

The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 20.

LOCAL.—In Washington, on Friday, Thomas Johnson, James Riley and Patrick Runnels, suspected of larceny of money from S. Eldridge, of Alexandria, Va., amounting to over \$1,100 in gold and silver principally, were arrested.—They were ordered to be retained for further hearing by Justice Clark, the witnesses being in Alexandria. The robbery was perpetrated yesterday.—“New buildings,” in the shape of rough plank oyster shanties, 6 by 8, are being erected along some of the wharves.—“O, what a falling off is there.”—A negro waiter at Westcott’s restaurant was stabbed last night in the breast while standing at the head of the steps leading down to the saloon, by a soldier who succeeded in making his escape, leaving the knife. The wound is not considered dangerous.

CITY MARKET.—The market was rather poorly supplied this morning with meats and vegetables, and prices of the latter were exorbitant. There was a fair supply of beef, but mutton and veal were scarce, and selling at 15 cts. a pound. Irish potatoes, 40@50 cts. a peck; sweet do., 50 cts. a peck; tomatoes, 50@60 cts. a peck; cabbage 5@18 cts. a head; Lima beans 15@20 cts. a quart; green peppers 75 cts. a hundred; onions, 50 cts. a peck; peaches are in abundance, but kept up to a very high price by some of the “Controllers of prices” [for such there are now in the market, and they should be scouted by the community;] \$1@1.25 was asked by some, but on “the outside” good hard and soft peaches could be had for 40@50 cts. a peck. Butter is scarce and 37½ is the ruling price for print. Eggs 31@37½ a dozen. Chickens, 75@\$1 a pair, and ducks same price.

Newspapers, which, in these times, conscientiously desire to get at the truth, and to furnish their readers “with the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,” present the melancholy appearance of those who “labor under difficulties” which are impossible to surmount, in the shape of army letters, telegraphic reports, exaggerated accounts by runaways from the battle fields, false accounts by ignorant or incompetent persons, and an apparent system of falsehood which is rather encouraged than discountenanced by the public journals which are most “sought after,” which “sell well,” and which the public look to habitually for information! We have only the consolation to know that this state of things cannot always last, and that, after awhile, the reading public will see and acknowledge their error.

[COMMUNICATED.]

A citizen begs to say, that he did not know until yesterday, nor from anything done, has the public a right to know, that there has been such a municipal officer as a Superintendent of Police or Street Commissioner, for a year past. Where are the evidences of the attention, or fulfilled duties, of such an officer?

A CITIZEN.

The details of the battle of Wednesday show it to have been a long, desperate and bloody one, in which both armies fought with the utmost desperation, and sustained very heavy losses.

Cavalry Reconnoissance to Thoroughfare Gap.

[From the Washington Republican.]

A reconnoitering party, consisting of cavalry, which left Gen. Heintzelman’s headquarters on Thursday morning, returned to camp last evening, performing one of the boldest, most rapid and brilliant exploits of the war. They penetrated the country to within three miles of Thoroughfare Gap. Here they came upon a detachment of Gen. Ewell’s body guard, three of whom they captured. They were escorting Gen. Ewell, who was wounded in the recent battles, to Richmond. The party captured were in the rear. Thirty other prisoners were taken, among whom were several officers. The distance traversed was eighty miles; all of which was accomplished in eighteen hours.—Several wagons were also captured. The party saw no signs of the enemy between Arlington and Thoroughfare Gap, except those spoken above. The Federals came very near taking Gen. Ewell himself; he only escaped by being driven off at a rapid rate in an ambulance.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.—The London Economist says:—“The sacrifice of life as of property in this American rebellion, thus far, has been literally enormous, and unequalled by that of the bloodiest European wars. Of the 550,000 or 600,000 men who had been raised by the Federals since the commencement of the conflict, it seems certain that 250,000 have disappeared;—and if we make every allowance, not utterly disgraceful and incredible, for those who never joined at all, but whose pay has been regularly drawn, for those who have slunk away as occasion served without any formal discharge, and for those who on various pretexts evade duty, the number of dead, slain, and disabled must still be frightful. If to the Northern losses we add those of their antagonist, there can be no little doubt that at least ten times as many have fallen in one short year of this fraternal butchery as were killed in the field or died of their wounds out of the British army and navy in the whole of our Napoleonic wars,—which lasted from first to last for twenty-two years; probably four times as many as fell on both sides during the bloody campaign of Solferino and Magenta; and nearly as many as Russia lost during the whole of the Crimean war.

