

The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 8.

It is reported that Messrs. Job G. McVeigh and James L. Chamberlain, with the family of the latter gentleman, who left this city about three weeks since for Middleburg, were robbed on the way of all their clothing. The report, however, is not credited, by several of the friends of the parties.

The slaughter house of Wm. Gray on the Leesburg turnpike, just outside the limits of the city, was partially torn down on Saturday night by some persons, and a slaughtered beef stolen.

Mr. John Childs, in stepping from Prince street wharf to a long boat, fell overboard, on Saturday, and was with difficulty rescued from drowning.

The City Hotel, in this place, conducted by Mr. Heflebower, and his attentive assistants, is one of the old institutions that still continues, and flourishes. The hotel is well managed in all its details, and its guests have, always, a fine table and excellent accommodations.

The Intelligencer, reviewing Gen. Halleck's report, says, of the allegation of Gen. H. that if the Army of the Potomac had arrived a few days earlier to the support of Pope, the Confederate army could have been easily defeated and destroyed:

"Would it not have been just as reasonable to argue that if the army of Gen. McClellan had been permitted to remain on the James River until it could be reinforced, the country would have been spared the inevitable hazards which so nearly proved fatal to the security of Washington, and which actually led to the invasion of the loyal States? Gen. Halleck's plan, it is easy to see, was liable to derangement, not only by the actual 'delays' of others, but also by his own possible miscalculations as to the time required for the removal of ninety thousand men, with heavy siege trains and military stores. Indeed, what seemed to him 'delays' may have been in fact simple but accidental and unavoidable defects in his computations.

"That no blame was attached to Gen. McClellan for the delay that attended the junction of the two armies in the presence of a wary and powerful enemy, would seem to be sufficiently proved by his selection to conduct the demoralized remnants of both commands against the enemy who had broken into Maryland.—With what degree of skill he conducted that movement we shall not undertake to say, but we observe that it receives no praise at the hands of Gen. Halleck."

"Gen. Halleck refrains from citing all the 'memorable occasions' on which the insurgent Generals have 'outmarched' our commanders, but perhaps the most remarkable instance of all fell under his own observation, while in command of the Department of the Mississippi. The rapid 'advance' of Beauregard, surprising a portion of the army at Pittsburg Landing, and his Eclipse-like retreat from Corinth, after our victorious and greatly-superior forces had been manuevering in his immediate presence for fifty-odd days, will serve as suitable illustrations to confirm the justice of the praise which Gen. Halleck bestows on the superior mobility of the Confederate armies, both in advancing, and retreating."

The fences in the suburbs of the town, are 'going' rapidly. On Saturday and last night fences were broken down and carried off, by thieves. A night guard or police is much wanted.

WAR NEWS.

Memphis papers report that the expedition under Gen. Hovey occupied Grenada, Miss., on Monday of last week. A number of the citizens left the town at the approach of the Federal troops.

Advices received through Southern sources report all quiet along the front of the armies in Tennessee. The Confederates maintain their former position.

Gen. Blunt reports that after the battle at Cane Hill, Arkansas, on the 28th ult. the Confederates retreated to Van Buren, where they were expecting to be reinforced by Gen. Hindman's army.

It is reported that the Confederates, under Col. Imboden, are advancing on the town of St. George's, in Tucker county, Western Virginia, about fifteen miles south of the line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

A skirmish occurred at Moorfield, Hardy county Virginia, on Wednesday last, in which two companies of Confederates were defeated, several being killed, some wounded and several taken prisoners. The Federal loss was only one man wounded.

Public Debt of the U. S., Dec. 1, 1862.

Six per cents of 1862-67-68.....	\$ 21,850,000
Five per cents of 1865-71-74.....	30,000,000
Six per cents of 1881.....	68,850,000
Total funded to Feb. 25, 1862.....	\$120,000,000
New 6 per cent loan, 5-20 years.....	23,750,000
Total funded to date.....	\$143,750,000
7-30 per cent treasury bonds.....	150,000,000
6 per cent treasury certificates.....	87,363,000
6 per cent treasury notes.....	2,500,000
4-5 per cent deposits.....	70,798,000
Total interest bearing.....	\$463,411,000
U. S. notes of circulation.....	222,032,000
Total debt Dec. 1.....	\$685,443,000

The United States notes of circulation include those on hand in the treasury at New York and at other points, not disbursed at the close of November. It also embraces about \$14,000,000 United States notes of the issue of July 17, 1861, and February 12, 1862, which are receivable for customs.

