

The Alexandria Gazette

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 10.

THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION of the Magazine at Fort Lyon, mentioned in yesterday's Gazette, will be officially examined into and reported on by the proper military authorities. The north magazine was the one which exploded, where, it is now said, a shell accidentally burst. The shock was tremendous, and the noise was heard for many miles. Glass was broken in the windows of many of the houses in this town. Some eighteen or twenty soldiers were killed outright, and twenty or thirty desperately wounded, the most of whom have since died, or cannot survive. Those who were severely wounded were taken to the hospitals here, where they received every attention. The garrison consisted of the Third New York artillery. Immediately after the explosion men were set to work removing the rubbish and taking the dead and wounded out of the ruins. Men were put at work immediately to repair the injury done to the fort.

John Voscamp was arrested night before last by one of Colonel Baker's detectives.—It is alleged that Voscamp has been representing himself to parties in Washington and Alexandria as a U. S. detective. His object appears to have been the levying of black mail by threatening to use the position he claimed to occupy to the injury of parties whom he had addressed. He was taken in charge by the authorities and committed to the Central Guard house, in Washington.—Also, S. B. Boutwell was arrested yesterday evening by one of the detectives of the Provost Marshal's office, on the charge of acting without authority. It is alleged that Boutwell represented himself as a detective.

FOURTH OF JULY.—It will be seen by the proceedings of the City Council last night that a resolution in reference to the celebration of the fourth of July, was introduced in both boards and an appropriation of \$200 to defray expenses, passed by the Common Council; but the board of Aldermen refused to concur in the appropriation and the session was brought to a close without final action.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.—At the meeting of the City Council last night, a resolution was adopted, by both boards, suspending the regular meetings until the second Tuesday in November next; so that unless especially called, there will be no more meetings until that time.

WATERING THE STREETS.—King street is now watered regularly, and the dust thereby kept down and the street made a very agreeable promenade or drive. For this very agreeable and beneficial improvement the community is indebted to the enterprise of Mr. Weeks. It is hoped the other streets may receive Mr. W's attention.

The Washington Chronicle says—"Twenty nine employees of the Quartermaster's department, at Alexandria, arrived in this city yesterday, having refused to take the oath of allegiance to the U. S. They were committed to the Old Capitol prison."

The weather has turned warm again—and rain is again much wanted.

WAR NEWS.

Advices from Port Hudson to the evening of the 3d instant state that no fighting of consequence had taken place since the 27th ult. General Banks, however, was said to be rapidly contracting his lines, and approaching the Confederate works. Both wings of his army rested on or near the river above and below Port Hudson, and it was believed that reinforcements could not reach the beleaguered garrison. Among the rumors was one that Gen. Gardiner, the Confederate commander, had offered to surrender the place if allowed to march out with his guns, provisions, &c., but General Banks declined to accede. Colonel Clark, of the Sixth Michigan, and other Federal officers previously reported among the killed, are now said to be uninjured. General Sherman was not expected to survive his wounds.

General Grant is reported to be operating with increased vigor at Vicksburg, from which the latest dates are only to the 3d inst.

There are again "rumors from Murfreesboro' brought in by a lady," of the surrender of Vicksburg.

It is stated in a letter from Hilton Head, South Carolina, that Col. Montgomery had made a raid with his colored regiment and brought in seven hundred and twenty-five contrabands, besides destroying large quantities of cotton, rice, &c. Only one thousand Confederate troops are reported to be on James Island, where there were previously from ten to twelve thousand. The report of the burning of the town of Bluffton, S. C., by the Federals under Col. Barton is confirmed.—Immense quantities of stores were consumed.

From Cairo we learn that on Monday last the town of Helena, on the Mississippi, where a large amount of supplies has been accumulated, was again menaced. The Federal pickets were driven in, and four Confederate brigades are said to have been in the vicinity of the town; but we are assured that General Prentiss "is confident of his ability to withstand any attack that may be made."

