

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 31.

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—“*Multum in Parvo.*”
—The first load of coal, since the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal was recently broken, arrived at Georgetown yesterday; the Canal is all clear to Dam No. 4; seven more boats are on their way down.—There is a large quantity of coal and wood for fuel, on hand in Baltimore.—House builders in Boston are having a prosperous season this year.—The planing mill of J. S. & Wm. H. Simms, in Georgetown was burned down on Wednesday night.—A little girl living near De Soto, Illinois, was recently killed in the woods by a wild cat.—A family of seven persons, in attempting to cross a stream, in Lorain county, Ohio, a few days ago, in a carriage, were all drowned.—The project of making Paris, in France, a seaport, is again talked of.—A letter from an army officer says, “Warrenton, Va., presents a desolate appearance; there are but few inhabitants left; the stores are all closed; and the Warren Green Hotel is the headquarters of the provost marshal.—The little white boys have recently been found among the Sioux Indians, and rescued from captivity by some benevolent Catholic priests.—

No exchange of prisoners has taken place since the 8th of June. The cause of the suspension is owing to the difficulties existing between the Union and Confederate authorities in relation to the exchange of officers. At present, the Confederate prisoners are scattered all over the U. S., and it will require some time to collect them together before they can be sent to the points designated for the delivery of such as have been paroled or exchanged. Gen. S. A. Meredith, the recently appointed Commissioner of Exchange, is completing arrangements whereby an early exchange of all of prisoners will be effected, and secure the release of Col. Streight and his officers.

The Wheeling Register, of Tuesday, says:—“Governor F. H. Pierpoint and Secretary L. A. Hagans, expect to leave this city on Thursday for Alexandria. The other officers elect of the State will meet them at that place, and if circumstances will permit they will proceed to organize the restored government of Virginia.”

Accounts from the counties of Prince William, Fauquier, &c., where the contending armies have been engaged in military operations for two years past, represent much destitution prevailing among the inhabitants, and frequent suffering for food even. If the coming winter should be a severe one, this suffering will be increased.

West Ford, an aged colored man, who has lived on the Mount Vernon estate, the greater portion of his life, died yesterday afternoon, at his home on that estate. He was, we hear, in the 79th year of his age. He was well known to most of our older citizens.

We have now the finest “growing weather” as the farmers call it, imagineable—constant showers succeeded by warm sunshine. The effect upon the crops and vegetables shows itself in their abundant yield. It is thought, too, that its effect ought to be more clearly shown than it is, in the prices asked for vegetables in the market.

ADJUTANT GENERAL THOMAS, U. S. A., in a recently published letter gives the following account of an affair, in which he participated:—“During my tour I met with an Irish regiment, the 90th Illinois, from Chicago—men who read the Chicago Times. After talking to them a while, I proposed three cheers for the President of the United States. These were given heartily. Three cheers were then proposed for the settled policy of the United States with regard to the negroes.—This was met by cries of ‘No!’ ‘No!’ The colonel was absent, and the lieutenant colonel was in command. I inquired what such conduct meant? The lieutenant colonel endeavored to excuse the men by saying that they had no opportunity to think over the matter. I replied, ‘You are not telling the truth, sir! I know that they have been discussing this question for a week past. I know the fact, if you do not.’ The officer was considerably mortified. I ordered those who were opposed to this policy of the Government to step forward, and said I knew the regiment had seen considerable service and fought well; but I also knew that there was but little discipline observed among them; that I wanted a distinct recognition of this doctrine—that was the point with me. Several stepped forward.—They were instantly seized and sent to the guard-house.

“I then left the regiment, telling them I would give them a week to consider what they would do. At the next station I met the colonel of the regiment, who begged that I would leave the matter in his hands, and he would see that the men were taught the duty of soldiers. I complied with the request. When I reached Memphis I was taken sick. When I afterwards got up to Louisville, I was shown a long article from the Chicago Times, written by a captain of the 90th Illinois, who was not on the ground at the time of their insubordinate misconduct, but who saw fit to write a very insubordinate article in reference to what he heard I had said, and in which he terribly distorted the facts. He was, of course, dishonorably dismissed from the service.”

