

The Alexandria Gazette

WEDNESDAY EVE'G, SEPT'R 3, 1862.

LOCAL.—This morning the weather was quite cool; it is the time and the season to guard against ague and fever.—Nothing is now talked about, or thought much about, but war news and army movements.—Notwithstanding the excitement and the large number of troops in and about town, everything was comparatively quiet in the streets last night.—It is said that Lieut. Col. McLean of the 88th Pa. regiment was killed in battle last Saturday. Some disorder has lately taken place in the Market, which has been or will be brought to the notice of the Provost Marshal.—It is remarked that the quality of the watermelons, this season, has been generally very indifferent.—The late rains have been very useful to the vegetables still growing in the gardens and to the latter corn. The remains of Brig. Gen. Kearney killed in an engagement near Fairfax Court House, on Monday night, were brought through this place, yesterday afternoon, on their way to Washington.—The body of Gen. Stevens has been embalmed.—A large amount of corn, hay, oats and other stores belonging to the Federal army were burned at Fairfax Station, yesterday afternoon.—Major Gen. Hooker was in this city, this morning.—It is reported that Col. M. D. Corse, of the 17th Virginia Regiment, was slightly wounded in the recent battle near Bull Run.

By an order issued by the War Department yesterday, Gen. McClellan has been placed in command of all the troops assembled for the defence of Washington as well as the fortifications around it. All the employees of the government in the departments and public buildings in Washington are to be immediately organized and armed.

Gen. Kearney, U. S. A., killed in battle on Monday, was an officer of merit, who had distinguished himself in the Florida and Mexican wars. Gen. Stevens killed in the same battle was Governor of Oregon during Mr. Buchanan's administration, and chairman of the Democratic (Breckinridge) national committee.

It was rumored in Washington this morning, that Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War had resigned, and that Gen. Halleck had been appointed to succeed him; Gen. McClellan to take command of the armies.

A gentleman, who came down from Washington this morning over the road, informs us that the firing heard here this morning was merely the trying of the guns at Arlington Heights.

The Board of Commissioners under the act of Congress emancipating the slaves of the District resumed their sessions yesterday in the room of the Circuit Court, at the City Hall. They have ordered that all claimants having slaves who have been appraised be required to bring them forward within this and the ensuing week, after which time the Commissioners will take up and dispose of such cases as may be contested on the ground of loyalty or otherwise.

It is reported that many of those who left Washington on Saturday night, as nurses, and persisted in accomplishing the journey to the end, have been taken prisoners.

Another Severe Battle.

WASHINGTON, Sep. 2.—Generals Kearney and Stevens were killed in a severe engagement which took place last evening near Chantilly, about two miles north of Fairfax Court House, between a portion of General Pope's army and Jackson's forces. The Federal loss was heavy, but the enemy were driven back more than a mile, and the Federals occupied the field of battle until 3 o'clock this morning.

LATER.—General Stevens was killed by a Minie ball, which entered his brain while he was leading his men into action, bearing the colors in his hand, the color sergeant having been slain. His son, acting as assistant adjutant of the brigade commanded by his father, was wounded. Gen. Philip Kearney was also killed in the action last night. His body was taken possession of by the enemy, but afterwards delivered into our lines under a flag of truce.

Col. Fletcher Webster's body, it is understood, is being embalmed for transmission eastward.

WHOLESALE STAMPEDE.—The camp of the 13th regiment, Newark, was the scene of a breach of military discipline on Thursday night. The corps had been ordered to proceed to Washington, and many of the men were anxious to bid adieu to their friends before departure.—They were refused passes, and they not having the fear of Colonel Carman, the Commander, before their eyes, nor the articles of war, "ran the guard," helter skelter, threw their muskets to the earth, and ran through the city.—To clap the climax several of the guard joined in the stampede and followed their comrades to the drinking saloons in the vicinity. Several of the soldiers proceeded to their homes in different parts of the State and will no doubt be found with difficulty. Yesterday hundreds of the runaways rushed to and fro through every street in Newark, some of them wildly intoxicated, spreading terror among peaceable citizens. A member of Company A, particularly anxious for battle, soon found a sable subject for the wished-for conflict. He saw a negro standing quietly in front of the victualling market, and he soon chased him through several streets and was joined in the gallant charge by a large number of his fellow-soldiers. The black man, however, escaped without serious injury. An order has been issued for the runaways to return to camp. A flag was presented last evening to the regiment. It is not probable that it will be able to leave to-day.—*N. Y. Express.*

