

# The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 24, 1863.

NUMBER 71.

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

## WAR NEWS.

An arrival from New Orleans brings the first Federal accounts of the late action at Port Hudson. The information does not come through naval officers, as it was expected would be the case, but through the military telegraph superintendent at Southwest Pass. The dispatches, with the exception of the statement that the Federal fleet succeeded in passing the batteries, mainly confirms the Confederate account. The firing on both sides was rapid and severe. The steamer Mississippi, being run aground, was abandoned and destroyed. The Confederate account, denied that any one of the Federal vessels succeeded in passing the batteries, and that all the others were withdrawn and went down the river, some considerably damaged. A press dispatch states that the Federal land force was within five miles of the Confederate works, and that some skirmishing had taken place, in which one Federal Colonel was wounded.

From Tennessee it is reported that the Confederates under General Van Dorn have re-crossed Duck river in force. Gen. Johnson is expected to take command of the Confederate army at Tullahoma.

It is stated that the movements of the Yazoo Pass expedition are slow, but have every prospect of being successful. The Federal forces debarked at Greenwood, and are now besieging Fort Pemberton.

The levees were cut at Lake Providence on the 16th instant, and it was expected that the town would be submerged. The water was rushing in, and, according to the dispatch, was "threatening friend and foe alike."

Dispatches from Com. Porter state that great distress prevails amongst the Confederates in Vicksburg from want of supplies.—The Yazoo expedition has been much delayed in its progress, from sunken trees and other impediments thrown in the channel by the Confederates. From this cause it has happened sometimes that they have not advanced more than a mile per day.

Admiral Porter, in his dispatch, says that he had received information from Lieut. Commanding Watson Smith, that on the 7th inst. the whole Yazoo expedition arrived safely in the Tallahatchie river, which gives control of the Mississippi. The vessels all got through in fighting condition, excepting the Petrel, which lost her wheel entirely. The Confederates are energetically at work preparing themselves against all contingencies.

It is stated confidentially in military circles that Gen. Heintzelman will assume the command that had been assigned to Gen. Sumner, and supersede Gen. Curtis in Missouri.

Among the returned prisoners, from the South, now in Washington, is John Underwood, of Occoquan, Va.

The recent visit of the privateer Florida, Captain Maffit, to Barbadoes, seems to have created much excitement there. A correspondent of the N. Y. Herald, writing on the 25th ult., who is indignant at the cordial reception extended to her officers, says:—"Captain Maffit was the observed of all observers.—Even the negroes cheered him as he went up the wharf. The Florida seems to be well disciplined, the men well behaved and orderly, the officers polite and attentive. In fact, the impression produced is evidently favorable to Dixie. All the ladies are "Maffit mad." I am sorry to say Barbadoes is as bad as Nassau and that is surely no compliment."

The U. S. consul made an earnest protest to the authorities of Barbadoes against allowing the Florida to coal, but without success.

It is known that the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury is expected to visit New York to offer terms for a loan, either domestic or foreign.—He is expected also to give a preference to a domestic loan. But it is thought that he will hardly be obliged to go into the market for a loan, inasmuch as the orders for the long bonds—five-twenties—are coming in so largely, about eight hundred thousand dollars a day, and increasing in amount.

The N. Y. Express says:—Gen. Scott avoids payment of the three per cent income tax, on his salary as a retired Lieutenant General. He bases his claim to exemption on the fact that the law specifies that he shall not suffer any reduction in pay, rations or allowances.

The clipper ship Kate Hooper, of Baltimore, was burned in Hobson's Bay, Australia, previous to the 25th of January last. She had just arrived from Hong Kong when she took fire, and with her entire cargo was destroyed.

The police of Philadelphia on Saturday last, succeeded in recovering a large number of counterfeit bank plates, among which were the following:—One plate two-dollar counterfeit, Merchants' Bank of Baltimore, Md. One plate three-dollar counterfeit, Mechanics' Bank, of Frederick, Md., engraved thereon. There were also recovered quite a large amount of counterfeit notes ready for circulation.

The people of New York are in a state of excitement just at this time about a street railway through Broadway. It is strongly opposed by many and as strongly pressed by others.

On Sunday night, the safe in the counting room of the Washington Star, was robbed of a small amount of money.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad yesterday morning brought over to Washington one thousand head of fine beeves, for the use of the U. S. Army. They were in excellent condition.

The amount of Northern property destroyed at sea by the cruisers Alabama, Florida, Retribution, Sumter, Jeff. Davis, &c., may be estimated at from ten to fifteen millions of dollars.

The Wheeling Daily Press has a card signed by the Hon. Sherrard Clemens, (Union) addressed to the people of Western Virginia, and explaining to them the reason why he cannot keep his appointments to address them at the points where he had been invited to appear and discuss the "new State question". This reason, he says, is found in the fact that some of the soldiery and certain officials have not only threatened with violence any one attempting to discuss the question in sympathy with the views entertained by Mr. Clemens, but have, in repeated instances, prevented free debate by actual force. Mr. Clemens, while stating the circumstances, exhorts those who share his opinions to keep the peace and to abstain from even the exercise of the right of suffrage in the approaching election.

An intelligent physician writes that there is no more certain method of propagating scarlet fever, and perpetuating consumption in a family, than the practice, now adopted by many, of keeping a house closed for several weeks or months after a death has occurred in it.

The contract for furnishing the U. S. light house establishment with 40,000 gallons of winter sperm oil, 30,000 gallons to be delivered in June, and 10,000 gallons in October, has been awarded to Messrs. W. A. Robinson & Co., of New Bedford city, at \$2 43½ per gallon.

The Dagmar Cross to be worn henceforth by the Princess Alexandra, contains a piece of silk taken from the grave of King Canute.—The ornament is in other respects of a most costly description, as the necklace contains two thousand brilliants and a hundred and eighteen pearls.

Rev. Christopher Grandeler, a Catholic clergyman of Philadelphia, died in that city on Saturday. He was nearly seventy-five years of age, forty years of which was spent in ministerial pursuits.

Hon. Henry M. Rice of Minnesota, whose term of service in the U. S. Senate expired with the last Congress, has written a letter declining to be a candidate for Governor of the State.

General Cox, who has recently been in command in Western Virginia, has been transferred to the Southwest. He was in Wheeling on Thursday.

Advices from San Francisco say that the project to establish a British line of steamers between California and China, will probably be abandoned. The Oregon had sailed for Mexico crowded with passengers, and carrying a cargo of mining machinery.

A decree which was previously ratified by the Pope of Rome has just been promulgated in New York. It provides excommunication for all Catholics who get married by a Protestant minister, and invests the power of pronouncing the anathemas in the Bishop. The decree, however, has been understood not to apply to former marriages.

George Carlisle, an old and wealthy citizen of Cincinnati, died last week. He was President of the Lafayette, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad.