

The Alexandria Gazette

SAURDAY EVENING, JAN. 21.

NEWSPAPERS.

A distinguished British Statesman, in the preface to a popular periodical, once defined accurately and beautifully what *should be* the characteristics of a NEWSPAPER. It should never have, he said, "a single sentence that could excite a vicious appetite; and not a paragraph to minister to unjust prejudice, or inflamed passion. It should be free from all mere gossip or tattle for the gratification of a diseased taste for personality." It should be devoted, it is added, to the dissemination of intelligence calculated only to give solid instruction, afford rational amusement, and elevate the minds and morals of the public. This is the picture of what a public journal should be, or aspire to be. And yet how lamentably different from this is the reality! How few of the most popular and sought-after journals of the day, even approach in their general tone and conduct, the model here sketched! Nay, how almost universally do just the opposite qualities prevail in the prints which *make the most money*, and command the most "patronage," as it is called! Does not the fault, then, of the deterioration of the newspapers *mainly* lie with their readers. *Mainly*, we say. Because the public journals could unite to bring about a better taste in this matter than now prevails, if they had the independence and the intellect to do so. But they are, as times go, for the most part, lacking in both. If the newspapers would scorn to lower the standard to which their columns should be raised, either for the hope of reward, or the fear of power, in a very short time we would see the people scorn a low, or grovelling press. If editors would respect themselves and truly respect an intelligent people, they would be respected and honored in return; and a newspaper be regarded as a public friend and benefactor, instead of being what it now unfortunately frequently is, a common nuisance, or a pestiferous mischief maker, deceiver, and circulator of false and scandalous, or demoralizing matter. Any one who reads habitually some of the prominent journals in the large cities, will know that we have not too highly colored the picture.— Compare those to which we refer, to the beautiful portraiture of the newspaper given by Lord Brougham, quoted at the commencement of these brief remarks! "Hyperion to a Satyr!"

In relation to Mr. Blair's second journey to Richmond, the National Intelligencer says:—"We have good reason—not to say authority—for stating that Mr. Blair, Sr., goes to Richmond upon no hollow or heartless mission, but upon one of substance, giving hope to patriotic men that an opportunity for the highest reason will be afforded to statesmen to bring the present civil war to a close by negotiation."

The Department of the Ohio, commanded by Major Gen. Schofield, has been added to the command of Gen. Thomas.

It is reported that a produce dealer in Montreal has failed for seven hundred thousand dollars.

NEWS BY TO-DAY'S MAIL.

It is stated that the U. S. Secretary of War has issued an order to prevent the crime of bounty jumping. It is, that all enlisted men, as soon as mustered into the service, shall deposit with the nearest paymaster all moneys received by them as bounties, reserving to themselves a sum not to exceed twenty dollars. After the enlisted man is placed in the army at the front, he can draw for the money in the paymaster's hands.

The U. S. Consul at Havana writes that the Southerners in Cuba are making efforts to stake out the harbor of St. Mark, on the western coast of Florida, as a new port for blockade runners, so that they may enter with steamers in the night time; and he says further that the steamer Coquette has sailed from Havana for one of the Keys to be fitted up as a cruiser.

At Toronto, Canada, yesterday, in the case of Barleigh, the Lake Erie raider, a judgment was given. The court was crowded, and a large number of Southerners were present.— Barleigh was committed, subject to extradition under the treaty. The prisoner's counsel applied immediately for a writ of habeas corpus and stay of proceedings.

Mr. Francis P. Blair left Washington, yesterday, with the purpose, it is believed, of paying another visit to Richmond. He left on the United States steamer Don, on which vessel he made his last trip, it will be remembered.

Mr. Fields, one of the applicants for a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives from Louisiana, had a difficulty in a hotel, in Washington, yesterday, with Judge Kelley, of Penn., and assaulted the latter with a knife.— Mr. F. was arrested.

The issues of national bank paper are increasing at the rate of two millions a day. At this rate the limits of the entire issue—three hundred millions—will be reached in four months. The issue is now stated to amount to about eighty millions.