A person dressed in female apparel, and who left Rochester on the forenoon's train for Niagara Falls, was observed to act in an uneasy manner, and on examination it was discovered that the person was a man in woman's clothes, and was making for Canada to escape the draft. He was put under arrest at Lockport. His name is Tallman, from Tallmansville, Pa., and he was formerly a postmaster under Buchanan.

Nothing has been heard from Commissioner Dole since the 26th ult., when he was on his way with two hundred men to meet the Chippewas. There is some anxiety for his safety. It is confirmed that Mr. Walker, the Chippewa agent, had committed suicide.

In Saturday's fight the Third Michigan went into the battle with 290 men, and came out with only 146, and more than three-fourths of this number met their fate by the fire of the Twentieth Indiana regiment, which lapped over their rear, and poured a galling fire into them while on the advance.

The Situation.

It was obvious, after the failure of the Federal army at Centreville to renew the fighting on Monday, that a retreat upon Washington would follow, and that seems to be going on without serious loss and in good order. Opinions, of course, are divided as to the expediency of the course resolved upon.

During Sunday, large reinforcements had reached Gen. Pope at Centreville. The alternative was, to attack the enemy then, and there, or to retreat. That the enemy would not attack in such an advantageous position as Centreville, was plain. He would turn that position by an advance in the direction of Chain Bridge, compelling General Pope to fall back, as he was compelled to fall back from the line of the Rappahannock, his right being turned by the movement through Thoroughfare Gap.

We believe that Gen. Pope at Centreville on Monday, as reinforced, was numerically stronger than the enemy, but some prudential reason favored the policy of not fighting there, but of falling back, looking merely to the single interest of the defence of Washington. Gen. Pope will finally reach a point where he cannot be flanked, and the further we draw the enemy this way, the more difficult he will find it to supply himself.—*Washington Republican.*

A STAMPEDE.—A gentleman who went down to Centreville and Bull Run in the ambulances on Saturday, describes a most ludicrous stampede which took place at the general hospital, not far from Bull Run. It seems that our cavalry, not far from the scene, were making some manœuvre which the 500 visiting civilians could not comprehend, and it was easy to get out the intelligence among the excited throng that Stewart's cavalry was making a raid on the civilians. Such a scare as then took place! Horses were turned toward Centreville, ambulances were upset, and a general scampering on foot took place in short order, the frightened men running in all directions, over fields and fences. After a while the truth came out, and the scared civilians were sent for by the cavalrymen, who headed them off, and turned the party back to the hospital, where, foot-sore and weary, they all arrived in due time, with their ardor much cooled by the process.—*Washington Republican.*

On Thursday night last Acting Master Provost, of the Anacostia, left Fredericksburg with a detachment of artillery, infantry, and sailors, on the steamer Cooper's Point, and proceeded to Port Royal, where they captured Lieut. F. J. Riley, of the 13th Virginia; T. R. Dodd and D. Bell of the 1st Maryland, and four recruits for the Confederate army, one or two of them hailing from Baltimore. The forwarding officer, Capt. Gibbs, made his escape by swimming the river, leaving his horse and carriage in possession of the Federal party. They were brought to this city yesterday morning and sent to the Old Capitol.

Mr. H. M. Pierce, president of Ruter's Institute, New York city, has been appointed general superintendent of hospital nurses in the military district of Washington, and has entered on the discharge of his duties. All applications from persons desirous of acting as nurses should be made to him at the surgeon general's office.

The clamor against Gen. McDowell in the army, is said to be universal, some charging him with mismanagement merely, while others denounce him on other charges.