

The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 22.

FIRE.—Yesterday afternoon between two and three o'clock, a fire broke out in the brick dwelling house, (owned by R. S. Huck, of Washington,) on St. Asaph street, a few doors below Duke, which consumed the upper portion of the building and the roof and attic of the adjoining dwelling owned and occupied by Mrs. Deborah Stabler. The house in which the fire originated, was taken by the Military authorities several months ago and used as a soldier's barracks for some time, but has been recently occupied as quarters for "contrabands," and was by the carelessness of some of these, set on fire. Mrs. Stabler's house was considerably damaged by water also, and much of her furniture injured. There was no insurance on the property. The Government steam engine, and two of our engine companies were active on the occasion.

THE SEVENTEENTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT.—None of the members of the 17th Virginia regiment were injured in the recent battle of Fredericksburg. Messrs. B. C. White, W. H. Bacon, J. T. Mills, Harrison Appich, Robert J. Taylor, Edwd. Baldwin, Robert Kidwell, and all the Old Dominion Rifles were well, and all of the 17th are safe.

EXHIBITION FOR THE BENEFIT OF SICK AND WOUNDED FEDERAL SOLDIERS.—There is to be a grand Equestrian and Musical Entertainment at Nixon's Circus, to-morrow afternoon and night, for the benefit of the Sick and Wounded Federal Soldiers.

FOR THE U. S. CONGRESS.—It is stated in the National Intelligencer that Lewis McKenzie, of this place, "is earnestly pressed by numerous friends to permit himself to be placed before this Congressional district as a candidate for Congress," at the election to be held on the 31st inst.

THE WEATHER.—Since Saturday has been very cold, although it moderated somewhat yesterday; on Saturday night the Potomac was frozen from shore to shore, at this place, with thin ice, which broke up in the course of the day; Hunting Creek was frozen across; much ice is making, and navigation is somewhat impeded, though the ferry boats between Washington and Alexandria continue to run.

CARELESSNESS OF CONTRABANDS.—Much complaint exists as to the carelessness of "contrabands," in this place, who are quartered about in different parts of the town, and fears are entertained that they will cause farther destruction of property.

POULTRY.—A very considerable quantity of poultry is for sale in town, for Christmas times, but the prices are too high, and all who study economy buy as little as possible; a reduction in prices, we believe would be advantageous to sellers as well as buyers.

The report of the death of Capt. John Taylor, of King George county, is contradicted.

Printing paper that formerly cost us \$3.75 per ream, we now have to pay \$10 per ream, for—which, we take it, shows that we ought to be paid for every paper we print.

These of our subscribers who are not called upon by the Carriers for their weekly dues, would oblige us by leaving the same at the Printing office, or at No. 24, South Royal street.

There is a decline in the price of rags in the Northern markets. The outrageous "swindle," in the present price of paper, is commented on everywhere.

JOB PRINTING, neatly and promptly executed at the Alexandria Gazette office, over French's Book Store, King street. The lowest rates for Printing of all descriptions.

It is said that "arrangements are about being made whereby the large number of contraband women and children, as also old men, who have sought refuge in Washington within the past few months, will be properly cared for. It is proposed by the military authorities to appeal to the various benevolent associations of the Northern States to procure homes and employment for them, the Government bearing the expense of their transportation to the various points to which they may be sent. An officer will probably visit the Northern cities to lay the matter before all benevolent societies, in order to ascertain the number for which each society may be able and willing to secure employment."

D. Lambert and S. M. Flynn, residing near Dranesville, Va., were recently arrested by Major Taggart, Third army corps, on suspicion of aiding the Confederates. Col. Doster committed them to the Old Capitol Prison.

Baker's detectives have recently been successful in ferreting out in Washington and recovering government property which had been stolen. On Saturday afternoon, they seized a very large quantity of property which was being carried out of the city to be disposed of.

About two hundred paroled Federals captured by the Confederates at the battle of Fredericksburg, arrived in Washington yesterday. They will be sent to Annapolis, Maryland, until regularly exchanged. They were sent into the Federal lines, together with a written list of them by Gen. Lee, on Saturday. As many Confederates were sent to him, also paroled, in return.

A letter from an officer of the blockading fleet at Savannah says that the Confederate steamer Nashville lies in the great Ogeechee river, fenced in with torpedoes, and with one man aboard ready to blow her up upon the approach of the Federal gunboats.

It is generally rumored in the West that Gen. Sherman, who has so long been in command at Memphis, is to lead the expedition down the Mississippi instead of Gen. McClelland. General Sherman took leave of his corps at Oxford, Miss., on December 9, and but one division of it returned with him to Memphis.

The correspondents of the Press yesterday afternoon received notice from Colonel Lovett, "that the censorship (of the Press) is modified, so that every thing is allowed to pass, save Army movements."

Gov. Pierpont has ordered an election, in this, the 7th Congressional District of Virginia, for a member of Congress. The election is to be held on the 31st inst.

Suits have been commenced by several of the Maryland State prisoners against Hon. Simon Cameron, for false imprisonment. Heavy damages are claimed.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 21.—Rev. Mr. Reed, of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Christian Association, has visited these headquarters, bringing comforts and delicacies for the sick, and a corps of volunteer nurses for the wounded remaining in camp.—All were placed at the disposal of the Medical Department, and were highly appreciated by the Medical Director.

No new movements by the enemy have been observed since we evacuated the south side.

It is not known to Gen. Burnside's staff that he has tendered his resignation as Commander of the army, as stated in a Washington correspondence.

Everything is quiet along the lines.

Another dash by Hampton's Legion.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 20.—Yesterday morning about daylight, one hundred of Hampton's Legion Confederate cavalry entered Occoquan and captured one lieutenant and thirty privates of the Tenth New York cavalry, guarding the telegraph lines.

Eleven sutlers and six sutler's wagons were also seized by the Confederates.

All is quiet to-night.

ORDERS TO GEN BURNSIDE.—It is asserted that Gen. Burnside has publicly declared that he would not have crossed the river in the face of the formidable works of the enemy and stormed them, but for imperative orders from Washington.

In this connection we may give what we understand from a semi-official source to have been the language of the President a day or two since in conversation: "I yielded my own common sense view, which was against Gen. Burnside's crossing the river and attacking the enemy's works, to the military knowledge and experience of General Halleck, the General-in-Chief.—*Wash. Rep.*"

In reply to complaints sent to the Foreign Office, from the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, respecting the destruction of British property on board Federal vessels captured by the Confederate steamer Alabama, Earl Russell states that the owners of such property—not contraband of war, of course—must seek compensation in a Confederate "Prize Court." All through his letter of reply, Earl Russell speaks of the Alabama as a "war vessel" of a "belligerent;" saying that if British subjects ship articles contraband of war on Federal ships, they must endure the loss resulting from capture by the vessels of the other belligerent.

The National Intelligencer says.—It having been stated that General Burnside had tendered the resignation of his command, we think it proper to mention, what we understand to be the fact, that the President has not accepted the resignation, and it is believed does not intend to do so.

It is reported that the President on Saturday afternoon last addressed to Mr. Seward and Mr. Chase a note requesting them to withdraw their resignations and resume the duties of their respective Departments.

A family on Beal's Island, Jonesport, of parents and seven children, named Wallace, were attacked with diphtheria, of which the father and six children died in a few days, leaving only the mother and one child.