

The Alexandria Gazette.

WEDNESDAY EVEN'G, JULY 30, 1862.

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—*"Multum in Parvo."*
 —The cars on the Washington and Georgetown railroad now run from the Capitol to the State Department, and from that point the passengers go to Georgetown in omnibuses; fare, the whole distance, six cents.—Gold was quoted in New York, yesterday, at 116½@116¼.—Gen. Butler, in New Orleans, has ordered the arrest of several persons implicated in a reported conspiracy; among them some who have claimed to be Union men.—Onions are in much demand by soldiers in the field, and a supply is recommended to be always served to them for their health.—The Mayor of New York has given \$1,000 in aid of enlistments for the U. S. army.—The report of the death of Gen. Sam. Houston, of Texas, has been started again.—Col. Thomas M. Wagner, of S. C., died recently in that State.—A woman in the western part of New York, lately being detected in a course of thieving, killed herself by taking a dose of corrosive sublimate.—An election for State officers takes place in North Carolina on the 7th of August.—The exchange of prisoners, it is understood, is going on under the arrangements lately entered into between the Federal and Confederate commissioners, the recent difficulty threatening its progress having, it is said, been adjusted.—Revs. Messrs. Elliot, Ford and Baldwin, of Nashville, have been arrested, and sent by Gov. Johnson, of Tenn., to the Indiana penitentiary.—The Northern journals speak of the late affair of the steam ram Arkansas, on the Mississippi, as one of the most dashing exploits of the war.—It is said that Gen. Butler has given much satisfaction in New Orleans, "by positively refusing to sanction any of Gen. Phelps' abolition schemes."—There was a review of Gen. Banks' division of the U. S. army, at Washington, Rappahannock county, Va., on the 28th inst.—Edwin Forrest has contributed \$1,000 to aid in carrying on the war.—Recently, in a published article, Rev. Dr. Breckinridge has expressed himself, in strong terms, against the course of his nephew, John C. Breckinridge.—William B. Smith and John T. Dowell, of Loudoun county, Va., have been taken prisoners, and brought to Baltimore.—The Baltimore American thinks that whenever the Federal army "is brought vigorously into action, it will be found equal in numbers to those of the Confederates."—It is said that counterfeit Confederate notes have been introduced in Richmond and thereabouts, and passed off as genuine in many cases.—

The N. Y. Express says:—"Taxation, and War, the 'Journal of Commerce' is sure, will introduce Economy into American families.—To live at all, we must all live cheaper. Anon this may be so,—but it is not so now. The "War" has already introduced the new class of *nouveau riche*, who fill the saloons, the Watering Places, and who dash as seldom men have dashed before. War impoverishes the masses,—but enriches the few."

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer writes that there is reason to apprehend important news from Gen. Pope's department in a short time. Information has been received which indicates that something of considerable consequence is about to take place in the valley.

POWDER MILL EXPLOSION.—The Hartford Courant furnishes the following details of the fearful explosion of Col. Hazard's powder mills, at Hazardsville, Connecticut, on Wednesday afternoon, an account of which fatal event we published last week:—

"In the first mill that exploded there were six men at work, and they, with the building, were blown to atoms. One human foot which was found a quarter of a mile distant, was all that could be found of the six men. One man was crossing a bridge with a mule and cart, near the mill. Not a vestige of the man could be found; the mule was torn into two parts, one half being thrown across the stream, and the other thrown over the trees into a field several hundred feet distant, while the cart was demolished. Another man was bathing in the stream; he was found lying in the water, dead, with a large stone on his head. A large elm tree, several feet through, was broken off and the limbs scattered in all directions. Other trees were stripped of their limbs; fences were destroyed, and acres of grass looked as if heavy rollers had passed over it. Most of the principal mills and buildings had their roofs crushed in, windows destroyed, and were otherwise damaged. In one building was a large quantity of coarse, unground powder; this building was much damaged, but fortunately the powder did not explode. In one of the buildings which escaped there was powder enough stored to have destroyed the whole village. It is remarkable that there was not more lives lost.—It was reported that a large piece of iron was thrown into one of the cartridge buildings, fracturing the skull of a girl at work there."

