

The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 12.

CHRISTMAS.—We recollect, and are now reminded of the old distich, which, in our days of boyhood impressed us, that
 "Christmas comes but once a year,
 But when it comes, it comes with cheer."
 to suggest to our readers that the good old custom of Christmas presents has not been, nor, will it we trust ever be, abandoned, and that now is the time to be making preparation for the event.

The market, this morning, was well supplied with meats, vegetables and poultry. Prices for meats and vegetables are unchanged. Turkeys sold from 75 cts. to \$2.50 apiece; Geese, 75 cts. to \$1.50 apiece; Chickens, \$1@1.50 a pair. Ducks, \$1@1.50 a pair; Butter 33@35 cts. a pound.

A stampede took place among the horses at the Corral at Giesboro Point on Thursday night, when upwards of one thousand horses were drowned in the Eastern Branch and the Potomac.

Charles D. Hinks, esq., a prominent merchant of Baltimore, died in that city yesterday. Mr. Hinks was one of the Police Commissioners appointed by the Legislature in 1860, and, together with his colleagues, was arrested by the U. S. Government on the 30th June, 1861.

The Louisville Journal states that the Confederate General Morgan was in Cumberland county, Kentucky, on the 7th instant, in company with five of his officers, proceeding southward.

Gen. Banks arrived at New Orleans with his staff from Brazos, Texas, on the 3d inst.—There is no further news concerning the expedition.

The Richmond Whig is in favor of a change in the Confederate Cabinet. It has a harsh article against the whole of the present Cabinet.

There are rumors that the Chesapeake has been burned, and that her captors have landed near Halifax. The reports are hardly to be credited.

T. J. Mahoney, Chief Clerk of the U. S. Quartermaster's Department in this place, under Capt. Ferguson, was yesterday arrested and taken to Washington.

H. Clay Emerson, of this place, recently confined in the Old Capitol prison, Washington, has been released.

Notices of the proposed introduction of bills to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law, have been given in both branches of the U. S. Congress.

Quarterly Meeting at the M. E. Church, in this place, commences next Sunday.

A race course has been established on the Washington road, about a mile from this place.

It is thought Mr. Guthrie will be elected U. S. Senator from Kentucky.

The interests of N. Gamewell and James Dunlop, of South Carolina, in a large number of patents for improvements in telegraphing and fire-alarm bell, were condemned at Washington on Wednesday.

By an arrival at New York, we have a report that over three hundred of the insurgents in St. Domingo had delivered themselves up to the Spanish authorities. Rojas and the other leaders of the rebellion were also reported captured in Hayti, and at the disposal of the Spanish Government. Fifteen highway robbers have been arrested near Havana, and one of them executed. The English bark Ontario, and the Spanish bark Pariga, had been wrecked on the Cuban coast. The former had a cargo of mahogany, and the latter 5,000 barrels of flour.

Affairs in the army of the Potomac remain unchanged. According to a correspondent of a New York paper, Gen. Lee's army occupies the following positions: Hill's corps is around Orange Court House, where General Lee has his headquarters. Early's division is near the Summerville Roads, at Morton's and Tobacco Fords. Johnston's division is at Mitchell's, Brown's and Germania Fords. From the dense volumes of smoke arising from the woods and batteries south of Raccoon and Morton's Fords, it is thought that the Confederates are also in force there.

A dispatch from Gen. Meredith, at Fortress Monroe, states his belief that the Federal prisoners on Belle Isle are in tents, and also that he has requested Mr. Ould to share the clothing and subsistence sent by the U. S. Government with the citizen prisoners. He has no doubt that this has been done.

It has been surmised that the party who captured the Chesapeake were blockade runners who were set free in New York city, and it is not improbable that such is the case. If the vessel should be recaptured by the two gunboats which were sent after her from Boston, a nice point would arise touching the status of the crew manning her.

