

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 14, 1863.

NUMBER 259.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Sone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

Reminiscences of the "Old Town."
BY SENEX—No. 7.

*The City Hotel—F. F. V's.—The Little
Gentleman—General Washington, &c., &c.*

The City Hotel, corner of Cameron and Royal streets, was, if my memory serves me, the "Washington Hotel." Why the change in its nomenclature, I do not know. The Washington pew, in Christ Church, and Washington Street are the only mementoes in the town, known to me, of the Pater Patriæ!

Towards the close of the last century, Alexandria was very gay, and the Old Hotel was the centre of great attraction. Festivals were frequent, and sometimes Washington would honor them with his presence. When these occasions were known, as they were always very apt to be, the *F. F. V's.*, for miles and miles around would attend, and Maryland, too, would be well represented. I will not say that ladies were prettier then, than now, but they were marvellously beautiful, and I venture the assertion that Almack's, though always radiant with diamonds, was never so resplendent with the presence of charming women as the ball room of the old hotel.

There was a little gentleman in Alexandria by the name of—let me think—I will not assert that it was Prig, I would not swear that it was not Priggins, nor would I wager that it was neither the one nor the other. It matters not—the little gentleman was very pragmatical and very testy, and whoever saw a little gentleman that was not? Politics raged here, with great bitterness; Prig was of the Jefferson school; it is well known that Washington was a Federalist. On the occasion of a large political gathering in Alexandria, the little man, as was usual, was bobbing about, and though seen by very few at a time, he was heard every where, and was very abusive of all who did not happen to think exactly with himself. Always turning and shifting about, he, in the course of the day, chanced to be where the General was standing, and his remarks being exceedingly offensive, Washington gave vent to some expression, which caused much umbrage to the little gentleman. Being as plucky as he was quick, he rushed towards the general with hostile intent. Whether arrested before he gave the blow, I am not informed, but everybody stood amazed. On the day following the Gen. sent word to the little gentleman that he wished to see him at his room, in the City Hotel. Nothing daunted, he promptly obeyed the summons, but what was his surprise, when instead of pistols for two, as he expected, he saw upon the table a decanter of wine, and two wine glasses! "Good morning, sir," said Washington, in his blandest accents, at the same time extending his hand, "I am always provoked with myself, Mr. P. when, at any time, I do anything which my judgment condemns, and I am particularly so now, for having used towards you the epithet which I did yesterday. I ask your forgiveness, sir, and I beg that you will further oblige me, by taking with me a glass of wine." The lion-hearted little gentleman was taken all aback, and subdued almost to tears. Forever afterwards, he was the fast friend of General Washington.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Information was received in Washington yesterday that the Confederates shelled Gen. Kilpatrick's camp at Stevensburg on Thursday morning. It thus appears that a portion of General Lee's army is still north of the Rapidan.

The correspondent of the New York Tribune writes from the headquarters of the army of the Potomac on the 12th, as follows:

"A few shots were sent after a body of Confederate scouts yesterday to the left of Culpeper. Otherwise all was quiet. There is no truth in the rumor that Gen. Lee has left the Army of Northern Virginia. He occupied the camping ground which was the Federal headquarters on Tuesday near Brandy Station. Citizens here saw and conversed with him.—Several envelopes addressed to him were also found about the camp. Large numbers of Confederate camp fires are nightly seen on the line of the Rapidan—more than their real strength would warrant. A cavalry reconnoissance has been made on the right to within a few miles of Madison Court House. No Confederates were found. Clark and Thoroughfare Mountains are again occupied as Confederate signal stations, and nearly every movement of Gen. Meade along his entire front can be clearly seen from these natural lookouts. The Confederate earthworks at Barnets, Rappahannock, and Germania Fords, thrown up in October, are being enlarged and strengthened, and the line of rifle-pits extends further up the hills. It is thought hardly possible that Gen. Meade will attack these strongholds in front.

