

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20.

Further extensive improvements are being made at the Depot of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad by the U. S. government. Besides the commodious engine house lately completed, buildings to accommodate thirty locomotives are in course of erection, and the shops and many of the buildings on the grounds, are being enlarged and improved.

Gen. Meade in a supplementary general order, in relation to the battle of the 14th inst., "bears testimony to the activity, zeal, and gallantry, not only of the Second division, but of the whole cavalry corps, and to the efficient and arduous service rendered in all the recent operations from the Rapidan to his headquarters."

The Washington Star states that a party of Confederates, some hundreds in number, commanded by Maj. White, were in the neighborhood of Vienna and Fairfax Ct. House on Sunday, came down to the rifle pits at Fort Marcy, one mile above the Chain bridge, on the Leesburg road, fired three rounds into the pits, and then retired. Reports say that they captured a number of horses, &c.

There continue to be rumors that efforts are making, with hope of success, to have the pass system between Alexandria and Washington removed; at least, when the new line of steamboats commence running, which it is expected, will be early in December.

This has been one of the most delightful days we have had this fall — and the fine weather, and bright sunshine, drew out crowds on the street. King street presented a very lovely appearance.

At a recent meeting of the "Yorick Club" of this place, a diamond breast pin was presented to Walter L. Penn, past officer, and a gold watch to Wm. M. Johnson, secretary. — Speeches were made on the occasion. The Club, it is said, numbers two hundred.

A letter from James M. Mason, of Va., directed to Col. Jeff. Davis, of Miss., written in 1856, has been found among the captured papers of the latter, and published. It proposed separation in case of the election of Fremont at that time.

A steamboat company has been organized for running a new line of steamboats between Washington and Alexandria, in connection with the Washington and Georgetown street railroad. The wharf for the company's boats will be between King and Prince streets.

The Synod of Baltimore (O. S.) commences its session in Washington, on Thursday. The Synod of Pennsylvania (N. S.) commences its session there to-day.

There will be a called meeting of the City Council of this place held this evening, at 7½ o'clock.

The Washington Star regards "Maryland as rapidly becoming the most unanimous state in favor of the employment of negro troops."

We had no news from Charleston, by our exchange papers, to-day.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The special correspondent of the New York Tribune at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac furnishes the following account of movements at the extreme front on Sunday and of the operations during Saturday night:

HEADQ'RS. ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.
Sunday, October 18, 1863.

I have just returned from the extreme front. We crossed Bull Run at Stone Bridge, followed it up to Sudley's Mills or Church, and struck out thence upon the old battle-field, where we found Gen. Kilpatrick hunting for the Confederates.

We were drawn out by a sharp artillery fire in the morning. Gen. Kilpatrick had been disturbed at Stone Bridge in the morning by his pickets being driven in upon him, when he sent out Gen. Custer and followed with his entire division. The Confederate cavalry made a stand in and behind some stone houses in a clearing, but were sent flying by a few shells from our artillery, in which arm of the service they seemed deficient. The fugitives were followed in the direction of Gainesville, Jones' Confederate brigade diverging toward Manassas. When we arrived there had just been a little cavalry brush, and private Caudwell was brought off wounded in the arm by a minie. — No Confederate infantry was seen, and it is not believed there is any in force this side of Bristoe.

The skirmishing in front for two days has been slight, the Confederates striking only at points apparently exposed, and failing to gain the least advantage. Our flanks have been, however, greatly annoyed by guerrillas.

Last night Fairfax Court-house was alarmed by a report that Stuart was coming down from Aldie, and a force was sent out to meet him. — The facts, as finally ascertained, are, that at about eight o'clock in the evening, fifteen men of the 13th New York cavalry, stationed at Stuart's, near Chantilly, and about equidistant from Fairfax and Centreville, were surrounded by some guerrillas under Moseby himself. As they were outnumbered, they attempted flight, but six of Capt. Jackson's company were captured. One made his escape this morning, and reports two hundred and fifty Confederate cavalry on the Frying-Pan road, toward Gainesville.

About the same time last night a squad of guerrillas made a descent on the Alexandria railroad at Accotink, and carried off some fifteen of the 120th New York, stationed there.

