

The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 17.

Parties arriving in Washington yesterday from the Army of the Potomac, report that some of the Federal cavalry are still at Culpeper, and that the pickets extend several miles beyond the town. The position of the main body of the army remains unchanged, but there are indications of movements with a view to obtain more comfortable quarters.—There are reports from Washington to the effect that Confederate pickets had appeared at Aquia Creek, and that the gunboats Currituck and Anacosta have been fired into on the Rappahannock by Confederate batteries.

The British blockade runner Ceres is reported to have been captured off Wilmington, N. C., on the 6th instant, by the U. S. gunboat Aries. She was run on shore and set fire to by the crew, but being boarded by the crew of the gunboat the fire was extinguished. The vessel was considerably damaged, but it is thought the arms and ammunition on board, would be saved. The Ceres was a new ship, built in England, and is reported to have been designed by Mr. Lamar as a Confederate cruiser.

On Tuesday Gen. Hitchcock, received from Gen. Meredith, a copy of a letter addressed to him on the 11th inst., by Robt. Ould, Esq., Confederate commissioner of exchange, &c., announcing the determination of the Confederate War Department hereafter to receive no more provisions from the North for the Federal prisoners in their hands, but stating that the prisoners will be hereafter furnished precisely as the Confederate soldiers are rationed.

Dates from Minatitlan, Mexico, have been received at New York. It is stated that the town was closely besieged by the French, and all supplies cut off. The people were suffering for provisions. A French gunboat was also guarding the town, besides a number of French-Egyptian soldiers. The natives are reported as being hostile to the French, and hoping for intervention by the United States.

Louis Napoleon in his letter to Queen Victoria, inviting the government of Great Britain, to send Ambassadors to the European Congress he proposes, addresses her as "Madame, my sister." The British government as our readers already know, has declined to accept the invitation and will not be represented in the Congress.

A Nashville dispatch of Tuesday says that there is a rumor that General Sheridan, commanding the column "in pursuit" of Longstreet, encountered the Confederate rear guard east of Knoxville, and sustained a heavy repulse, in which General Sheridan is said to have been badly wounded. The rumor is traced to several distinct sources, but is not credited at Gen. Burnside's headquarters.

The bill of Mr. Lane, of Kansas, introduced into the Senate of the U. S. proposes to prevent the speculations in gold, silver, and foreign exchange which have been stimulated by the feverish condition of the currency, and makes any irregular transaction of this nature a penal offence, and provides that on conviction the offender shall be fined and imprisoned.

The "Free South" of the 5th gives the result of the "tax sale" of lands, on Hilton Head Island, S. C. Nineteen parcels, of from three hundred to two thousand acres each, near eighteen thousand acres in all, were purchased by the United States at an aggregate price of \$24,000. Six other parcels were sold to individuals, the highest at less than three dollars an acre. The "Free South" says: "Most of the valuable locations were needed for military and naval purposes, or were woodlands needed for fuel and timber by the army."

Lieutenant Colonel Magee, of General Morgan's staff, who escaped from Columbus, with him, has arrived in Russell county, Tennessee, on his way to Richmond. He reports having left General Morgan in Cincinnati, and is satisfied that he is at present in the Confederate lines.

The New York News "charges Secretary Chase with bamboozling the people in his Annual Report." The Times (Money Article) thinks that at the rate of two millions per day, the U. S. Treasury will go with ease to the 10th of March.

It is said that Senator McDougal, of California, will introduce into the U. S. Senate a resolution declaring the French invasion of Mexico an unfriendly act, and inquiring if it be not the duty of the United States to declare war against France.

Mr. Henry Winter Davis, is chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations in the U. S. House of Representatives, and Mr. Sumner is chairman of the same committee in the Senate.

The extensive boiler and pattern shops of Messrs. Eaton, at Charleston, S. C., were entirely destroyed by fire on the night of the 11th instant.