The guerillas are beginning to be unusually active in Southwest Missouri. A letter from Fort Scott, Kansas, under date of May 26th, reports the loss, on the part of the Federals, of two small wagon trains, the first on the 18th ult., whilst on a foraging expedition, and the second, on the morning the letter was written. In the last affair the train consisted of five wagons, which was escorted by a detachment of twenty-five negro infantry soldiers and twenty-six white cavalry men.

Gen. Banks in his official report, dated before Port Hudson, May 30th, gives an account of the attack at that place, similar to the facts already published. In speaking of the negro troops he says they answered every expectation. No troops could be more determined or more daring.

A letter in the Philadelphia Inquirer says:—"From what can be ascertained from persons arriving from the Rappahannock, a division went over the river at 'Franklin's landing' last night, and the rifle-pits, foliage, &c., along the shore, have been destroyed, so that the enemy will not be able to annoy our proceedings from their coverts. Earthworks have been thrown up on the front, with a view, it is probable, of preventing a night attack, and shielding our men if the enemy should open a cannonade. Fredericksburg is still held by the enemy, and no attempt has been made by our troops to take it. The forces we have thrown over are not far from the town.—The Confederates have not yet fired their guns upon us."

Our subscribers who do not receive their papers regularly, will oblige us by leaving word at the printing office on King street, or at No. 24 South Royal street.

The Statue of Freedom will not be ready to be raised to its place on the dome of the Capitol in Washington, by the 4th of July, as was expected.

Two persons came into the lines of General Rosecrans' army at Franklin, on Monday dressed in the Federal uniform and representing themselves as Colonel Anton, Inspector General, and Major Dunlop, Assistant, charged with the duty of inspecting the outposts of the army. Colonel Baird, who commands at Franklin, finding reasons to suspect that they were spies, telegraphed to General Rosecrans. The latter replied that there were no such persons connected with the army, that they were probably spies, and ordering their trial and immediate execution, if found guilty. This was accordingly done. They were tried, condemned, and executed yesterday morning. Before their execution the men confessed that they were officers in the Confederate army.—One claimed to be Colonel Lawrence W. Orton, formerly W. Orton Williams. The name of the other is not given, but he is said to be a first cousin of General Lee Second P. of General Scott's Staff and afterwards Chief of Bragg's Staff.

The will of Thomas Carberry, deceased, of Washington after making provision for his relatives, leaving them various sums of money from five to twenty-five hundred dollars each bequeaths to St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum one thousand dollars; to St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum five hundred dollars; and to the Carmelite Monastery, Baltimore, five hundred dollars. The residence of the deceased is to be kept by his sisters, who are allowed \$1,200 per annum for keeping up the place during their life-time, and after their decease the mansion is to be merged into the estate, which is left as a perpetual charity fund. The executors are to convert the estate into safe bonds, the proceeds of which for the present are to be paid by them to the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, to be expended as they may think most judiciously in works of Charity.

On Monday morning the members of the family of Wm. Steele, of East Hartford, Connecticut, on going to his room, found his chamber covered with blood and Mr. Steele lying dead on the floor with his throat cut. His wife was on the bed with her throat cut from ear to ear, and an infant six months old had its head almost cut off. All were dead. Steele's hand grasped a razor, and it was evident that he had murdered his wife and child, and then killed himself. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict of insanity. Mr. Steele had been an inmate of an insane asylum at different times during the last twenty years. His age was 53 years. Two of his other children, who were in a different room escaped.

Lieut. Com'r Samuel Magaw, who has for a long time commanded the first division, is now the senior officer of the Potomac flotilla, Lieut. Ives, of the Yankee, being the fleet captain.

Sales of abandoned cotton will take place at St. Louis on the first Monday of each month, and at Cincinnati on the second Monday.—The first sale will take place in the last named city on the 15th instant.

It has been determined that while all persons coming within the provisions of the act for enrolling and calling out the Federal forces are to be enrolled; nevertheless, under the first enrollment, those who were in the military service at the time the act went into effect—3rd of March last—are not to be enrolled in that class which is subject to the first draft. Those of the second class are not to be called out until those of the first class shall have been exhausted.

Several Confederate prisoners recently captured were brought in, to-day, and sent to Washington.