

The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVE'G, SEPTEMBER 1, 1862.

SUNDAY.—Yesterday will be long remembered by the inhabitants of Alexandria for the exciting reports that prevailed and the interest felt to learn the War News. The day was dark and gloomy, and from the heavy clouds that overspread the Heavens, at intervals, the rain poured down. Notwithstanding the weather, the people were out on the streets, and at the corners, inquiring the latest news from the great battle. The sound of the "Church going bell" was but little heeded, and the places of worship were but thinly attended. All was restlessness and anxiety.

At the depot, there was congregated, all day, crowds of citizens and soldiers, awaiting, impatiently, the arrival of trains from up the railroad, to gather whatever information those coming down might bring. At about half-past eleven o'clock, a train which had left Washington, the previous night, having on board the clerks and employées in the government departments, for the battle field, returned to the depot, having been able to proceed only as far as Fairfax Station, where they were ordered back. The passengers reported that Jackson held the field of battle, and that therefore they had returned. Soon after the arrival of this train, another from Baltimore, bringing over physicians and nurses for the wounded on the battle field, arrived, but on reaching here, and ascertaining that there was no possibility of proceeding, the train returned. A train from Warrenton, which has been on the road four days, with sick and wounded, reached the depot about noon. Trains were going up as far as Fairfax station all the afternoon, and the shrill whistle of the locomotives, the moving of cars, and the arrival and departure of trains, made the depot a place of bustle and confusion.

All day, ambulances and wagons, one, two and three at a time, were coming in with wounded soldiers, some severely, some slightly. These came principally by the Little River Turnpike, and the sight was a melancholy one. In one instance a soldier had his shoulder shot off, another had a hand off, many were wounded in the legs, some in the head, &c. The wounded were taken to the different hospitals here, or sent on to Washington.

A few stragglers, notwithstanding guards were placed at the various roads leading into the city, got in, and gave conflicting accounts of the battle, and of the situation of affairs.

At night, notwithstanding the excitement of the day, everything in the city was quiet and orderly.

TO-DAY.—There has been much excitement in the city to-day, and King street has been more than usually crowded. Rumors and reports are numerous, but the latest definite information comes through the morning papers. Wounded soldiers continue to arrive in ambulances and wagons, and are taken to the hospitals here, or sent on to Washington. Long trains of army wagons are passing, and mounted and foot soldiers are everywhere to be seen.

Among the prisoners of war released from the Old Capitol prison and sent to Fortress Monroe, to be exchanged, on Saturday, was J. H. McVeigh, jr., of this city.

LOCAL.—Public attention is entirely directed towards the war and military movements.—There were fine showers yesterday, and the weather to-day is cloudy and it looks like more rain.—An order has been issued by the Provost Marshal that the sale of liquors to either citizens or soldiers, for the present, be prohibited.—The Provost Marshal's office is now in the Insurance office, on King street.

DEATH OF GEN. TAYLOR.—Gen. Taylor, who was wounded in one of the recent battles at Manassas, and who had his leg amputated on Thursday, died yesterday afternoon. His family were with him at the time of his death.

The Union men of this place met together yesterday, for the purpose of devising means for the relief of the wounded Federal soldiers in the late engagement, but no definite course of action was decided upon.

PASSES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA.—We understand that passes are again required by all persons coming from Washington to this city.

CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.—Yesterday afternoon, a number of Confederate prisoners (between three and four hundred) arrived here under an escort from Centreville. Last night they were taken to the Cotton factory, and were this afternoon sent on to Washington.

COURT.—The County Court (September term) met this morning, and immediately adjourned over until Court in course.

[COMMUNICATED.]

STAR ENGINE.—Is it anybody's business hereabouts to look after the fire apparatus?—From the way in which the Star engine has for weeks been lying around loose, exposed to sun, rain and trespass, it would hardly be supposed that we had any municipal supervisor of such matters. The Star is too valuable a machine to be subject to its present forlorn condition on King street. SEMPER PARATUS.

