

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 14.

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—*"Mulum in Parvo."*
—The statement that there is to be a meeting of prominent Republican politicians in Washington, "to consult on the affairs of the country," is denied.—It has been decided in England, on good medical authority, that "petroleum is not prejudicial to health.—The exports of specie from this side of the Atlantic, for the last half year, are in excess slightly of those for the first half of the last year.—Great activity is said to be manifested in military circles in New York, and it is added that "Larmomy of purpose and action exists between the National and State authorities."—General McClellan, it is said, had a narrow escape from drowning whilst bathing recently in the surf at Long Island.—At a sale of foreign wool at New York, on Wednesday, the prices showed a falling off.—The wool crop in California, this year, will be very large.—The brutal murder of a family of white persons near Island No. 10, on the Mississippi, heretofore noticed, by a band of negroes, creates much feeling in that section of the country; the negroes, it is now said, had not been enlisted, and the man that led them had no commission.—Gen. McClelland has not resigned his situation in the U. S. army.—The report is revived that there was a naval fight off the coast of Maine, on the 22d ult.,—but the report still is not credited.—It is said that Vicksburg is in a most ruinous condition, and business entirely suspended there.—There are reports in the Northern papers about General Meade being superseded, &c.,—and of his having had a disagreement with the President; but these reports may be all false.—Secretary Seward leaves Washington to-day for the North.—Col. D. H. Strother (Port Crayon) is now in Wheeling, Va.

The Washington Chronicle contends that in the case of Cashell, he has been turned over to the civil courts for trial for a different offence from that for which he was tried by the Military Court Martial, viz: "giving aid and comfort to the enemy," contrary to the act of Congress.

Eighty deaths have occurred among the wounded Confederate prisoners at the General hospital on David's Island, New York harbor, since July 17. Among the names of the deceased are Lieut. S. C. Redman, 40th Va., Co. C. and privates J. P. Woods Co. C. 25th Va., and Eli Pugh, 50th Va., Co. D.

The mosquitoes are not only making "raids," in squads, but "invasions" by regiments and divisions, nay by whole armies. They abound more than usual at this season of the year.

It is now said, by telegrams from San Francisco, that the reports of Secession risings in California, published only yesterday, and circulated all over the country, are untrue.

Notwithstanding the fine rain we had yesterday, and the favorable change that then ensued, the weather to-day is again very warm.

Everything is reported very quiet in the Army of the Potomac.

THE CAMPS AROUND ALEXANDRIA.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

In the suburbs hereabouts, where soldiers most do congregate, the hot broiling sun shines forth day after day, rendering the camps and their surroundings a perfect fiery furnace.—During the last two winters the woods and trees around Alexandria have been cut down for firewood, and to prevent a cover being made for the enemy, in case he should make an attack upon the place, so that now during the "dog days" the poor soldiers have little or no protection from old Sol's rays. In many of the camps, by the hill-side and on the plains, the grass has long since disappeared, and there being not a tree nor a leaf to shelter them, their appearance at this time is by no means inviting. The officers' tents become almost like hot stoves, while the little shelter tents of the men are not much better, but they have the advantage of better ventilation, being open at both ends, and this generally makes them rather cooler than the wall, Sibley or wedge tents. The ground, hard, dry and dusty, retains the heat till it penetrates the soles of thick boots, rendering pedestrianizing exceedingly uncomfortable, for one experiences emphatically a fire from above and a fire below.—The consequence is, that very little is done except what cannot be avoided, if being exceedingly injudicious to expose men unnecessarily while the "heated term" lasts. Now that I have given the darker side of the picture, it is only right I should turn the brighter to view. The health of the men is generally good, and excepting an increase of diarrhea and disease of that character, it may be said to be excellent.

The Washington Star says:—"From an intelligent and well-informed gentleman who reached here to-day from New York, we learn that there were many indications of an intended renewal by the rioters there of their recent acts of mob law, in case the draft shall be enforced. Our informant states that in Rochester city also, the mischievous element is busily engaged fomenting opposition to the draft."