THE MINNESOTA EXPEDITION.—CHICAGO, July 30.—Special dispatches from St. Paul say that reports from Captain Fiske’s expedition state that positive information has been received of the complete discomfiture of Little Crow, and the desertion of all his followers but sixty, and his flight to the Yellow Stone, beyond the Missouri. Other chiefs are awaiting an opportunity to surrender themselves and their warriors.

A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator considers it an important item in the cultivation of potatoes, to pick off the blossoms as soon as they appear, for the reason as he says, that it hurts a potatoe as much to go to seed as a radish or any other root crop.

What next in the way of prize shows? At an entertainment in Winsted, Ct., recently, Mrs. Frank Moore, wife of the editor of the Winstead Herald, was awarded the premium as “the handsomest married lady.”

Some anxiety exists at Fortress Monroe in relation to the success of Gen. Foster, who had gone on an expedition to a certain quarter, where he hoped to give the Confederates more serious trouble than they have had for some time past.

The cotton used on the intrenchments at Vicksburg is to be sold by order of General Grant and its proceeds distributed among the private soldiers as tribute of valor. Five per cent. of the private soldiers and non-commissioned officers are to be given furloughs for thirty days.

FROM CHARLESTON.

The steamer George Collins, from Port Royal on the 25th inst., passed off Charleston at ten o’clock Saturday evening, when the bombardment of Fort Wagner was going on. The gunboat Paul Jones arrived from Charleston harbor on Sunday evening. She was ordered to New York for repairs, being leaky and having burst her 100-pounder on the 18th inst., at the seventy-eighth discharge.

The siege of Fort Wagner continued when she left. Gilmore had succeeded in erecting batteries of heavy siege guns within a thousand yards of Fort Wagner, and everything was progressing favorably. Fort Sumter and Fort Johnson, on James Island, kept up a continued fire on the Federal forces, but the casualties average about six per day. The troops and the Navy are in fine spirits.—Among the passengers on the Paul Jones are Commander Cushman, of the Monitor Montauk, and the officers and crew of the Adams’ Express steamer Mary Dinsmore. The George Collins reports that on the morning of the 26th she saw a gunboat steering for Beaufort with a bark in tow, supposed to be a blockade runner.

NEW YORK, July 30.—From passengers by the Cosmopolitan it is ascertained that the principal guns of Fort Wagner have been silenced, leaving only howitzers for Confederate use. It is said that reinforcements have reached General Gilmore, besides several two and three hundred pounder Parrots.

The Confederate officers are excessively exasperated at being attacked by the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth regiment. On being asked for the body of Col. Shaw, the reply was he had been buried along with his niggers. Offensive operations by Gen. Gilmore are being actively prosecuted.

The New York Times publishes the following letter:—“ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Va., July 29.—This army to-day occupies practically the same line that it did two months ago.—The recent active movements will be necessarily followed by a period of comparative inaction, during which it will be recruited and recuperated. The most stupendous blunder of the war is still the common topic among all grades, for all firmly believe that had Lee been attacked on the Sunday previous to his commencing to recross the Potomac, the war to-day would have been at an end. For the next month the cavalry will do most of the fighting.”

A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEATHER.—Leather, to a great degree, is to be superseded. The London Times endorses the claims of an invention owned by a Mr. Szerelmy, of England, which, according to the description of the article, possesses every quality of the real leather, and is vastly superior to it on many accounts. It will not crack, is tougher, will wear longer and will resist water as effectually as rubber. The leather cloth can be of any color, and a pair of boot tops which cost of calf-skin \$1 50, will cost of this material only 25 cents. The invention is of immense value.

Reconnoitering between Warrenton and Culpeper has discovered only small scouting parties of Lee’s army.

Mr. Evelyn Denison, the Speaker of the British House of Commons, has lately tried a steam plow on some tough clay land, and writes an enthusiastic account of the results to Gen. Peel.

Several slaves, who about a month ago, ran away from their masters in Montgomery county, Md., have returned to their homes voluntarily within the last week.

Over a million and a half of the National Loan was taken up yesterday.