The correspondent of the N. Y. Times reports an engagement on Thursday morning between detachments of Federal infantry and cavalry and Gen. Stuart's cavalry, near Mitchell's Station, three miles southwest of Culpeper, in which the latter it is said, were defeated. The rest of the army was quiet; but it is the quiet that precedes the storm. The Federal forces now hold all the ground in Culpeper county that they held six weeks ago. Among the corrections of chronic errors made by the advance beyond the Rapidan, is the belief in the fable that Lee's army is always starving, and destined soon to die of inanition. However hungry Richmond may be, his soldiers are well fed.—Through the new Winter camps on the south side of the Rappahannock, the advance guard was interested to see scattered about numerous empty tin cans once filled with prepared meats and vegetables, and interested to find on them Baltimore and New York labels.

Simon Cameron is now in Baltimore, responding to the civil suits brought against him in the United States Circuit Court, in the cases of Wm. H. Gatchell, John W. Davis, and Charles Howard, formerly police commissioners of Baltimore, when U. S. Secretary of War, and the Northern Central Railroad Company, garnishee, for damages for illegal arrest and imprisonment, &c.

The National Intelligencer says:—"Many of the Republican journals throughout the country are calling upon the coming Congress to raise President Lincoln's salary, forgetting that there is a constitutional provision which forbids any such increase until after the expiration of the term of office to which the person interested has been chosen."

VOTING AT ALLEN'S FRESH CHARLES CO., MD.

—At an early hour on the morning of the election, a guard was posted at the door leading to the room in which the judges held the polls, who prevented voters from entering.—The lieutenant in command required all who wished to vote (with few exceptions) to take an oath which he read to them, a copy of which has been already published. After the applicant had taken, or had signified his willingness to take the oath in question, it seems, his difficulties were not ended. Then followed a series of cross questioning, such as "Are you a Union man?" This being answered in the affirmative, was followed by another, "Are you an Unconditional Union man?" An affirmative answer to this, it seems, was not in all cases sufficient to entitle a person to vote.—Further interrogatories were propounded, as "Are you in favor of a prosecution of the war?" "Do you approve the policy of the present Administration?" "Are you for Emancipation in this State?" This latter question was put to a friend of ours, we are informed, and a failure to answer it in the affirmative precluded him from voting. These questions were put and insisted on, it will be remembered, after the person desiring to vote had proved his loyalty, or rather purged himself of disloyalty, by taking the oath of allegiance. For this reason, the vote taken was small, being considerably less than one-half the usual number.—[Port Tobacco Times.]

PRINCE GEORGE'S CIRCUIT COURT.

—The regular Fall Term of the Circuit Court met at Marlboro' on Monday last, his Honor, Judge Brent, on the Bench. At the opening of the Court, his Honor delivered to the Grand Jury a charge concerning their responsible duties. The Appearance Docket was then called over, and at its close, the Trial Docket was taken up and occupied the Court in its first call until the adjournment on Tuesday. Several motions and much incidental business have been heard and disposed of, and some few jury trials entered upon. The Grand Jury have found several presentments in cases of felonies and lesser offences, among which is an indictment for murder against Samuel Kidwell for the killing of John Taylor. We understand that the Criminal Docket will be taken up on Monday next. We annex memoranda of the only jury trials thus far. Maryland Agricultural College vs. Robert Bowie. Action on bond.—Verdict for plaintiff under instructions of the Court, and exceptions to the Court of Appeals. Magruder and Tuck for plaintiff; Bowie and Belt for defendant. James B. Richardson vs. Mary Ann Mitchell. Action on note. Verdict for plaintiff for \$150. Berry for plaintiff; Daniel Clarke for defendant. Mc Lean & Munroe vs. Henry D. Hatton. Action for materials and work furnished as builders, &c. On trial Magruder, Belt and Magruder, Jr., for plaintiffs; Berry and Tuck for defendant.

The New York Express's New Orleans correspondent writing on the 4th to that paper says that the Federal forces have fallen back to New Iberia.

In reference to the reported attack on Washburne's advance on the 3d instant, the same correspondent says: "If the rebels attacked our advance, it was some distance this side of Vermillionville, for the army was south of Bayou Vermillionville at that time, on its march back to the Teche. There is a rumor here that the result was different to the extent of 2,000 men. It is said to come from a Union major."