

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 9.

The principal cause of the "unreliability" of statements in the press in this country, is the eagerness to get hold of and publish accounts of army movements and war news, without due attention to the sources of information, and the taking for granted of rumors and reports brought from the scenes of important events by misinformed or ignorant persons.—The public are sometimes deceived by falsehoods deliberately manufactured by letter writers and others, and palmed off for some particular object. But, for the most part, it is the substitution of vague rumor for ascertained fact that creates the difficulty; and the desire to make a newspaper "sell," urges the publication of sensational paragraphs, without regard to truth. It thus happens that a newspaper, now-a-days, has to devote a column one day, to contradict the reports of the day before. To one whose office is limited to the task of compiling and recording the history of the times, it is difficult to prepare what he seeks to perform with fidelity. He has to take the materials furnished to him from sources not only liable to error, but, too often, willing to fall into error. It would be better for every body, if the newspapers would exercise more care in giving currency to statements, and reject those which they have reason to believe are not entirely "reliable."

SUDDEN DEATH.—Dougald McCathern, for many years one of the City Night Watch, and recently a Watchman in the employ of the U. S. government, at the Pioneer Mills, while in the discharge of his duties last night, fell dead, it is supposed from an attack of apoplexy. Mr. McC. was an aged man.

The Constitutional Union, edited by T. B. Florence, heretofore published in Washington as a weekly paper, is now issued daily. It is a Democratic paper, opposed to the present Administration, in politics—and in favor of the Constitution as it is written, and a restoration of the Union.

Fernando Wood denies the statement that in his interview with President Lincoln he contradicted the speech he lately delivered in N. Y.;—he also denies that he was hooted at by the New York soldiers in Baltimore.

Green peas were selling, this morning, in the market at 60 cts. per peck; strawberries 20@30 cts. per quart, according to quality;—gooseberries 15 cts. per quart; cherries 25 cts. per quart. There was only a moderate supply of vegetables—lettuce, asparagus, onions, cabbage—and these were at last Saturday's quotations.

There is to be now, according to the newspapers, a Peace Democratic party and a War Democratic party—both, however, opposed to the present Administration.

Two of the returned N. Y. regiments were received in that city, yesterday. An immense crowd was present. The regiments were received by Gen. McClellan and Gen. Sickles.

N. Lemmon, a citizen of Loudon county, Va., was sent to Washington on Saturday night, and committed to the Old Capitol, on a charge of disloyalty.

WAR NEWS

The advices from Vicksburg are no later than the dispatches published yesterday.

The New Orleans Era of the 2nd inst publishes reports of operations at Vicksburg received from up the river, but of course not so late as those received direct.

In relation to Port Hudson, the Era says that after the severe fight on the 27th the Federal troops held their position, and that the siege was progressing favorably. No mention is made of Kirby Smith reinforcing the Confederates.

Gen. Blair has returned from the expedition in the country between the Yazoo and Big Black rivers without encountering any of Gen. Joe Johnston's forces. Fifty-six miles of country were scoured, and bridges, grist mills and cotton marked "C. S. A." destroyed. A large number of negroes came back with the expedition.

The Ninth Army Corps, which accompanied Gen. Burnside to Kentucky, has been sent, with other troops, to reinforce Gen. Grant at Vicksburg.

The N. O. Era of the 31st of May has a dispatch from up the river stating that Porter's two fleets, one above and the other below Vicksburg, were within three miles of each other, and are in regular communication, and supplies of all kinds are regularly received.

On the 22nd, after a hard fight, the fleet silenced all the hill batteries at Vicksburg, and then raked the water and upper bluff batteries for two hours.

Grant and Pemberton's forces are muzzle to muzzle, and Grant was mining the Confederate works. Grant was receiving reinforcements rapidly.

A dispatch from Murfreesboro, Tenn., states that a band of Confederates at Liberty has been broken up by Col. Wilder, of the mounted infantry. He captured all their horses and sixty-two prisoners. It is now denied that any portion of the Confederate divisions under Breckinridge and McCowan has gone to reinforce Gen. Johnston.

An expedition to the Mattaponi river Va., on the 5th instant, succeeded in destroying an iron foundry and several mills, &c. West Point on the York river, has been evacuated by the Federal forces.

