resident of Winchester, Va.

The dismissal of Dr. J. J. Butler from the U. S. army, announced in General Orders No. 84, is intended as an example to officers guilty of drunkenness.

The Norfolk Day Book announces the illness of Mayor Lamb, and records the death of John H. Good, a citizen of Portsmouth.

It is said that M. Geoffrey, first secretary of the French legation in Washington, has sailed for Europe, to communicate to his government the result of the observations made by M. Mercier during his recent visit to Richmond.

The Courrier des Etats Unis, speaking of the visit of the French Minister to Richmond, and the speculations still indulged in by the press regarding it, reiterates its conviction that the real object of the journey was simply a "diplomatic reconnoissance."

By an official note of Surgeon Simpson, U. S. A., it appears that medical gentlemen of undoubted loyalty and good professional reputation are wanted for service in the army as Acting Assistant Surgeons.

A number of Confederate officers, when about crossing the Missouri river, have been captured by Gen. Totten.

Near one thousand passengers sailed from San Francisco last week, for Oregon and British Columbia.

The New York World says that, though small in size, the Alexandria Gazette contains all the news of the day condensed.

The provost guard in Washington are engaged in suppressing some of the gambling houses in that city.

Geo. S. Dennison has been appointed by the President, the U. S. special agent to open the port of New Orleans, and the ports of Beaufort, N. C., and Port Royal, S. C., are soon to have collectors.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, sitting at Harrisburg, has decided that the elections held in the camps of the Pennsylvania volunteers, last October, were unconstitutional.

Gen. Lovell, lately commanding the Confederate forces at New Orleans, has published a letter, in which he states "that the capture of New Orleans is not due to any want of energy or earnestness on his part."

A letter from Fauquier county, Va., written by one of Col. Geary's command, and published in the Northern papers, complains of the bad quality of the shoes furnished to the soldiers.

A dispatch from Washington states that it has been ascertained, from an authentic source, that the expenditures of the U. S. government from April, 1861, to the present time, have not averaged a million of dollars a day.

The steamer North Star has arrived at New York with half a million of treasure from California.

J. W. Allen (Dem.), and not Haynie, as before reported, has been elected to the U. States House of Representatives from the ninth district in Illinois.

Samuel B. Ruggles is now in Washington, pressing upon the attention of Congress the proposed enlargement of the Erie and Oswego canals in New York, to a size sufficient to admit the passage of mail-clad gunboats, for the defence of the Northern and lake frontier.

The New York State Canals have been opened, and a large trade on them commenced.

This day is the anniversary of the occupation of Alexandria by the U. S. troops.

A bill has been reported in the U. S. Senate to establish a general system of bankruptcy.

The Raleigh Journal states that the family of Jeff. Davis are now in Raleigh.

The amount of wheat engaged as freight for the Great Eastern is 150,000 bushels.