Gen. Wadsworth has ordered that no spirituous liquors shall be sold by retail in the District of Columbia.

Gov. Stanley, of N. C., is now in Washington. Mr. Helper, of the same state, has also come on to Washington.

The Great Eastern is to be repaired, if practicable, in N. Y., but the nature of the injuries she has received will not effect her safety.

It is reported that to provide against the worst that can possibly occur a squadron of gunboats has been ordered to rendezvous in the Potomac river near Washington.—*Nat. Int.*

A tanner in Charleston has discovered that the common myrtle, growing abundantly in the South, can be made to tan soft and pliable leather. It is the candleberry myrtle (*myrica confera*.) He has received a patent for his discovery. The leaves and branches are used, for which he pays fifteen dollars per ton. Its tanning powers are said to contain not less than fifteen per cent.

The U. S. steamer Pocahontas has arrived at Philadelphia. While cruising in Black river, S. C., a few days ago, she was cannonaded from the shore, and returned the fire. She had only one officer wounded.

The Battle of Saturday.

[From the Washington National Republican.]

We derive the following account of the battle of Saturday from a gentleman who left Centreville at 7 o'clock Saturday evening. He is known to us as a person who had been employed by a leading New York paper to report military doings in the Peninsula, and who is very likely to form a correct judgment to the extent of his observation, which is active and quick.

The battle was an artillery battle down to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, each party being engaged in "feeling" the other. Gen. Porter commanded our left wing, Sigel and Heintzelman the centre and left. McDowell's force was in the rear, having been much exhausted in the battle of Friday. The scene of the fight was the old field of Bull Run.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy having massed his infantry, made a furious and successful attack upon Gen. Porter. Our informant, who witnessed the fighting in front of Richmond, says that none of the musketry firing there was heavier than this of the rebels at Bull Run.

When he perceived that his left wing was to be attacked, Gen. Pope ordered up McDowell's force to support Gen. Porter, but it did not arrive in time to save Gen. Porter from defeat but on contrary became itself involved in the retreat which followed.

In short, the divisions of both Gen. Porter and McDowell were routed, and fell back in disorder across Bull Run stream to Centreville. Our right wing remained firm and unbroken, covering the retreat of the left wing, and preserving the army from any serious catastrophe.

Our informant does not think our loss on Saturday in killed and wounded, to have been greater than on Friday, say four thousand; but the loss in prisoners was much more considerable.

Gen. Franklin's division arrived at Centreville on Saturday evening, and there was then a general concentration of our forces at that point. Gen. Bank's division, however, had not arrived there. It was not in the battles of Friday or Saturday, and there were some apprehensions that it might be cut off.

Our force, as massed at Centreville on Saturday evening, was large enough for all purposes, and has been much increased since.

Our informant says that there was no disorder at Centreville, but everybody was full of courage and hope as respects the immediate future.

The terrific cannonading on the battle ground at Bull Run was distinctly heard here all day Saturday. As the wind from that quarter freshened, the sound became so clear and distinct, that most persons thought that the scene of battle had been shifted to somewhere near Alexandria. The sound, when everything was calm, resembled distant thunder, but at five o'clock, when the wind sprung up from the southwest, the sound became more distinct, and the number of guns in the engagement could almost have been counted by the reverberation of their sound. During the afternoon, the street corners were thronged with crowds of excited persons.—*Washington Repub.*

A French Statician has calculated that the civilized world spends every twenty-four hours, in royal and military salutes and polite exchanges of volleys, in wharf and citadel formalities, in the daily morning and evening guns in all fortresses and men of war, all over the globe, a hundred and fifty thousand useless shots. Estimating the cost of the charge at six francs this would produce a daily sum of nine hundred thousand francs, or three millions of francs (\$600,000) annually, which thus goes off in smoke!