

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, SEPT. 22.

We have already mentioned the change of appearance in the suburbs of the town, by the erection of numerous "shanties," on lots which for years past have been vacant. These frail tenements are still going up daily. Several hundreds must have been built within the last three or four weeks, and they are all occupied. Most of them rent for ten or twelve dollars a month, and in numerous instances the occupants hire the ground for a year, and erect their own buildings. In the Northern suburbs quite a large new village has suddenly made its appearance.

The Washington Star says that conscripts from the army of the Potomac are escaping across the Potomac, below Glymont, in the vicinity of Maryland Point, nightly, in numbers. They cross by various modes, upon canoes, boats, rafts, &c., and beg their way through the country on getting into Maryland. It is reported that several deserters were drowned by the upsetting of a canoe on Saturday night.

The Washington Republican of yesterday says:—"On Saturday last Gen. Burnside captured Jonesboro', a comparatively unimportant post, in the extreme eastern part of Tennessee, more than two hundred miles distant from the ground on which Rosecrans was fighting with the combined forces of Bragg, Johnston and Longstreet."

In Georgetown, the Borden Mining Company are extending their wharves and making other preparations for the expected lively coal trade this fall by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

A family by the name of Beach, seven in all, living near Fairfax Station, have been arrested and sent to Washington, charged with complicity with Moseby's men.

The market was well supplied with vegetables and fruit, this morning, but prices remained as high as ever.

Gen. Briggs, who has charge of the Conscripts for the U. S. army, arriving here, has his headquarters in this place.

A negro woman, a contraband, was burned to death in Washington, accidentally on Sunday last.

There is important news of military operations near Chattanooga, accounts of which are published in another column.

Paris Simms, who was stabbed on Saturday last, is still in a critical condition.

The National Grand Lodge of the Order of Odd Fellows is now holding its sessions in Baltimore.

Gold, in New York, yesterday, 139½.

The Washington correspondent of the New York News says: "A sharp cavalry fight occurred on Sunday in the vicinity of Leesburg, between the Second Massachusetts, Thirteenth and Sixteenth New York, and Moseby's and White's guerrillas. No particulars have been received."

Crawford E. Smith, of Saline county, (Mo.) has been ordered beyond the Federal lines.—His property is to be taken possession of by the Provost Marshal, and his slaves, one hundred and twenty-five in number, to be furnished with protection papers in accordance with general order No. 35, and to remain and be subsisted on his plantation. Dr. Smith is the wealthiest man in Saline county, and is charged with disloyalty.

Mrs. Margaret Beach, Miss Margaret Beach, Mildred Beach, Harriet Beach, Garrison Beach, Headly Beach and Joseph T. Beach, representatives of four different Beach families, were on Saturday arrested at their homes, about five miles from Fairfax Court-House on the charge of giving aid and comfort to the Confederates on a statement made by a soldier who was sent out as a scout for guerrillas.—They have been committed to the Old Capitol.

The Paris Constitutionnel states that all the rumors of obstacles to the assumption of the crown of Mexico by the Archduke Maximilian are pure inventions; the latter will certainly act in accordance with the will of the Mexican people, if they show themselves disposed to ratify the vote of the Assembly of Notables.

The whole number of men ordered from Rhode Island was 2,880; and the draft, adding the fifty per cent., was for 4,320. Of these drafted men about 105 serve. There were 678 substitutes, and all the rest were exempted by evidence of money or of incapacity. Those who paid were 442.

Imboden's force it is said is still lying in and about the vicinity of Moorfield, while Gilmore and Baylor's men, for the most part, are in the locality of Mount Jackson, which is thought to be the only force in the valley at the present time.

Two young girls, aged about twelve or fourteen years named Julia Halloran and Julia Connel, were drowned while bathing in a pond near Boston on Tuesday. When the bodies were recovered the girls were found tightly clasped in each other's arms.

