

The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 23.

STEAM FIRE ENGINE HOUSE.—The U. S. government have had constructed at the corner of Princess and Water streets, opposite the freight depot of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad, a neat frame building, for the two steam fire engines now here.

A little boy about twelve years of age was shot through the arm on Saturday afternoon, by one of his companions, while out gunning.

The accounts published in the Northern papers relative to Miss Constance Cary coming on to Washington for her bridal trosser, &c., &c., &c., are said to be entirely without foundation.

Gen. Sumner, U. S. A., whose death was announced on Saturday last, is said to have been one of the most efficient and gallant officer in the service.

There was a heavy snow storm at Fortress Monroe on the 20th. The snow was a foot deep.

Enoch Cook, of this place, (along with Randolph Javins mentioned on Saturday) was captured near Union Mills, and sent to Washington.

The Washington Chronicle says, "the Spring campaign is about to open. Of this there are abundant indications all around, and we may look ere long for hot work."

The Daily Sentinel, a newspaper formerly published in this place, is now published in Richmond, Va., by R. M. Smith and Bailey.

We had yesterday and to-day mild and spring like weather. A few of the early spring flowers begin to show themselves, in very sheltered situations.

Henry Winter Davis and Thomas Swann, are spoken of as candidates for Congress, from Baltimore.

The report of the death of Mr. Temple, the member of Congress elect from Delaware, is not correct. He was very ill, but is now recovering.

A number of wholly uncivilized Indians, from the Far West, have arrived in Washington. Upon their arrival, their clothing, for the season, was extremely "scanty."

Return J. Meigs, of Tennessee, has been appointed clerk of the new Court of the District of Columbia.

It is now thought that Lieut. Graham, of Ohio, who was supposed to have committed suicide, in Washington, last week, was in reality murdered by some unknown person.

By the last arrival from Europe we learn that the Princess Alexandra, of Denmark, the destined bride of the Prince of Wales, had arrived safely in England, been received with every demonstration of affection and respect in London, and reached Windsor, where the marriage ceremony was to have been celebrated on the 10th.

Mrs. McClellan, grandmother of General McClellan, died at East Greenwich, R. I., on the 19th inst., aged 81 years.

A friend has brought us a copy of the Alexandria Gazette, of March, 1802. It is very nearly the size of the present issue of the Gazette—but the Gazette of 1863, has more reading matter in it than the old paper. As far as business advertisements are concerned, however, 1802 beats 1863 considerably.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"The very general observance of the last order of the Provost Marshal closing all drinking saloons on Sunday, and prohibiting absolutely the sale of any liquors, either fermented or spirituous, fell upon the imbibing portion of the community like a thunder-clap. The streets were full of parties of vice young men prowling about everywhere for an opportunity to "smile"

HILTON HEAD, March 13, 1863.—The Land Commissioners have sold about twenty thousand acres of land for as many dollars, cash down. They have bid in for Government about sixty thousand acres—a tract at Hilton Head and the remainder mostly timbered lands. The sales per acre averaged about one dollar. The negroes had joined together for the purchase of plantations, contributing some of them twenty-five dollars, but the Commissioners have outbid them. Mr. E. S. Philbrick, of Brookline, Massachusetts, General Superintendent of Plantations, has purchased thirteen—probably containing fifteen thousand acres.—The Government has been his only competitor. The sales are still going on. The timber lands which have been bought in for Government are valuable, or at least will be if Hilton Head is retained as a military station. We have ceased to talk about the sailing of the expedition. The matter rests wholly with the navy.

At Cincinnati, on the 12th inst., a Tiger belonging to the menagerie of Messrs. Robinson & Lake, managed to escape from its cage, in which it, with its fellows, was confined, and walked leisurely out on Seventh street, unnoticed particularly by any person—some of the pedestrians not seeing it at all, and supposing it, in the darkness to be a large dog. The animal continued out Seventh street to Mound, not offering to molest any one, and entered the yard attached to the house occupied by a Mr. Martin. A little daughter of Mr. Martin happened to be in the yard at the time, and was terrified at the sight of what she took to be a huge dog, climbing the stone wall with cat-like agility, oscillating its long tail slowly, and growling in a hoarse threatening manner. She fled to the house and alarmed her mother, who was terrified beyond bounds at the sight of the animal and the attempt to enter the kitchen, at the door of which it scratched for some time.—In a few moments the keeper arrived and, after a little trouble got possession of the dangerous animal and returned it to its cage.

Rev. N. Cumming, the peculiar London (Scottish Church) preacher, has come out upon Bishop Colenso's heretical book upon the Pentateuch, and is thought to have seriously damaged his Grace of Natal. But the Scotsman's book has been responded to in a pamphlet, entitled "Cumming Wrong: Colenso Right; by a London Zulu." The brochure purports to be written on behalf of the Natal Zulus. So it will be seen that the "war of the books" increases in warmth, with the lapse of every day.

Serfdom, in Russia, expired on March 3, and a Te Deum, in celebration of the event, was sung in all the Russian churches.

A Dr. Joseph Fisher, who recently died at Kornenburg, Germany, left a thousand florins to a favorite cat and canary bird, and another thousand to his dog. The interest of the whole is to be received by an old servant, charged with keeping the animals. As soon as they die the money lapses to the doctor's rightful heir.

By previous arrivals we had a report that the Confederates had really succeeded in negotiating a loan, on the Continent. We find the following further reference to the matter, in the Paris correspondence of the Independence Belge under date of 18th ult. Mr. Slidell, the agent of the Southern States, had another interview to-day with M. Drouyn de L'Huys. There is a good deal of talk about a loan of 68,000,000 of francs, to be contracted by the seceding States, and the emission of which in Europe, and especially in France, would place the Imperial Government in a very embarrassing position. This loan would not be quoted on the Bourse; nevertheless it pursues its course, the South being in high favor with many eminent financiers and people declare it is already completely negotiated.

The Rochester Express states that on Monday evening last at the very unfashionable hour for ghosts, of between 8 and 9 o'clock, while a number of young men were sitting around the stove in Engine House No. 9, the trap door of the reservoir, of which the engine-house floor formed the top, and which cannot be raised by mortal hands without the assistance of a crowbar opened, and a ghost arose from the depths with a ghastly wound in its forehead.—The fireman vanished instantly in great consternation.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, Mr. Forney, says,—“the campaign for the Presidency in 1864 has been opened by the Union men. They do not wish for the opposition to assume the initiative.—They take it themselves. However the so-called Democracy may be troubled in the adjustment of their platforms—however difficult for them to reconcile professed devotion to the Union—the friends equally of the constitution and the Union have no such troubles. They accept all the remedies essential to the cure of the great disease.

A corporation in Boston recently paid a dividend of fifty per cent. An elderly gentleman as he took his check for a thousand, did not appear over satisfied, and the clerk ventured to remark that the dividend was rather a large one. The veteran looked at the young man over his spectacles, and said with a grunt: "It will do, if they only keep it up."

The simplest and best way of preserving woollens through the summer from the destruction of moths, is to wrap them well up, after brushing and beating them, in cotton or linen cloths. The moth can pass neither. Two covers, well wrapped around, and secured from the air, will be effectual. An old sheet will answer.

An organized attempt was made early on Wednesday morning to destroy Columbus, Ohio, by fire. Fire was discovered in six or seven different localities. People ran wildly through the streets, and burglars and thieves were busy at their work. A great deal of property was destroyed, including the government stables, with a number of horses and a lot of grain, a bridge on the Little Miami railroad, &c. The fires raged until daylight, when they were finally extinguished.