

The Alexandria Gazette,

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 13, 1862.

GENERAL NEWS.

Intelligence is received at Memphis that as soon as the news of the defeat of the Confederate fleet and the surrender of the city reached St. Francis river, Arkansas, a steamer under Gen. Hindman's orders, went up that stream and destroyed several thousand bales of cotton. Some 400 bales were burned at Madison, Ark., about 40 miles west of Memphis. It is said that as many as 30,000 bales of cotton have been burned up that river.

The Great Koh-i-noor diamond is in the London Exhibition. The case in which it lies is gently rocked by mechanism, so that the Koh-i-noor is exposed in different positions to the light, and flashes with a brilliancy before unknown.

In the U. S. House of Representatives, yesterday, the committee on ways and means reported back the tax bill, recommending that the Senate amendments be non-concurred in, and that a committee of conference be appointed, which report was adopted. This was done with the view of arriving at a speedy agreement between the two Houses. The bill in relation to the employment of convicts in the District Penitentiary was amended and passed, and the bill providing for the construction of a penitentiary, jail, and house of correction for the District, was defeated, the enacting clause having been stricken out.

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, a resolution was submitted declaring that Gen. Buckner, of Kentucky, now in Fort Warren, ought to be transferred to the civil authorities of the U. S. to be tried for treason, "whereof he stands indicted." The resolution, however, after debate was laid over. A supplement to the act abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia was introduced, after which the Pacific railroad bill was taken up and discussed.

The Louisville correspondent of the N. York Herald says that Gen. Kirby Smith is reported as marching on Nashville, that Beauregard is aiding the movement, and that a portion of the Confederate army lately at Corinth has been sent to reinforce Smith.

The pistols of Daniel O'Connell were recently sold at auction in London. With one of these, in 1855, O'Connell shot Colonel D'Estere. An inscription inside the pistol-case, stated that D'Estere was promised £1,000 down, and £1,000 for life, by the Dublin Orangemen, if he killed O'Connell. The pistols brought only £1 18s.

The N. Y. Post's correspondent says the Stanley matter has been arranged. No formal order has been sent to him, but he has been apprised of the views of the Administration, whatever they are.

The case of Elwin James, the English barrister, who is charged with unprofessional conduct, meriting expulsion from the bar, is undecided in the New York Court, the Judges being equally divided.

The whole number of Confederate prisoners received at Camp Douglas, near Chicago, amounts to 9,472; of which 510 have died, leaving 8,962 who are still in confinement.

A letter from Staunton, published in the Richmond Examiner, claims that, besides the loss in killed and wounded, Jackson took six hundred prisoners in his battle of Sunday with Fremont. The latter states that two hundred dead Confederates were counted in one field; whilst the Staunton letter-writer asserts that the Confederate loss was small.

It is said that Gen. Prim will return to Europe, and Gen. Serrano be appointed Spanish Ambassador to Mexico. Napoleon, it is said, had explained his policy in Mexico to the English and Spanish governments.

The total vote of the Methodist conferences which have held their session this spring, on the question of lay representation, is: For—ministers, 765; people, 13,737. Against—ministers, 1,591; people, 16,565.

The N. Y. Express says:—"Gen. McClellan's Grand Army of the Potomac, it ought to be understood, and to be reported for European, if not American information, was not broken up in three or four parts by his tactics, or programme, or consent, but against all his remonstrances. He resisted it, in conversation with the Secretary of War, and with the President himself. His army has been reduced, and his plans frustrated, by authorities over him, he is bound to respect and obey. They have taken from him at least 50,000 of his men, that he intended for the conquest of the Peninsula, and the occupation of Richmond. McDowell's corps, Wool's (for a long time), Banks', Blenker's Division, &c., were all taken from his command, and his programme for their movements all broken up. Gen. McClellan's military character requires the thorough understanding of such facts as these, while he is indifferent as a soldier to what the politicians say respecting him."

A sufferer from long sermons suggests to the London Times that, after half an hour's preaching the bottom of pulpit should be contrived to come out, on the principle of an *oubliette*, and project the clerical transgressor into the gulf below. Another proposes that a sounding board or cover, in the shape of an extinguisher, made exactly to fit the pulpit, be suspended above it, and that the expiration of twenty-five minutes from the delivery of the text it should begin to descend, so as, exactly at the half hour, to "shut-up" the lengthy preacher.

A colony of emancipated slaves is now being organized, to emigrate to Liberia, under the provisions of the recent act of Congress.—None of those who have sailed for Hayti received any thing from the emigration fund provided by Congress, but it is understood that Mr. Ambrose Thompson is organizing a colony, and who will apply for a portion, in order to enable them to settle at Chiriqui, on the tract of land offered to the United States, for a coal depot and harbor.

Gen. Cass is still ill at Detroit.

The Post Office Department has received information that the Overland Mail Company is now in readiness, and will resume its services recently suspended by the Indian attacks.

The work on the Washington and Georgetown Railroad has been commenced.

Mrs. Lincoln visits the hospitals of the District, which are full to overflowing with suffering soldiers.

WAR NEWS.

A dispatch from Gen. Fremont, dated at Port Republic, Monday, the 9th inst., at noon, states that the federal forces renewed the march against the confederates under Gen. Jackson at an early hour that morning, but on reaching the point where it was supposed that they were posted, it was discovered that their enemy was in full retreat, the rear guard barely crossing the river before the federal advance reached it. The bridge having been burned by the Confederates, the pursuit was given up for the time. But it appears that it was subsequent to this that Gen. Jackson attacked and defeated the advance of Gen. Shields's army. The Federal loss in the battle of Sunday is estimated at one hundred and twenty-five killed and five hundred wounded, while the Confederate loss is supposed to be much greater.

Yesterday a reconnoissance was made towards Richmond as far Meadow bridge, and found the Confederates to be in force. Some skirmishing occurred during the day, but not important in results on either side.

A Houston (Texas) paper, of the 23d ult., states that on the 17th the commander of the U. S. frigate Sabine demanded the surrender of the city of Galveston. The demand was not complied with, the Confederate commander replying that when a bombarding fleet arrived an answer would be given.

A Richmond paper publishes intelligence from Vicksburg to the 30th ult., stating that Commodore Farragut's fleet had commenced shelling the city, and had thrown one hundred and twenty-five missiles in the heart of the place, few being directed at the forts. No considerable damage was done.

Vicksburg papers state that the town of De Soto, in the county of the same name, in Northwest Mississippi, has been destroyed by the Federal troops, only three small buildings being left to mark the site of the town.

A gentleman from Corinth, who is conversant with matters there, says Gen. Buell, with 60,000 troops, embracing two divisions of his own and all of Gen. Pope's forces, were in hot pursuit of Gen. Polk.

SWINDLED.—Mention has frequently been made of a certain class of imposters who infest the city just now, wearing military uniforms as a guard against detection, but despite the many warnings which have been given, there still seems to be people who are sufficiently credulous to trust strangers implicitly. Last night a case occurred in which one of these bogus military men figured quite extensively, and managed to make \$20. A gentleman named Hollingsworth from Pennsylvania, belonging to the Navy, had arrived in the late train from Philadelphia, en route for Washington, and took a city railway car to go to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad depot. When near Baltimore street, an individual wearing the Navy uniform, got into the car saluted Mr. H., took a seat beside him, and entered into conversation with him, stating that he was from New York, was on furlough, looking around, &c. The conductor applied to him for his fare, when he drew out a considerable roll of notes and was astonished to find he had nothing less than \$20. Turning to Mr. H., he was immediately "obliged" with change, and soon after left the car. The sequel is soon told. Mr. H. stopped at a eating house to take a lunch, and, upon examination, found the note to be counterfeit, "of course."—*Balt. American*.

Extensive distilleries in Peoria, Illinois, have been destroyed by fire recently.