HOW TO SELECT POULTRY.—A young turkey has a smooth, dark leg, feet supple and moist, and the end of the breastbone pliable like gristle. If the head is on, the eyes will be full and bright if fresh killed. Fowls, when young, have smooth combs and legs. In other respects they are like young turkeys. Young geese will have yellow bills and feet, and a pin head may be forced through the skin of the breast. (It requires considerable pressure to thrust a pin through the breast of an old, tough goose.) If fresh, the feet will be pliable. The same rules apply to the selection of ducks. As a general rule, all old birds have bony claws that are not easily straightened. Young birds have pliant and easily yielding claws. The spurs of old turkeys and roosters are hard, long and sharp. Of young ones but the first development is seen.

Commenting on the mortar fleet in the James River and the probability of their being brought into service there, the N. Y. World says:—"These mortar-boats are of course intended to shell bluffs that cannot be commanded by the gunboats, and perhaps may be of great use for this particular service. It is not to be disguised that on the whole these mortar boats have hardly paid expenses, nor are they of much use against an earthwork or fort. Com. Farragut could have passed the Mississippi forts as easily before as after the week's bombardment. Mortars failed to be of any service against Island No. 10, Fort Pillow, or at Vicksburg. At Fort Pulaski they were an utter failure. If, then, it is intended to use them against Fort Darling, naval and military authorities must not be too sanguine as to what they will accomplish. Should the river be cleared at Fort Darling by the gunboats co-operating with the army, they would, no doubt, do service in bombarding the city of Richmond, and it may be that this is the use they are to be put to."

Steps are taking to bring blacks from the Valley of the Shenandoah within the lines of Gen. Sigel's corps. To what military purposes they are to be devoted is not known.

CENSUS OF SCOTLAND.—The census of Scotland has just been completed and gives many interesting items of information. There are 787 islands around the Scottish coast—taking as the definition of an island that it shall be of sufficient extent to afford pasture to a sheep. The average population is one hundred to a square mile. In some counties it is as low as thirteen. The emigration is very large among the males, and the proportion in population between females and males is 111.2 to 100—a greater proportion than in any other country in Europe. There are 666,786 families in Scotland; of these 7,964, lived last year in a single room, without any window. 226,723 families lived in one room each, with one or more windows, but often a mere apology for a window. Thus thirty-five per cent. of all the families in Scotland, or more than one-third, live in one room. Thirty-seven per cent. live in two rooms, leaving only twenty-eight per cent. living in houses with three or more rooms. Of families thus living in one room 34,948 consisted of four persons in each, and 6,212 of eight in each! In Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, only one-fourth of the families have as many as three rooms each to live in.

From Gen. Pope's Army.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Enquirer.]

MADISON COURT HOUSE, July 27.—The First Connecticut Cavalry, a portion of Sigel's advance, reached here yesterday, and drove out the Confederate Cavalry under Robertson. The Federal troops sustained no loss. The Confederates are said to be in force across the Rapidan, but none but scouting squads are prowling around upon this side. The Federal troops are foraging almost entirely upon the country, as per Pope's order. The people all refuse to take the oath of allegiance, and say they will leave the country, but will first lay desolate their homes, and will make the land a barren waste.

CULPEPER COURT HOUSE, July 28.—The Confederates are still lying quiet along the railroad and near Gordonsville. None have ventured over the Rapidan. The First New Jersey Cavalry, a portion of Gen. Banks' advance guard, secured the river banks on both sides yesterday, but could find no pickets of the enemy. The Confederate force at and near Gordonsville is variously estimated by the contrabands, but is supposed to be from thirty to forty thousand, under Gen. Ewell.

WARRENTON, July 29.—General Pope and staff arrived here at noon to-day, on an extra train, handsomely decorated with flags. His arrival has been noised around, and great consternation exists. There are not a dozen here who have not taken the Confederate oath.—They seem determined to remain, but will not take the oath of allegiance to the U. S. Government, saying that General Pope dare not carry out the order.

The celebrated "Belle Boyd" was here on Saturday, in company with a Captain belonging to the Black Horse Cavalry, who was here wounded and on his parole, and has since resigned. She offered to take letters to Richmond for three dollars apiece.

The Provost Guard are gathering up all able-bodied slaves and setting them to work upon the railroad and in the quartermaster's department. Several trains have been sent out to Banks and Sigel with "contraband drivers."

All the sick from here who will not speedily recover, will be sent to Washington at once.

The Sulphur Springs, seven miles south of here in the most delightful and healthy spot in the State, have not yet been taken for hospital purposes as has been reported. They will accommodate about fifteen hundred. Beds, furniture and everything remain there yet.

At Boston, July 29, an individual heard advocating Jeff. Davis and chivalry was ducked in the frog pond on the Common.