While at Fairfax Station this afternoon at three o'clock I heard rapid cannon firing for a quarter of an hour in the direction of Manassas, and judging from the sound in that vicinity, it was probably nothing more than a continuation of our reconnoissance in front.

Thirteen officers of Gen. Sedgwick's Corps were captured in detail this afternoon as they strolled in a wood near headquarters, by Confederates concealed in the thicket, and spirited away before the trap was discovered. Two were on the general's staff and one a commissary.

This afternoon a captain's horse was shot under him, between Fairfax Ct. House and Washington, and the rider taken prisoner. A corporal and several privates were wounded by the same party of guerrillas, who escaped with their prey.

Gen. Milroy was among the callers at the President's in Washington, yesterday. Gen. King takes Capt. Robert Chandler, Assistant Adjutant General, with him to Rome as Secretary of Legation. Col. Beardsley, of the 24th N. Y. regiment, now out of service, has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of Gen. Meade.

The Providence Journal says that the "Friends" who were drafted in Rhode Island and sent to Fort Columbus have been paroled and permitted to return home. By the terms of the parole they are to answer the call of the Government whenever made.

FROM TENNESSEE.

General Rosecrans, in a despatch dated at Chattanooga on the 18th inst., communicates to Gen. Halleck the following telegraphic report from Gen. Crook:

ROGERSVILLE, (Ala.) October 10, 1863.

I have the honor to inform you that I have had three fights with the enemy since I left Sequatchie Valley, whipping him very badly each time. The last battle ended at Farmington, Tennessee, where I fought Wheeler's entire command with only two brigades. I cut his force in two, scattering a large portion of it, capturing four pieces of artillery, one thousand stand of arms, two hundred and forty prisoners, besides the wounded. — As I pushed on after the enemy immediately, I have not been able to ascertain the number of their killed and wounded, but it was very heavy. They were scattered over a distance of fifteen miles from this, and their retreat was a perfect rout, their men deserting and struggling over the country. I pursued them with great vigor, but their horses being better than mine, I was only able to come up with a couple of regiments at Sugar Creek, left to detain me. I made a charge on them, capturing some fifty of them and scattering the remainder in the mountains.

When within eight miles of the river I struck the gallop, but when I reached the river I found they had all crossed at a ford some three miles above Taup's Ferry, where they could cross twelve abreast. I never saw troops more demoralized than they were. I am satisfied that their loss in this raid was not less than two thousand. No fears need be entertained of their making another raid soon.

Geo. Crook, Brig. Gen. Com.

FROM RICHMOND.

[From the Enquirer of the 13th.]

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of mechanics held in Richmond on the night of the 10th inst., a series of resolutions were adopted, one of which, the 6th, is as follows:

Resolved, That, awakened to a sense of the abject posture to which labor and we who labor have been reduced, and to the privileges which as citizens and people the institutions of our country rest in us, we will not sleep again until our grasp has firmly clenched the rights and immunities which are ours as Americans and men, until our just demands have been met by the concessions of all opposing elements.

The Enquirer notices the meeting fitfully, and thinks the resolution given above "empty highfalutin or an unbecoming threat of mob violence."

The U. S. District Court for Virginia.

The United States District Court for Virginia, Judge Underwood presiding, resumed its session in this place yesterday. A letter says:

"Several decrees will probably be pronounced in the course of the week under the confiscation law, upon which Judge Underwood is understood to put a different construction from that adopted in other districts. He holds that under the Constitution and the laws of the last Congress, not merely the life estate, but the fee simple, of real property is forfeited by treason. He considers that the joint resolution explanatory of the confiscation law was not intended to put the life estate construction upon the constitutional provision relative to the subject, but to leave the interpretation of this provision, with reference to which two opinions obtain, to the courts. Judge Underwood is confirmed in this view by high authority."

Generals McCook and Crittenden have been relieved from their commands in the Army of the Cumberland, and ordered to Indianapolis, there to appear before a court of inquiry. — Gen. Polk of the Confederate service has also been relieved of his command, and awaits a court of inquiry.