The U. S. Internal Revenue Department are much troubled, it is said, by revelations of fraud in cancelling stamps. Great quantities are used a second time, the cancelling ink being extracted by chemicals.

On Tuesday, Alex. R. Mosby, of the Arsenal Battalion of Richmond, was found at Chapel Point, Md. He claims to be a refugee, and says he is a nephew of Col. Mosby, who has again been removed from Lynchburg to Charlottesville.

Five blockade runners, cleared at Nassau on the 23d of December for Wilmington. Six arrived from there on the 6th and 7th inst., and two cleared for the same port on the 14th instant.

The U. S. Navy Department designs establishing a squadron under command of Rear Admiral Goldsborough, and will largely increase the Pacific squadron, and re-establish the Brazil and East India squadron.

Gen. Grant has been quite indisposed and confined to his quarters for the past three or four days. He is improving, however, and will speedily be able to attend to his out door duties.

Large U. S. Government contracts were made on Saturday at the following rates: Sugar, 21½ cents per pound; Rio coffee, 44½ cts. per pound.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamship City of Baltimore, from Liverpool, has arrived.

There was great satisfaction at President Lincoln's disapproval of General D's orders, relative to the pursuit of raiders into Canada. The press compliments Mr. Lincoln for his promptness.

Napoleon made a very pacific speech at his New Year's reception.

The London Times is very much inclined to sympathise with the Federals in the matter of the St. Albans raiders. It maintains that the authorities ought to have taken the risk and responsibility of detaining the raiders till a warrant was signed by the Governor-General.

The war news has further depressed the Confederate loan to 52, a fall of ten per cent. in a week.

The Times says, "Sherman's skill and daring are rewarded with brilliant success, and the vast victory must raise the spirit of the Federals and confirm them in the belief that throughout the South they have no enemy capable of opposing their chief armies."

U. S. CONGRESS.—The Senate was not in session yesterday. In the House, resolutions of thanks to Generals Terry and Thomas and Admiral Porter were adopted. The supplemental loan bill was discussed and finally passed. The amount of legal tenders that can be issued under its provisions is restricted to \$70,000,000 the amount authorized by existing law.

On Tuesday, Lieut. Lafferty, of the Provisional cavalry, stated at Chapel Point, captured Daniel Koffias, while in the act of conveying a lot of contraband goods, such as clothes, boots, shoes, &c., from Maryland into Virginia.

Permits have been granted, it is said, by the U. S. Government to certain parties to cut cypress and yellow pine lumber in the State of Georgia.

J. Yates Walsh, a prominent member of the Baltimore bar, died in that city yesterday.

MARRIED.

Tuesday, January 2d, at Sandy Point, Md., the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Robert Penn, JAMES W. E. FRAZIER, of Frederick County, to JOSEPHINE A., eldest daughter of Mr. George H. Waters.

DIED.

Departed this life on the 5th inst., at her late residence in Bryantown, Md., Mrs. EDWARD BEAN.

FRIENDS MEETING will be held to-morrow evening, at 4 o'clock in the Lecture Room of Christ Church, Samuel M. Janney, a minister of the Society, will be present. Jan 21-11

ADVERTISEMENTS for the ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE can be left at the Printing Office, at Stone's Book store, (over which is the office,) or at the office of Edgar Snowden, Sr., corner of King and Royal streets, up stairs. Jan 20-tf

NOTICE.—TO THE PUBLIC.—I will close out all of my stock of Fall and Winter Boots and Shoes at reduced prices. Call and examine at No. 80 King street before you buy. JOHN T. EVANS. Jan 12-1m

FOR RENT.—That valuable BUSINESS STAND, No. 7, N. W. corner of King and Union streets. Possession on the 1st of February. Apply at No. 13 King street. Jan 13-cotfl

DR. W. WILMER. Office No. 114 Prince street, corner of Pitt. Jan 3-ly