

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIII.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22, 1862.

NUMBER 313.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Stone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

WAR NEWS.

Full details of the battle at Kinston, North Carolina, show that a sharp conflict took place there. Gen. Foster's report states that after five hours' hard fighting the Confederates were driven from their position, retreating over the Neuse river. Eleven pieces of artillery and about five hundred men were captured. The Federal loss in killed and wounded was one hundred and sixty; while that of the Confederates was one hundred and twenty-five. Latest Southern accounts say that Gen. Evans was compelled to fall back by the superior number of the Federal forces, and that he retired seven miles beyond the river, there to await reinforcements.

A reconnoissance was recently made in Gloucester county, Virginia, by Gen. Naglee. A Confederate officer and a number of others were taken prisoners, a company of cavalry dispersed and their horses captured, a tannery destroyed, and nearly a thousand head of cattle secured.

The intelligence from Arkansas is to the effect that the Confederate Gen. Hindman has crossed the Arkansas river with the infantry, while Gen. Marmaduke is on the north side with the cavalry. It is stated that numbers of the Confederates have deserted and joined the Federal army. Gen. Curtis has received a communication from the Confederate commander asking explanations of the killing of ten Confederate citizens by Gen. McNeil.

Late Southern papers have some war items of interest. On the 12th instant, an engagement occurred at Port Hudson, on the Mississippi river, about twenty-five miles above Baton Rouge, between some Confederate batteries on the shore and two Federal gunboats, resulting in the vessels retiring, with damage. A body of Confederate cavalry was attacked and routed at Tusculum, Ala., on the 12th inst. A dispatch from Charleston states that the Federal gunboats again shelled James Island on Monday last. Gen. Floyd is reported to have had considerable success in Southwest Virginia, near the Kentucky border.

It is stated that the Confederates are erecting strong fortifications in the vicinity of Vicksburg, extending eight miles back into the country. Two hundred guns in all have been mounted, seventy on the river. An early Federal attack is anticipated.

At a Lancashire county meeting, held at Manchester on the 1st of December, official reports were made in relation to the measures of relief adopted up to that time. Lord Derby reported that the sums contributed amounted to £340,000, of which £40,000 is to be credited to the Colonies, £100,000 to England at large and the remaining £400,000 has been subscribed in Lancashire.

THE CABINET.

[From the Baltimore American.]

"The dissolution of the Cabinet goes on apace. Mr. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, has already resigned, and it is reported that Postmaster General Blair will do likewise.—Secretary Chase, it is said, does not expect a recall to any other position in a new Cabinet. Nothing is known of the intentions of the President. It is thought that the Secretaryship of State will be offered to Senator Fessenden, but that he will decline it. The Committee of Senators of the Republican caucus had an interview on Friday night with the President and all the members of his Cabinet, except Mr. Seward. A general desire is expressed at Washington to have General Banks at the head of the War Department, but his absence will probably prevent the gratification of that wish, even should Mr. Stanton resign, of which there seems to be no present indication. Any remodeling of the Cabinet which does not contemplate a change in the War Department will fail to secure the confidence of the nation."

THE PAYMENT OF TROOPS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, has sent a communication to Speaker Grow, in which he states that the requisitions of the Secretary of War for money for the payment of troops have always been promptly met at the Treasury, when an absolute want of means did not prevent.

He says that, since the 1st of July, the sum of \$69,554,281 has been paid on such requisitions, as follows:—

For bounties on enlistments.....	\$7,500,000-00
For recruiting, collecting, drilling and organizing.....	10,152,360-41
For ordinary pay.....	48,881,921-23

The amount of requisitions of this description now in the Treasury Department unpaid is \$28,700,000. These unpaid requisitions are about equal to the amount required for pay during one bi-monthly period. A portion of them represent pay which fell due before the commencement of the last bi-monthly period of September and October, while about equal amounts have been supplied for pay which has become due since its commencement.

General Burnside arrived in Washington on Saturday evening, and has room at Willards'. He had an interview at the War Office yesterday.

Gen. Wadsworth has been assigned the command of the second division of Gen. Sumner's corps. He leaves to-day for the field of his operations.

Gen. Heintzleman is soon to take the field, and the command of the defences of Washington will be under the supervision of the Military Governor of the District.

A lady in Alexandria, an acquaintance of Col. Hatch, was engaged to be married on the 18th instant, and invited him to be present at the wedding, and he promised to be there. The day arrived, and by a singular coincidence, his corpse arrived at Alexandria on the same day promised.

Important from Tennessee.

CAIRO, Midnight, December 20.—A body of Confederate cavalry, variously estimated at from two thousand to eight thousand strong, made a raid on the railroad, three miles this side of Jackson, Tennessee, yesterday morning.

After firing into the town they tore up the track for a considerable distance, and burned a long tressel work.

The telegraph operator at Trenton this evening reports an attack on that place. There has been considerable excitement at Columbus, in anticipation of a visit to that place.

We are still in doubt regarding the injuries done to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. The Confederates first made a break this side of Jackson, and then moved this way, so there was no chance to hear from the territory passed over.

They have taken Carroll Station, Humboldt, Trenton, Kenton, and at last accounts were marching on Union City.

At Trenton large quantities of cotton, which were at the station house, and other property, were burned, and at Kenton two locomotives and some cars.

The passenger train from Columbus on Friday was fired into but got through to Jackson and was the last train to proceed over the road. The strength of the Confederates is not known, nor do we yet know the commander. Cheatham, Morgan, and Forrest are conjectured.

There is a great panic at Hickman, as it is feared the Confederates will make a dash into that place.

It is reported to-night that the Confederates have retaken Holly Springs, but nothing reliable has been received.

The steamer Mill Boy, while taking cotton at Commerce, Mississippi, on Wednesday, was surprised by Blythe's Confederate cavalry, and fired upon. Three persons were killed. The Mill Boy returned to Helena and reported the facts.

The gunboat Inlet and the transport City Belle, with detachments of the Eleventh and Forty seventh Indiana, were dispatched to Commerce, where they arrived Thursday night and burned the town, and plantations five miles around. Ten prisoners were taken.

From Falmouth.

Gen. Halleck went down to Aquia Creek on Thursday last, and had an interview with Gen. Burnside. He returned yesterday. Eight thousand three hundred wounded men have been brought over to Falmouth from Fredericksburg. The number of our actual killed amounts to about 3,000. Our total loss in killed, wounded and missing will amount to upwards of 15,000.

The above figures may be relied on as correct. They were given us by a person who had ample opportunities for securing the information.—Wash. Rep.

A man froze to death in Washington, on Saturday night.