Fred. Douglass spoke to a large audience in the Fifteenth Street Church, Washington, on Monday evening. He referred with gratitude to the kind attention which President Lincoln and leading members of the Cabinet had extended to him, and said that the revolution in Northern sentiments and prejudices is hardly less than that going forward on Southern plantations.

In 1853, there were 2,509 sewing machines sold in America. In 1859, the sales reached 16,243. The annual saving to the United States in labor alone is computed at \$29,000,000; that is to say this extra amount must have been paid, if the same amount of clothing had been produced by manual work.

The Richmond Enquirer of Monday, the 10th inst., expresses strong condemnation of the course in which the North Carolinians are pursuing in calling a mass convention of the Unionists of North Carolina to send a delegation to Washington, D. C.

The attempt to defend Fort Sumter with cotton bales has it is said been abandoned, as they were set on fire by the guns from the Fort. But, others say, they are still used.

Senator Wilson asserted at the Abington (Mass.) anti slavery celebration that four or perhaps five of the U. S. Supreme Judges believe in the constitutionality of the President's decree of emancipation.

Suspicious of foul play in the recent burning of the steamer Ruth on the Mississippi river are entertained.

NEW YORK LETTER.

[Correspondence of the Philada. Inquirer.]
NEW YORK, Aug. 13, 1863.

The inflammatory effect of the journals in this city is beginning to arrest attention outside of mere political circles, and if that tone is at all a reflection of what is passing in the N. Y., (Democratic) public mind, it is difficult, speaking with due moderation, to see how we are going to escape having a war at our own doors before long.

To-day, I learn, on inquiry at the Provost Marshal's office, that the work of re-enrollment is progressing, with a fair prospect of being completed by the 1st of September. If an earnest effort was made by the citizens and people to obtain volunteers, in the meantime, much might be done to mitigate the draft when it does come; but I see no evidence that any such effort is to be made.

A call is out, today, for a mass meeting of citizens of the Nineteenth Ward, to form a regiment of National Guards (I quote) "to be placed at the disposal of the Governor, at the earliest possible moment, either to repel a foreign foe, or maintain the rights of the Empire State; an Invasion or Usurpation would be equally obnoxious; therefore, as we value liberty, so let us be vigilant."

This called is signed by Thomas McSpedon, an ex-Democratic Alderman, of the order of Roughs.

The Board of Aldermen had a special meeting, this afternoon, to consider further what steps should be taken to relieve persons who may be drafted. Nothing definite was done, however, besides receiving an ordinance, from Alderman Hardy, appropriating \$2,500,000 to enable all citizens who may be conscripted to buy a substitute, and empowering the so-called Committee on National Affairs to supervise the enrollment throughout the city, so that no frauds may be perpetrated; to defray the expenses of which the sum of one thousand dollars is appropriated for each Congressional District. The ordinance will come up for action at the next meeting.

Gov. Pierpont, of Va., is at Norfolk for the present.

Dr. Perley, Medical Inspector-General of the U. S. Army, has resigned his position as Medical Inspector, and Dr. Barnes has been appointed his successor. Some time since serious charges were preferred against Dr. Perley, among them that of signing soldier's discharges in blank. A Court of Inquiry was ordered to investigate the charges, but before any progress was made Dr. Perley resigned.

The Philadelphia Ledger suggests the application of sweet oil to the body and limbs of horses, to keep off the greenhead and other flies which tease these animals so distressingly, and deprive them of the power to perform labor.

According to the correspondent of the N. Y. Post, there has been an interview between President Lincoln, and Governor Todd, Senator Harris, of New York, and "several generals" whose names are not given. The subject discussed was, we are assured, entirely out of the domain of politics. "An important military demonstration was pressed, which, it is said, would inflict a tremendous blow on the rebellion."

The Toronto Globe, says that Smith, a colored man and an old citizen of that city, died last Thursday, at the very advanced age of one hundred and ten years.

A deserter from Wagner reports two-thirds of the guns in Sumter having been removed to James Island.