The New York Express says that "Senator Lane of Kansas is being generally laughed at, for the Bill introduced by him in the Senate of the U. S., to stop speculation in gold."

Capt. Clark, connected with the U. S. Quartermaster's Department in this place was, it is reported, arrested yesterday and taken to Washington.

We have had a cold, rainy and disagreeable morning. Business is very "slack" to-day, on the streets.

Thieves appear to abound in Washington city, and a number of hotels, stores, &c., have lately been robbed there.

The U. S. Consul at Puerto Cabello, Mr. Wampool, died on the 27th ultimo.

The New Orleans Era says that the Louisiana Free State Central Committee has determined that an election shall be held in that State on the 25th of next January. This election will be held under authority of Governor Shepley, and will be for the election of delegates to a State Convention for the purpose of forming a Constitution for Louisiana.

The great horse stampede is not as damaging as was at first supposed. There were upwards of 5,000 horses in the corral at Giesboro Point, and, the night being cool they got to running within its limits, and finally broke down the fence. Some 3,000 got away, and of them 2,500 have been recovered.

DEATH OF GEN. BUFORD.

Major General John Buford, of the U. S. army, died in Washington yesterday, at the residence of Gen. Stoneman, after an illness of four or five weeks, contracted in the Army of the Potomac, commencing with diarrhoea and followed by typhoid fever. Gen. Buford was a native of Kentucky. He graduated at West Point in 1848, and has been in active service ever since. His rank in the regular army was that of Assistant Inspector General, and was Brigadier General of volunteers, but had the commission of Major General placed in his hands yesterday just before he died, the rank having been bestowed on him by President Lincoln as a mark of his distinguished services in the army of the Potomac.

The New York Express of yesterday afternoon says:—"Gold fell to 148½ late yesterday afternoon, upon the introduction of Senator Lane's bill in Congress, but the market recovered from the same this morning, and the price touched 149½. The effect of this bill, should it pass, would ultimately advance the price, and tend to send gold out of the country. The market was quite animated to-day, and the fluctuations very frequent." The closing rates were 150½.

No clue has been obtained of the person who committed the murder and robbery of the Malden Bank, Mass. The amount taken was about \$5,000, \$3,000 in hundred dollar bills and 2,000 in small bills. This sum was counted out by Mr. Merrill, the Cashier, for young Converse, who was bookkeeper, to do business with while he (Merrill) was temporarily absent. The act was done between 11½ and 12 o'clock, noon.

The New York World suggests that at the annual New England dinner, to be celebrated on the 23d inst., Secretary Seward, who made the memorable prediction, in 1860, that the difficulties with the South were of no serious importance, and would disappear in sixty days from that time, be invited and allowed another chance to prophecy.

The latest news of the Chesapeake is that she was in Mahone Bay, near Chester, N. S. (about forty miles west of Halifax.) The U. S. Consul at Halifax wants persons sent on to identify her captors, although he says nothing about the taking of the boat.

It is rumored that General Schofield, now in Washington and lately commanding in Missouri, will be assigned to the command of Baltimore.

MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's father, on Wednesday, November 25th, by the Rev. Wm. I. Garrett, CHARLES S. BRYAN, esq., to Miss MILDRED Y., daughter of William G. Wear, esq., of Otterville, Cooper county, Mo.

On Tuesday, December 1st, at All Saints Church, by Rev. Mr. Goodwin, CHARLES R. BELT, formerly of Prince George's County, to ANTONETTE, daughter of Jos. Blake, esq., of Calvert County, Md.

DIED.

At four o'clock, A. M., this day, CATHARINE GRANT, in the 83d year of her age.—The funeral will take place from the residence of W. Burton Richards, on Duke street, on Friday morning, 18th instant, at 10 o'clock, to which her friends are respectfully invited.

ATTENTION LADIES! Mr. Henry Schwarz has just returned from New York with a select stock of FURS and CLOAKS, also a great many small articles, fancy goods and notions, suitable for the holidays. Call and see him at 132, King st. dec 17--tf