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LETTER FROM AQUIA LANDING.

[Correspondence of the Philada. Inquirer.]

NEAR AQUIA, VA., March 5.—This place has a real business like aspect. It appears as though it were a suddenly improvised commercial city, established for the convenience of small towns farther from the water's edge.

It is the grand depot of the army of the Potomac. Here, daily and hourly, boats arrive, load and unload, and all for the army. To a person unaccustomed to the usages of war, the amount of goods unshipped at this point would seem extremely large; but such is not the case in one point of view, as the number of men and horses that receive their supplies through this channel is very great.

The mail boat that formerly left at 9 o'clock in the morning, now departs at 1 in the afternoon.

Probably the neatest building at Aquia Landing is that which is occupied by the Sanitary Commission for the disbursement of their goods.

Every train that arrives and departs from the landing has a full representation of the bone and sinew of the army. The inveterate sutlers, though they go to an immense deal of trouble to devise modes of smuggling goods of a contraband nature through, generally are frustrated in the end, though they be successful enough to evade the authorities for a short time. One of the latest tricks of this sort which has been brought to notice, was detected last week. An owner of a large quantity of whisky had it forwarded, and marked "hospital stores," directed to Windmill Point Hospital. Through some cause in transportation, over which probably he had no control, the "hospital stores" did not arrive until after the hospital at the aforesaid place was removed. This being the case, the "goods" were examined, and when their true nature was discovered, they were confiscated.

Farmers in the Northern States may talk about bad roads in winter time, but if they want to find out what really constitutes a bad road, let them visit this portion of Virginia, and then return home.

The hospital of the eleventh corps, at Dumfries, has been broken up, and the patients transferred to the hospitals of their respective commands.

Considerable surprise was yesterday manifested among the officers and men of the eleventh corps, which lies near Stafford Court House, when they heard that their commander, Gen. Sigel, had tendered his resignation.

New York ice merchants are actively engaged in cutting ice on the Kennebec river at Gardiner, Me., and other points. Men are kept at work day and night, and a large amount will be secured if the weather continues favorable.

A slight shock of an earthquake was noticed at Eastport, Maine, on Friday night last. The noise resembled that of a heavy wagon moving rapidly over frozen ground. The night was warm and damp.

The Nashville which was burned, near Savannah on the 2d inst, was a blockade running Confederate steamer, with 920 bales of cotton on board.

FROM THE NORTHERN NECK OF VA.

A dispatch to the N. Y. Herald from headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, dated on the 7th, reports the return of the expedition under Colonel Phelps from Northumberland and Lancaster counties. Heathsville, the county seat of the former county, was surprised and the postoffice searched, but nothing was found. The jail was also examined, but the cells were empty.

A foraging party sent to Lancaster county captured two important mails and one thousand bushels of corn, fifty horses, mules, etc.—Among the prisoners taken was Colonel Claybrooke, of the Confederate army, also, a smuggler, who has conveyed \$100,000 worth of contraband goods across the Potomac; two influential citizens and two clerks, of the departments at Richmond, with a quantity of letters addressed to citizens in Baltimore and official correspondence to parties in London, including Baring Brothers.

The country through which the troops passed was quiet and no troops were there save a few cavalry. Very little Union sentiment was found.

The British House of Commons, on the 19th ult., unanimously approved Lord Palmerston to settle upon the Prince of Wales the sum of £40,000 a year, in addition to his annual income of £60,000 from the Duchy of Cornwall, with an additional sum of £10,000 a year for the Princess—in all £110,000 a year, or five hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in addition to twenty years' accumulation of the revenues from his Duchy.

The timber for a new lattice bridge over Potomac creek, on a plan prepared by Brigadier General Herman Haupt, Chief of the United States Military Railroads, has been prepared, and the work will be commenced without delay.

Couriers who arrived at Grenada on Saturday evening, brought intelligence of the movements of the Federals at Yazoo Pass. They had removed the artificial obstructions as far as the Coldwater, but none of their boats had entered that stream up to Friday evening.

The Confederates in Richmond are offering most liberal prices for substitutes. One, in the Dispatch, offers to pay \$1,800 each for two substitutes, and another offers \$2,000 for an acceptable substitute over 45 years of age.

Gilling Twine has advanced from 75 cents per pound to \$1.87½. Our fishermen who have to renew their seines this spring will feel the advance very sensibly.

Stewart, the New York dry goods prince, is forming a picture gallery at his residence. He has just paid \$1,500 for a head of Humboldt.

An early opening of navigation on the rivers, lakes and canals is anticipated in consequence of the open winter.

Mrs. Blandena Dudley, founder of the Dudley Observatory, died at Albany, N. Y., on Friday.

A farther advance in gold has taken place in Richmond—three fifty being the selling rate last week.

The Brooklyn Eagle says:—"The officers of the Ninetieth regiment, of Brooklyn, under Col. Morgan, are reported to have resigned in a mass, chaplain and all, owing to difficulties on the negro question. They state in their remonstrance that they could not conscientiously carry out the emancipation proclamation."

The whole of New England is now being scraped to get up one regiment of colored soldiers. Thus far Governor Andrew, of Mass., has succeeded in enlisting about three hundred.

James Davis, said to be from Fairfax county jail, and a citizen of Loudoun, has been arrested in Washington.

The Supreme Court at Washington, will adjourn to-morrow, it is said.

Gen. Schenck has permitted Dr. A. C. Robinson, recently arrested in Baltimore, to remain in that city.

Mr. George D. Prentice of Louisville, now in New York, contradicts the reports recently set afloat in the newspapers, concerning his going to Europe, his selling gold, &c. He says the whole story is false. The newspapers now, are constantly fabricating false statements.

The Hon. Joseph S. Cottman died recently at his residence in Somerset county, Md., in the 60th year of his age. The deceased was extensively and favorably known, and was in former times a prominent whig politician. For several years he represented his county in the State Legislature.

A New York paper has a letter from Louisiana stating that a fight occurred near Greenville, Carroll Parish, on the 23d ult., in which a battery of four guns was captured, but the Confederates re-captured three of them. The casualties on both sides are reported to have been numerous.

Miss Mary Caroline Stevens died in Talbot county, Md., a few days ago. The packet ship "Mary Caroline Stevens," running between Baltimore and Liberia, was called after the deceased, her father, the late Col. John Stevens, having made a present of the ship to the Maryland Colonization Society.

The steamer City of Glasgow, which sailed from New York for Liverpool on Saturday, took out \$557,875 in specie.

Queen Victoria has prepared the following inscription for a memorial for Prince Albert, which has just been erected at the Bath United Hospital in England: "His life sprung from a deep inner sympathy with God's will, and therefore, with all that was true, beautiful and right."

Bishop Clarke, of Rhode Island, closed his discourse a week ago last Sunday with these words, referring to our sectional war: "Blow from the South, O winds of God, and bring us tidings of reconciliation and love!—Blow from the North, O winds of God, and carry back the message of fraternity and peace. Scatter the darkness, roll away the clouds, and give unto us all once more the sunshine of tranquil rest! Under the shadow of Thy wings we make our refuge. O God, give us peace!"