

The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY EVENING, NOV. 29.

The New York Times says that "a question has arisen in Missouri, between a Union officer and the Confederate Government, which demands the prompt attention of the authorities at Washington." It says: "Some months ago, soon after Gen. Butler's execution of Mumford, in New Orleans, for having hauled down a United States flag, President Lincoln issued an order that no military execution should take place in any department until the circumstances of the case had been laid before him, and the sentence had received his approval. General McNeil seems to have paid no attention to this order, or at least we have no intimation from any quarter that he ever reported the facts of this case to the President, either before or after the execution of the ten men."

A soldier of the 103d New York Volunteers, named Hessler, is to be hung, in the enclosure of the Old Capitol prison, in Washington, on Friday next, for the murder of Lieut. Fernando Linzy.

The investigations into contracts and other frauds on Government have proceeded sufficiently far to reveal enormities in the commissariat equal to those elsewhere discovered. In connection with this matter the attention of the Government is being called to the alleged fact that the Government Bakeries are being managed in the interests of private parties.

General Hooker is almost entirely recovered from his lameness. He walks without a cane and can ride with ease and safety.

The names of twenty-six additional surgeons have been annexed to the list of officers stricken from the rolls for being absent from their commands without leave.

Mortimer Cookus, a farmer of Berkeley county, Va, but recently a refugee from that State, and temporarily residing in Washington county, Md., was shot and killed by a gang of guerillas on the 19th inst., on the Virginia side of the Potomac, opposite dam No. 4 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Bayard Taylor, Charge d' Affaires at St. Petersburg, recently had an interview with Prince Gortschakoff, in which—speaking from his recent official despatches from Secretary Seward—he said in effect that the war in this country was fast drawing to a close, that the rebellion was about to be suppressed. Prince Gortschakoff's reply was friendly in tone, but he took occasion to intimate that he had heard similar prophecies so often from the same official source that he must be pardoned if he felt some doubt concerning the probability of the fulfilment of this last vaticination at once.

Joseph Segar, representative in Congress from the Accomac district, in Eastern Virginia, has solicited the President to appoint an assessor and collector of revenue for the counties of Accomac, Northampton and Elizabeth City, assuring him that the inhabitants are willing and ready to bear their share of the burden of the national expenses. In view of this, the President has determined to except these counties from the list of "insurrectionary districts" included in his proclamation, and the revenue officers will accordingly be appointed.

Rev. Dr. Cummins, of Baltimore, has returned to that city, from his late visit to Europe.

Telegraphic News.

From Burnside's Army.

[Dispatch to the Washington Chronicle.]

HEADQ'S. ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Nov. 28, 1862. The railroad from Aquia Creek to these headquarters has at length been completed, and a locomotive and train came down this afternoon. The importance of this work cannot be over estimated, as it obviates the necessity for using so many teams.

All supplies will be received by railroad henceforward.

The Confederates are still in force at Fredericksburg.

From the signal stations their operations are distinctly visible through glasses.

The Confederates are industriously engaged in strengthening their earthworks. They are also extending these works both to the right and left of Fredericksburg.

No movements of importance have taken place for several days; but a well authenticated report is current that a reconnoissance is now progressing which promises important results.

From the Army of the Potomac.

A special dispatch to the Philadelphia Inquirer says that the Confederate force on the opposite side of the Rappahannock, at Falmouth, is 130,000 and that they will undoubtedly make a stand.

At Aquia Creek all is bustle. Hundreds of workmen are engaged in rebuilding the docks, dozens of U. S. government buildings have been erected and transports fill the river, laden with army supplies, which are shipped from this point by rail and distributed to the various commands located on the line of the railroad.

The delay of General Burnside in not crossing the Rappahannock is attributed by those who ought to know, to be a default of General Meigs in not keeping his word as to supplying Gen. Burnside with rations, etc.

Affairs at Fairfax C. H. Va.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

FAIRFAX C. H., Va., Nov. 28.—Three members of the Fifth N. C. Infantry, who were captured on Wednesday, near Gainesville, were brought in here yesterday afternoon.—They know nothing of Jackson's movements.

Detective J. B. Williams of the First Connecticut Cavalry, yesterday arrested two men named Lockhardt and Turner, residing near Aldie, on the charge of smuggling goods to the Confederates through our lines.

Chicago, so long the greatest grain market in the world, is now also the greatest pork center. Last year 514,118 hogs were cut up in this city—31,118 more than in Cincinnati, which has the name of being the great porkopolis of the world. The capacity for slaughtering and packing hogs has been vastly increased for the coming winter, and it is estimated that from 700,000 to 1,000,000 hogs will be disposed of during the packing season that has just opened.

Col. Lum. Smith, the famous "bill poster" of Buffalo, having accumulated a tolerable fortune by habits of strict attention to business, temperance, &c., has recently opened a banking house in Buffalo, and is doing a flourishing business. The colonel is an evidence of what may be accomplished by resolute and indomitable energy, combined with integrity and virtue.

WINTER QUARTERS.—While we are thus annoyed and retarded by the state of the roads, there are many who urge a speedy advance urging that if the roads are impassable for the Federal trains on this side of the river, the Confederates will find it equally so on the other; that the railroad can carry away but a small portion of the enemy's "plunder," and that a rapid advance upon them with light troops would force them to abandon much of their transportation.

Meantime the Confederates face us on the other side of the river with the greatest effrontery. Yesterday they were seen by the Federal pickets erecting log huts for winter quarters. Under the circumstances this is about the coolest proceedings I have seen for some time. It is no doubt done for bravado, or to cover some operations in another direction.—[Falmouth Corr. of N. Y. Herald.]

GEN. BOYLE'S ORDER.—LOUISVILLE, Nov. 27.—An order which has just been issued by Gen. Boyle gives much satisfaction to conservative men. In this section, the press compliments him for it. The order, in substance, is as follows:

"Headquarters District of Western Kentucky, Louisville, Nov. 27, 1862.—All commanding officers serving in this district are ordered not to permit negro slaves to enter their camps. All officers and privates are forbidden to interfere or intermeddle with slaves in any way."

WINTER QUARTERS.—The current talk in military circles is in regard to the expediency of the Army of the Potomac going into winter quarters. Late events seem to have strengthened the probability of such a policy being adopted, and inferences to the same effect are drawn from the president's visit to Aquia Creek. Late news from Europe is supposed to have had a strong affirmative influence in this direction, it being generally held that the Republic has, by the recent action of the British Government, received a renewal of the lease under which it is allowed to demonstrate its power to suppress the war.—N. Y. Times.

The following words have been added to the oath which discharged U. S. State prisoners are required to take before their release is granted—"And that I will not at any future time commence, or cause any action or suit against the officers of any loyal State, or of the United States, for causing my arrest or imprisonment."

Gen. Rosecrans has issued an order requesting the attendance at mass on every Wednesday of all Roman Catholics connected with his staff, escort and attendants. The Catholic bishop of Huntsville, Alabama, is among the guests of General Rosecrans, and proposes remaining with him until he reaches Huntsville.

Military and naval matters are very active at Cairo. Gunboats are leaving rapidly, and transports loaded with troops pass down daily.—Stirring news is expected from the Lower Mississippi in the course of a few days.

To show the vast accumulation of labor in the U. S. War Department, and especially in the Quartermaster General's office, during the past six months, it is stated that accounts for over \$130,000,000 are still unreached, notwithstanding the increase of clerical force.