The joint resolution of thanks and for a medal to Major Gen. Grant, etc., introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives was laid upon the Senate table until the new committees shall be appointed, when, as a mere matter of form, it will be referred to the committee on military affairs.

Private advices from Gen. Grant's army represent it as entrenched at Mission Ridge, with the Confederates on the opposite bank of the Chickamauga. A great want of forage is Grant's obstacle to any forward movement, and three thousand horses are needed for his artillery alone, before it can be rendered effective. The horses have starved to death by hundreds.

The estimate of clothing for the U. S. army for the next fiscal year is \$58,000,000. The sum of \$900,000 is asked for the benefit of prisoners of war. The Engineer Department estimates five millions and a third as the sum required for fortifications, &c., for the year ending June, 1865.

A Louisville dispatch states that the guerrillas in Cumberland, Wayne and Clinton counties are very troublesome, and that they frequently make raids across the Cumberland River, destroying property, capturing horses and conscripting citizens.

\$25 REWARD.—Was stolen from my stable on Gibbon street, a DARK DUNN HORSE, black mane and tail, a black streak down his back, dark legs, 14½ hands high. I will give the above reward if returned to me and no questions asked at No. 45, Gibbon st., between Fairfax and Water.

Dec 11—34

F. KNIGHT.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.

The Richmond papers contain the message of Jefferson Davis, which was sent to the Confederate Congress on Tuesday last. It is a very voluminous document. He says the military operations of the past year have resulted in grave reverses at important points, considerable successes in Louisiana and Texas, and a successful defence of Charleston and the lines encircling Richmond. The disaster at Cumberland Gap is attributed to the commander who "surrendered that important and easily defensible pass without firing a shot, upon the summons of a force still believed to have been inadequate to its reduction, and when reinforcements were within supporting distance, and had been ordered to his aid. The entire garrison, including the commander, being still held prisoners by the enemy, he is unable to suggest any explanation of this disaster."

The disasters at Chattanooga are attributed, not to Gen. Bragg, but to a portion of his troops, the message saying: "It is believed that if the troops who yielded to the assault had fought with the valor which they had displayed on previous occasions, and which was manifested in this battle on the other parts of the line, the enemy would have been repulsed with very great slaughter, and our country would have escaped the misfortune, and the army the mortification, of the first defeat that has resulted from misconduct by the troops." Admitting considerable additions to the territory occupied by the Federal troops, he congratulates Congress that their progress has been checked, and finds in the courage and perseverance of the people, and the unanimity shown by certain resolutions of State Legislatures earnest "of the superior endurance of those who fight for home, liberty and independence" which "do not permit any doubt of the result."

He says there is no improvement in the relations with foreign countries, since last message, on the contrary there is greater divergence. The conduct of European nations assuming a character positively unfriendly. The masked partiality by Great Britain is strongly evinced in their decision regarding the blockade, as well as their marked difference of conduct on the subject of the purchase of supplies by the two belligerents. This difference has been conspicuous since the commencement of the war. Announcing the change in Mexico, he sees nothing in it to prevent a large development of the commerce already existing with that country. In concluding his notice of foreign affairs, he declares that the former treaties of the United States have ceased to be binding on the confederacy and that its connections with foreign states are now controlled by the law of nations only.

A prompt and efficacious remedy for the present condition of the currency is necessary to a successful performance of the operations of the Government. He recommends taxation instead of further sales of bonds or issues of treasury notes. The holders of currency now outstanding can only be protected by substituting for them some other security. The currency must be promptly reduced to prevent the present prices reacting rates more extravagant. The only method of reducing mentioned is heavy taxation; the following general views of the scheme being submitted:—"As the currency is held exclusively by ourselves, it is obvious that, if each person held Treasury notes in exact proportion to the value of his whole means, each would in fact owe himself the amount of the notes held by him, and, were it possible to distribute the currency among the people in this exact proportion, a tax levied on the currency alone, to an amount