

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 27.

Yesterday, more than two hundred Confederate prisoners, mostly from Missouri, arrived in Washington, from Sandusky, Ohio, and were sent to the Old Capitol Prison. They, with about 250 prisoners already in the Old Capitol, would, it was expected, be sent down to Fortress Monroe immediately, for exchange.

Robt. Ballenger and James Cook, of this city, Confederate soldiers, were taken prisoners by the Federal troops near Vienna to-day and brought to this place, and sent to Washington this afternoon.

We are indebted to an old friend, for the largest and finest shad, that has, as yet, been caught in the Potomac river, this season.

A canal boat, at Goodhand's ship-yard, caught fire, accidentally, this morning. The flames were extinguished by the workmen, before they did much damage.

Gold fell in New York yesterday to 139. The New York Express says that the heavy fall in gold and Sterling Exchange yesterday caused a complete break down in the produce and merchandise markets, resulting in large depreciation in values generally. Speculation is completely killed for the time being, and those articles that enter immediately into consumption are coming down with a rush.

Considerable curiosity was excited this morning, at large bills posted about in public places, having printed on them a black cross, and the words—"No levity—be watchful—Remember the 30th is the Day." The explanation will be given at the Canterbury, next Monday night.

The arrivals of Shad and Herring are but small, as yet. Shad were selling this morning, at \$1.50 per pair; Herring at 50 cts. per dozen.

The report about the silver plate owned by Archbishop Hughes, and his request, that the "forty ounces, exempt by law, should be taxed, &c.," is positively contradicted. One can scarcely believe any thing that is published in the newspapers, now-a-days.

Western Virginia voted yesterday on the new State question, and on the adoption of the amendment inserted by Congress in the Constitution of the State. The returns from the State show almost large vote in favor of the amendment, which is to the effect, that the children of slaves born within the limits of the State after the 4th day of July, 1863, shall be free; and all slaves within the said State who shall, at the time aforesaid be under the age of ten years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-one years; and all slaves over ten and under the age of twenty-one years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-five years, and no slave shall be permitted to come into the State for permanent residence therein.

The National Intelligencer says, that President Lincoln will soon recommend a day for humiliation and prayer.

An agency for the sale of California wines and brandies has been established in Washington.

The recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court adverse to the right of a State to tax U. S. securities held by citizens of that State, reaches in principle, it is supposed, the question raised in New York of the right of that State, under its banking act, to prohibit any corporation or individuals from issuing any notes under the national currency act.

A full synopsis of Rev. Mr. Hunnicut's speech, on this place, on the 20th inst., is published in the National Intelligencer. Mr. H is an unconditional Union, man and warmly opposed to Secession.

Prices of articles, usually brought to market, for sale, begin to fall;—butter, eggs, &c., were lower to-day, than they have been for some weeks.

A small breach in the O. & O. Canal, above Harper's Ferry, is reported. It will doubtless be soon repaired.

Heavy firing was heard this morning in a westerly direction from this place, and, there were rumors of an engagement near Centreville—but we do not know what truth there is in these rumors.

We have given an account of the wedding dress, the marriage ring, &c., &c., for the marriage of the Prince of Wales to the Princess Alexandra—now for the wedding cake:—Mr. Constant Pagniez, the Queen's confectioner at Windsor Castle, has just completed the bride's cake. It stands five feet and a half high, at the base is two and a half broad and weighs upwards of 100 lbs. Mr. Pagniez has adhered to the associations of the place in which the royal wedding is to be celebrated, and, adopting a Gothic design, has produced an ornamental "elevation" which reminds us of one of the old English crosses of the time of the Edwards. The design is divided into four parts or stories. The basement is octagonal and within its arches two niches contain the arms of England and Denmark, with alternate arches, occupied by figures of the Muses.

In Baltimore, butter is selling, and dull, at 18@20 cts. for Glades—N. Y. State 23@25—per keg—Roll, best, 24@26; Eggs 15@16 cts. per dozen by the barrel:—there is a decline in coffee.

A van, with a large placard, was going about yesterday, having painted on it in large capitals, "A Proclamation! by the President," which, of course, attracted attention, and excited no little laughter, when it was found that these words were followed in smaller letters by—"Of the Canterbury Company."

Coal oil, in Baltimore, yesterday, at wholesale, 35@38 cts. per gallon.

One of the rarest and most extensive private collections of pictures in this country, is to be sold by auction at the old Dusseldorf Gallery, New York, on Thursday and Friday evenings next.

"Cairo dispatches" are becoming so unreliable, that the New York papers refuse credence to them, generally.

The U. S. bark Houghton, from Pensacola, reports that a number of refugees are coming there. A schooner containing sixty men, women, and children had arrived from East pass. They report a general want in that section.

From and after to-day no more passes are to be granted to the army of the Potomac.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Philada. Inquirer.]

Solicitor Whiting, of the War Department, is preparing the necessary instructions for the Treasury Department to carry out the law passed by Congress in reference to the disposition of the Confederate property within the Federal lines. As soon as the matter is arranged, the Secretary of the Treasury will appoint proper agents for each State and Military Department whose business it will be to carry out the law. The next question to be disposed of is that relating to the confiscated property of Confederates. This will be put in successful operation at as early a day as practicable. Government is determined to vigorously enforce all laws passed by Congress, touching these and kindred subjects.

All the members and delegates who are entitled to nominate candidates for Midshipmen and there are between sixty and seventy vacancies, will be notified by the Navy Department in a few days.

The sentence of the court-martial in the case of Lieut. Wolfe, of the 131st Penn., Vols., has been revoked, and Lieut. Wolfe is restored to duty in his regiment.

The Post Office Department has awarded to Fairbanks & Co., of New York, the contract for furnishing the stamps, with canceling apparatus attached, to be used by Postmasters, and to E. S. Revely, of Cumberland, Md., the contract for furnishing wooden stamps for similar purposes. There were eight or nine competitors.

While experimenting with a fifty-pound gun to-day, at the Navy Yard, it burst. Thirteen persons, composing the gunner and crew, were present; but with the exception of the Chief Engineer, who was slightly injured, all escaped unhurt. A fragment, weighing three hundred and eighty pounds, passed through the roof of the battery building.

A large number of invalids recently arrived here from Belle Plain, on the Rappahannock.

While congestion of the lungs was the acknowledged cause of General Sumner's sudden and unexpected demise, it is the opinion of the physicians attending him during his last illness that the seeds of disease engendered by the miasma of the Chickahominy swamps, served to aggravate the attack and doubtless gave it the malignant character which rendered it so speedily fatal.

From New Orleans a letter reaches the Boston Courier that a portion of the force of Gen. Banks, in its recent advance upon Port Hudson, was encountered when about twelve miles from Baton Rouge, and in the engagement that ensued two Federal regiments were captured. It is added that in the absence of the forces then concentrated at Baton Rouge, the authorities at New Orleans were apprehensive of a raid upon the latter city by way of Lake Ponchartrain, as the Confederates had captured some schooners on the Lake a few days previous and were making such preparations as indicated an attack.

A large number of civilians are in Washington for appointments as Provost Marshals.—The War Department officials are fairly overrun.

Via Havana advices have been received from Vera Cruz to the 4th inst. The French had not taken Puebla, nor did they appear to be making much progress toward it. The suppression of the insurrection at San Domingo is confirmed.

Fred. Douglass made an address at Syracuse, N. Y., on Friday last and obtained six recruits. Something over twenty colored men have enlisted at Syracuse.