

The Alexandria Gazette.

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 11, 1862.

GENERAL NEWS.

President Lincoln, accompanied by Col. Frank P. Blair, chairman of the House military committee, Mr. Watson, Assistant Secretary of War, and Gen. Nagley, returned to Washington, from a visit to the army of the Potomac yesterday. Upon the President's arrival in the James river, off Harrison's Landing, he was visited by Gen. McClellan and staff. Upon reaching the landing they mounted, and proceeded to the headquarters of Gen. McClellan, and thence, without much delay, to review the whole army. The President rode to the extreme front, and was warmly greeted by the troops. He dismounted and ascended the ramparts in view of the Confederate pickets.

It is stated that the progress of pacification in Missouri is so rapid that it will not be necessary for the appointment of a Military Governor.

Below the Federal camp on the James river, on the opposite side, the Confederates frequently make their appearance, and fire upon the vessels passing, always retiring before the gunboats can be brought to bear.

The advices from Vicksburg are to the 7th inst., when the shelling of the place continued from the boats above and below. The work of cutting the canal is progressing.

Advices from Warrenton, Va., represent that there are no signs of the Confederates in that vicinity.

The New York Journal of Commerce of yesterday thus speaks of Wednesday's market in that city:—"This has been a very exciting day in Wall street. Gold rapidly advanced, touching 115½ for mixed lots at the first board, and soon after reaching 117 for double eagles in the street. At the second board mixed lots touched 116½, and after the board double eagles were sold at 118, while some holders asked 120.—The advance has been so rapid that many are looking for a reaction. Old demand notes have advanced to 108, and some are asking 109."

The passage of the tax bill has produced, says the Pittsburg Chronicle, great excitement in the Whisky market, and a rise of three cents per gallon has taken place. Our Western distillers had given out the general understanding that, as soon as the tax bill went into operation, they would, as a matter of necessity, have to stop, but this we regard doubtful.

Jennison, the Kansas jayhawker has, by orders from Washington, been mustered out of service in the army.

Senator Davis, of Kentucky, introduced a very stringent bill into the Senate on Wednesday, "punishing severely all persons who give aid or sympathy or advice to any of the Confederates. It authorizes district judges to require the oath of allegiance of any person suspected of such sympathy, and is empowered to imprison them on their refusal. It also increases the penalties of treason."

A citizen of Middletown has been arrested in the act of carrying a mail from Winchester to Richmond. He is now at the headquarters of Gen. Ricketts, at Warrenton. He frankly confesses that daily communication is had with Richmond from nearly all the towns in the Valley.

The British steamer Modern Greece ran the blockade at Wilmington on the 27th ultimo, but being pursued by the blockading squadron, got aground under cover of the guns of Fort Caswell. The steamer, which so narrowly escaped capture, it is said to have had a thousand tons of powder on board. It is believed that a large portion of the cargo will be saved.

A reconnoissance was made on Tuesday, by the 1st Maine cavalry, as far as Waterloo on the Rappahannock. Two or three miles from the river they descried a regiment of Confederate cavalry in the distance, who, however, made no effort to dispute the passage of the stream.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Virginia has issued a decree against O. P. Brownson's Review, declaring that it is no reliable exponent of Catholic doctrines and principles.

The Missouri Republican mentions as one of the singularities of history that John Pope, who is now in command of the army of Virginia, having overstepped three Major-Generals at the age of forty years, was, for a long while, a pupil of General Shields, the latter then a schoolmaster at Kaskaskia.

In the discussion of Senator Chandler's resolution calling for the correspondence between General McClellan and the War Department up to July 1st, some matters of historical interest were mentioned. Mr. Wilson explained as to the movement upon Richmond, that those plans were proposed and duly considered viz: The first, by General Rosecranz, was to march through the Shenandoah valley to Richmond; and in favor of this route it was argued that it afforded supplies, as it had not been overrun. The Secretary of War favored this plan. The second proposition was to make the movement from Fredericksburg; and this route was advocated as, by taking it, protection would be afforded to Washington. The third plan was that of General McClellan himself, and it was to go to the Peninsula and thence move on to Richmond.

The enrollment of the militia of the State of New York is now completed. In the city of New York the time occupied was ten days, and the number of men employed about two hundred. The result is the obtaining of the names and residence of about three hundred thousand men, believed to be subject to military duty.—Recruiting offices have been opened throughout the whole city.

Gen. Pope is represented to have said, on taking the command in the Shenandoah, that his headquarters would be on horseback.

"Occasional," of the Philadelphia Press, (Forney) writes from Washington to say:—"When the President started, a few days ago, for the head of the Army of the Potomac, it would have been treasonable to announce his mission or the object he had in view; but, now that he is known to have proceeded on this errand, it may serve a good purpose to state that his chief object is to ascertain whether the charges persistently made against Gen. McClellan are false or true.

The Judiciary Committee of the House has not yet determined what to do with the resolution for the expulsion of Ben. Wood. There are differences of opinion in the Committee, and it is not impossible that a majority may decide that the evidence, is not sufficient to warrant expulsion.

According to letters from Warsaw, nine Polish ladies accused of having participated in singing hymns and reciting prayers considered by the police seditious, were removed from the citadel of that city on the 10th, and transferred to convents.

The Washington despatch of the Philadelphia Inquirer states that the U. S. government has agreed upon a general exchange of prisoners, and arrangements are being made to bring to their homes a number of Federal prisoners confined at the South.

Much dissatisfaction is expressed by the correspondents of the Philadelphia Inquirer at the publication in the Norfolk Union newspaper of an editorial article headed "Gen. McClellan's defeat." The editor promises to give his views in full, and they are waited for, before further action.

The New York Democratic State Committee met at Albany on Wednesday. A Conference meeting was held in the afternoon, which was attended by Tammany, Mozart and "Union" men, and during which the determination was expressed to sink all local difference and present a "harmonious, unbroken front" at the State Convention.

The Washington correspondent of the New York World announces that "an important manifesto, in the shape of a proclamation, from the President, defining the future policy of the Administration on the great question of the hour, is not improbable at an early day." It is believed that the proclamation will require "Generals commanding Departments to accept the services of all persons coming within the Federal lines, without distinction of race or color."

The Philadelphia North American reports marvellous activity in that city. During the first half of the year 1861 the total number of building permits issued was 984, and in the same period of 1862 the number issued was 1,218, being an increase of 334. Many of them are large and important structures.

The following changes have been made or are occurring in the army:—Gen. Phillip St. George Cooke is relieved from duty, and ordered to report at Washington. Rumor assigned his command to Gen. Stoneman. Col. Averill, of the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry, is to take command of the First Brigade of Cavalry, in place of General Emory. Col. Blake, commanding Second Brigade of Cavalry is ordered to report at Fortress Monroe. Dr. Letterman has been commissioned with the rank of Lieut. Colonel. Gen. Van Vliet reports at Fortress Monroe, and Col. Ingalls fills his place.

Gen. Grant has issued an order at Memphis to the following effect:—"Arrests being frequently made on misrepresentations of citizens, who afterwards decline to appear to give evidence, or to furnish names of witnesses to substantiate the charges, it is directed that hereafter, in all such cases, the prisoner be released, and the party causing the arrest be confined or banished from the city, as the case may seem to require."

MAKING MONEY.—Holders of domestic cottons now make hundreds of dollars per day, merely by marking up the prices of their goods. Such is the speculative demand for domestics that cottons are advancing to prices never before known.—[Philadelphia North American.]