The Correspondent of the N. Y. Times, writing from the "rear of Vicksburg May 28," says, "The Confederates are indefatigable in their efforts to strengthen their works. Every morning reveals the erection of a new work, the repairing of an old one, or the planting of batteries in new positions. Yesterday morning they astonished our forces on the right by opening upon them with two new guns—one a smooth 64 and the other a rifled 32 pounder. In fact, from all appearances, they are as busy digging within as we are without; the morning roar of a new gun from our side is usually answered with defiance by some night-grown battery on theirs; and in short, when we move, they counter-move—we mine, and they counter-mine; and if we succeed in blowing up or carrying their first line of works, we shall probably find another immediately in its rear.—The only thing which threatens to interfere with the capture of the place is a movement upon our rear. That forces are being concentrated with a view to such an operation, is a well-known fact; but to how great an extent is not yet fully understood. The 4th Iowa Cavalry, on Monday, met the advance of the Confederates, at a point only some ten miles distant, on this side of Big Black river. Yesterday a force was detached from our army to meet this advancing column, and to either drive it across the river or give it battle."

The Wheeling Intelligencer is in receipt of a letter from Winchester from very high authority, which says:—"All is quiet in this vicinity, but everything indicates a tremendous concentration against Hooker. Lee is about to assume the aggressive, and it appears he has determined to settle the issue of the war upon the next battle, which will take place soon."

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The National Intelligencer says:—"The army correspondents of the New York papers writing from the headquarters of Gen. Hooker give the particulars of the movement of a part of the Army of the Potomac which was briefly alluded to in the Intelligencer of Saturday last. As we suspected, it was merely a reconnoissance, though in considerable force, to ascertain the position and strength of the enemy on and near the Rappahannock, which object appears to have been accomplished. It is believed that that portion of the Federal forces which crossed the river for this purpose returned to their camps on Saturday evening."

It is stated on information received through scouts at Gen. Hooker's headquarters that on Saturday last Gen. Stuart reviewed, at Culpeper Court house, the commands of Fitzhugh Lee and Wade Hampton, comprising a force of from twelve to fifteen thousand men.

AFFAIRS WITH MEXICO.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"The Mexican question is becoming a very serious one, and will necessarily engage the grave consideration of our vigilant Secretary of State. So far as present appearances go, we must abandon the hope, so sincerely entertained by many, that Mexico, unaided, will be able to repel her invaders and preserve her nationality. It is a difficult task that devolves upon the Secretary of State, in view of this new complication of affairs upon this continent. We do not doubt the ability or the courage of the Government to cope with it, adverse though circumstances may be to assuming the tone it might otherwise adopt. But we would respectfully suggest that next to this civil war, no misfortune so great could befall us as the conversion of Mexico into a monarchy, subsidiary, as it would be, to the ambitious and mischievous Emperor of the French."

The number of colored troops in the Federal service are said to be as follows: Gen. Thomas recruits, 11,000; under Gen. Banks, 3,000; in Kansas, 1,000; in South Carolina, 3,000; in North Carolina, 3,000; under Gen. Rosecrans, 5,000; under Gen. Schofield, 2,000; Massachusetts regiments, 1,200; in the District of Columbia, 800—total 30,000. There are also 5,000 colored men in the navy.

Rev. Mr. Parcell, of Cincinnati, has announced his intention to enforce hereafter the rule of the Roman Catholic Church, limiting the number of carriages in funeral processions.

It is stated that at no time, for a number of years, has ship building in Philadelphia been so extensively carried on as now. In one yard there are eleven vessels on the stocks.

The Army correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, speaking of the late crossing below Frederickburg says, "The Confederates fought better than they ever have before at this point, and the crossing was attended with greater loss on the Federal side."

The London press of every shade of opinion pays a very high tribute to the name and reputation of "Stonewall" Jackson. "It is said that he combined in his person the intellect and religious enthusiasm—without the fanaticism—of Oliver Cromwell, the strategic ability and rapidity of execution of Bonaparte, and the patriotic devotion of Havelock."

A number of soldiers and officers have lately been committed to the Old Capitol, on the charge of altering passes; and in order to put a stop at once to this business, they will be tried for the crime of forgery, and will suffer, if convicted, the legal penalties attached to that crime.