COLD WEATHER.—The weather turned very cold on Saturday afternoon last, and during the night much ice formed on the Potomac, and Hunting Creek was frozen across from shore to shore. The cold continued quite severe all day, yesterday, and last night, and the quantity of ice, in the river, increased. To-day the weather moderated somewhat, but out of the sun's direct rays, the ice was not melted.—The Chesapeake and Ohio canal, navigation on which had last week, just been resumed, we presume is closed again for the passage of boats, in consequence of the freeze.

CHRISTMAS is two weeks off from Thursday next. It is a holiday always observed in Virginia, with peculiar pleasure, and even the calamities of the present times, cannot deaden the heart to the old feeling. The children are already looking forward to the day, and anticipating the "good time" they will have.

Wood for fuel, is selling at the wharves, at \$8 for hickory, \$7 for oak, and \$6 for pine.—The government purchased considerable wood, for its uses, yesterday. Country people should send in, now, all the wood they can spare.

On all pavements where ice accumulates, ashes should be sprinkled.

From Washington.

[Correspondence of the New York Express.]

WASHINGTON, December 4.—Mr. Lovejoy's election to the next Congress is not only certain by a majority vote of 45 and a larger plurality vote, but it is equally certain that he owes his success to the treachery of some men, once prominent Democrats, who had their own ends to serve by his election.—The political sentiment of his District is now believed to be against him.

Resolutions of inquiry and resolutions upon the rebellion occupy much of the time of the House. Mr. Stevens, of Pa., offered a series upon the Union and against its dissolution, and in favor of making any proposition for intervention, mediation, or separation a high crime.—This subject will come up for consideration on Tuesday of next week, the subject being a special order for that time. "Union Saving," you see, is becoming popular in a new quarter.

The proceedings in Congress have so far attracted but very little attention, and notwithstanding the crowds of people in the city, the attendance has been very small. The debates will begin by and bye, and loose none of their intensity.

The old Committees on the Contract and on the War hold over from the last session and will report by and bye. The Contract Committee and the Committee on Supplies have a good many Augean stables to look into and clean. The War Committee sits from day to day.

Members of Congress are already beginning to undo the legislation of last winter. Mr. Hale, of N. H., pitched into the Secretary of the Navy to-day for declaring a provision of the naval bill of last year—equalizing the grade of officers—unconstitutional. Mr. Welles has not only set the law of Congress at naught by appointing over one hundred naval cadets, but the President is also charged by Mr. Hale with violating the law of Congress upon the same subject. Mr. Hale remarked that he used to regard it as a pretty high handed act for the Supreme Court, to declare a law of Congress unconstitutional, but for an executive officer to do so was most anomalous. Mr. Hale promise to investigate these serious charges and to report upon them to the Senate. This abuse of power has already been noted in the House, in a resolution introduced by Mr. Calvert, of Md.

The Emancipation policy is already feeling its way through resolutions of inquiry. Mr. Clark, of N. H., proposes a Joint Committee of three Senators and five members of the Houses, to act upon the President's recommendations. Other committees also have the subject in contemplation.

The U. S. government are having erected a large two story brick building in the rear of Mrs. Beverly's house, on Washington street, to be used for hospital purposes.

The U. S. Government are having built on the old Catalpa lot, at the North end of the town, a number of large stables.

Rev. Dr. Plumer, late Professor in the Alleghany Seminary, Pa., is to preach this winter in the Archstreet, Presbyterian Church, in Philadelphia.

Col. Farnsworth, of the 8th Illinois cavalry has been appointed a Brigadier general.

The library of Humphrey Marshall, consisting of fifteen large boxes of law and miscellaneous books, was condemned on Wednesday last by the U. S. Court at Columbus, Ohio, and ordered to be sold at auction.