In the District of Columbia, up to Saturday evening last, the whole number of conscripts examined was 3,184, and the whole number of soldiers obtained 740, of whom 271 are negroes.

The heavy rain of last Friday caused a break in the Erie Canal at Hoffman's Ferry. The break extends 100 feet, and the earth was washed to the depth of 10 feet below the bottom of the Canal.

The Sumter ran the blockade of Charleston on the morning of the 23d ult. She had on board two 600 and four 400 pounders.

Messrs Glass, Elliott & Co., of London, have made a contract with the Directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company to manufacture and lay down next summer, a good submarine Telegraph Cable between Ireland and Newfoundland.

Queen Victoria left Germany on the 7th for England. Her Majesty is represented to have been much benefitted by the repose she has enjoyed.

Rev. Asa D. Smith, of New York, has been elected president of Dartmouth College in place of the Rev. Dr. Lord.

There has been a severe frost in Kentucky, and it is feared that the tobacco crop will be seriously injured.

The Texas Expedition.

The loss of the Federal gunboats Schem and Clifton at Sabine Pass, having broken up the combined movement for the reconquest of Texas, has stopped the expedition. Franklin's transports are returning to New Orleans. Washburne's corps was supposed to be at Brashear City; whilst Herron's division, which was to have co-operated with Franklin and Washburne, by way of Red river, had not been heard from at the last advices. It is now thought that the next movement on Texas would be made entirely overland, by way of the Teche region; but the indications were that a new plan of operations was under consideration, which might possibly direct the course of the troops originally intended for Texas upon some other and nearer point in the Gulf States.

Correspondents of the Northern papers say that the expedition of Gens. Franklin, Wetzel and Emory, consisted of some 3,000 men, thirteen transports, two gunboats, and was joined at Berwick by the gunboats Schem and Clifton. The expedition arrived at Sabine Pass on the 8th. The gunboats Schem and Clifton crossed the bar, and fired at the Confederate battery, which really consisted of seven first-class siege guns. The Confederates held their fire until the near approach of the boats gave them a full opportunity; when they completely riddled the gunboats, piercing the steam drum of the Schem, and compelling the Captain of the Clifton to fire a shot through the machinery of his own boat. The entire affair did not occupy more than fifteen minutes, and the two gunboats grounding, the expedition started back to New Orleans.

Some correspondents represent that General Magruder commanded the Confederates at Sabine Pass. A letter from New Orleans says:

"Great anxiety is entertained for the safety of General Herron (operating in the Red River country), because General Washburne not having been able to advance into the interior on account of missing his two boats to protect his crossing Berwick Bay; it is clear that General Herron is alone in the middle of a hostile country, and between two Confederate armies, one under Col. Major, and the other commanded by Gen. Prince Polignac, a French gentleman, who has been an officer in the French army, and came to offer his military services to the Confederate Government two years ago.

Rumors were current yesterday that they were engaged near the Red River. Troops were sent in that direction from New Orleans. Some guerrilla bands are running to and fro between Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, taking what has been taken from them—cotton and negroes. It is said that the great expedition is going to take another road, and to go right to Houston, so as to penetrate into the interior of Texas, toward Brownsville, where, it seems likely, the French troops at Matamoros will be watched close.

The lost Clifton was one of the most serviceable gunboats in the department, and was superbly armed. She had on board two eleven-inch guns, two or more nine inch guns, and mounted nine guns in all. Apart from the losses in killed, wounded and prisoners, there has been nothing more serious on the Gulf coast since the losses of the Hatteras, the Harriet Lane and the Westfield.

The Schem was a propeller, built in 1840, and was rebuilt in 1856 and afterwards sold to the government at the beginning of the war. She has been of great service in several instances, especially in the attack upon New Orleans. Her armament was heavy, and I understand she had on board five parrott guns.

The demand for houses for rent is very great just at this time. An advertisement in the Gazette, offering a house for rent, a few days ago, brought twenty or thirty applicants in an hour or two.