MILITARY ORDER.—The following order, issued by Gen. Wool, it is understood will be strictly enforced:

Headquarters Eighth Army Corps, Baltimore, Md., Sept. 17th. 1862.—General Orders No. 28.—It having come to the notice of the commanding general that many of the troops under his command have been guilty of lawless and disorderly conduct, committing degradations upon the peaceable inhabitants of the country, and in some instances offering violence to inoffensive people, he desires to make known to the command that such acts will not be tolerated by him, and that the most severe example will be made of any one so offending.

Too much vigilance cannot be exercised by the officers of this command in preventing violations of the 54th article of war, which all the troops have sworn to obey.

In many instances the commanding general has had reason to believe that officers have tolerated, if not connived at such unlawful practices, and hereafter they will be held strictly responsible for the good behaviour of the men serving under them.

By command of Major General Wool.

WM. D. WHIPPLE, Ass’t. Adj’t. General.

Guerilla bands of considerable strength have of late been congregating on the southwest border of the State of Missouri for the purpose of invasion. Gen. Schofield is now in command of the Federal troops in the State.

A Dispatch from General Hooker.

CENTREVILLE, MD., September 17.—A great battle has been fought and we are victorious. I had the honor to open it yesterday afternoon, and it continued until ten o’clock this morning when I was wounded and compelled to quit the field.

The battle was fought with great violence on both sides. The carnage has been awful. I only regret that I was not permitted to take part in the operations until they were concluded, for I had counted on either capturing their army or driving them into the Potomac. My wound has been painful, but it is not one that will be likely to lay me up. I was shot through the foot.

J. HOOKER, Brigadier General.

DESTRUCTION OF HARPER’S FERRY BRIDGE.

—It is believed that the Confederates have taken the opportunity of their occupation of Harper’s Ferry to inflict another serious injury upon the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. From information believed altogether reliable, we learn that they have not only destroyed the temporary railroad bridge, but also blown up some or all of the massive stone piers. If this is true, and the work of demolition has been pushed to as serious an extent as reported, it will greatly retard the operations of the company when the road is again put in their possession.—*Balt. Am.*

THE BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG.—By far the bloodiest, and most fiercely contested battle of the war was fought on Wednesday, near Sharpsburg, along the line of the Antietam Creek,—commencing at about break of day, and lasting till 7 P. M., when darkness, as if in mercy to the combatants, closed over the horrors of the scene,—and shut out the contending armies for a while from each other’s view,—leaving the question of victory, as it were, trembling in the balance. Both armies fought with a desperate valor, and an unflinching heroism, which were never surpassed on any of the historical battle-fields of the old world,—but as it was only men of the same lineage and race, trying to vanquish each other, one need not be surprised that, after the day’s slaughter, it was impossible to determine which was the winner.—*N. Y. Express*

UNWRITTEN HISTORY.—The New York World has the following singular statement:—“We suppose it to be a fact that four members of the cabinet signed a written communication to the President stating that unless Gen. McClellan were deprived of his command they would resign. Apparently in consequence of this demand and threat, his body-guard were sent away from him on the afternoon of Saturday August 30, and he was left without a solitary private soldier, even for an orderly. He was so left until Tuesday, September 2, when President Lincoln went to him and said that unless he took command of the army the government was gone. If the occurrences we have recited really took place, as we suppose they did, they probably form the most curious and remarkable chapter in the secret history of the war, and perhaps the most extraordinary instance of sudden depression and prompt re-elevation that ever occurred to a military commander.

The New York Gas Company has backed down from the position that they undertook to assume towards their customers—to make them (the customers) bear the burden of the Government tax. The public gave them to understand that they would not stand it.

The reported investment of Charleston by the Federal gunboats receives no confirmation from official quarters in Washington.