

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 14.

NEWS BY TO-DAY'S MAIL.

A fortunate oil company while sinking a well in Wirt county, Western Virginia, has discovered a vein of antimony, of immense size and great purity. This metal is the principal component of type metal, and both rare and expensive. So scarce is it, indeed, that the fortunate discoverers have been offered the handsome sum of three hundred and fifty dollars per ton cash for all of this metal they can supply.

At present there is a soldier at the Chesnut Hill Military Hospital, Philadelphia, who has not slept for a single moment for fourteen years and six months! This may seem incredible, but, nevertheless, is said to be verified by numbers of persons. The individual is an intelligent man, naturally, and has the benefit of a moderate education. His name is C. D. Saunders, Orderly Sergeant of Company G, 13th Virginia Volunteers.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"Nine colored citizens of the District of Columbia have petitioned Congress for a charter, the object being 'to provide for the care and comfort of such members as shall be sick, disabled, or dependent, and of the families of such members.'"

The Northern papers contain copious selections from the Richmond journals of the 9th inst. The extracts thus given relate almost exclusively to the public meetings which have recently been held in Richmond.

Hon. Elwin D. Morgan, U. S. Senator from New York, was nominated as Secretary of the Treasury, vice Mr. Fessenden who has been re-elected to the Senate from Maine.—The nomination of Mr. Morgan, when sent in to the Senate, was, at his own instance, withdrawn.

Henry S. Foote, late of the Confederate Congress, it is said, sailed from New York last Saturday in the steamer City of Cork, for England. The report that he had been incarcerated in Fort Warren was untrue.

The Missouri State Convention have passed resolutions endorsing President Lincoln's course in the Peace conference, and in favor of prosecuting the war.

The Danish Minister, Mr. Rasmussen, denies the report that one of the Bordeaux vessels was sold to the Confederates by the Danish Government.

The report of the resignation of General Gregg, lately commanding a division of U. S. cavalry, is confirmed.

Col. Mosby, C. S. A., it is said, came down to Fortress Monroe in the last steamer that carried the exchanged prisoners.

The flag of truce steamer left Fortress Monroe on the 11th for Varina, with 1,100 Confederate prisoners for exchange.

Hon. Thomas Holliday Hicks, U. S. Senator from Maryland, died in Washington, yesterday.

Eleven hundred and fifty five bales of cotton arrived at Cairo on Saturday, from Memphis, for Cincinnati.

The U. S. Laboratory at Astoria, Long Island, was burned yesterday. Loss heavy.

GENERAL NEWS.

Most of our readers have undoubtedly heard, at some time or other, that a large property in England, estimated at several million pounds sterling, known as the Jennings estate, has been claimed by the American heirs, descendants of the brother and sister of the English Jennings, the former of which settled in Virginia and the latter in New Hampshire. The case has been in the English Chancery Court for many years, and the American heirs have spent considerable sums of money in prosecuting their claim to the estate, until at last, as is said by one of the heirs, they have obtained a judgment in their favor. The estate will be a very handsome plum to divide.

Of the Baltimore merchants recently arrested charged with selling goods to blockade runners, Hamilton Easter, James H. Easter, jr., and Lorenzo Parson, of the firm of Hamilton Easter & Co.; also, J. Friedenwall and Bernard Stern have been acquitted and released. James H. Wheeden, of the house of Hamilton Easter & Co., has been convicted and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of \$5,000.

The constitutional amendment of Congress abolishing slavery throughout the U. S., was ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Minnesota and Kansas on the 8th inst., making fifteen States that have already endorsed the measure, while but one (Delaware) has rejected it.

It is estimated by a competent engineer that it will cost one hundred and twenty five thousand dollars to put the Smithsonian building in a fire proof condition. Congress will probably be asked to make an appropriation to that amount.

A French paper reports a special meeting of French gourmets, whose aim and object in life is to produce some new dish. The latest novelty their combined wisdom has been able to devise, is a lobster boiled in champagne.

All the Philadelphia and New York papers speak of the snow storm of Sunday as the most violent of the season. The streets were deserted and railroad travel very generally incommoded.

Another outcry is being raised against doctored and drugged whiskey, and other liquors. It is said that bad whiskey now is worse than ever.

A party of Americans have gone out to San Francisco to superintend the building of the telegraph line to where it is to connect Russia with America by way of Behring's Straits.

The receipts of bullion in San Francisco for the last ten days were about, \$1,800,000.—There is little demand for money, though there is much speculation in currency.

The National Anti Slavery Standard recommends the dissolution of the anti slavery societies.

According to a Parisian expositor of the fashions of the day, crinoline has received notice of its final banishment from aristocratic circles.

The new Atlantic telegraph cable will measure 2253 miles.

James Buchanan's income, as published in the list in the Lancaster papers, is \$11,111.

The ensuing carnival at Rome will be a brilliant one with regard to marriages.

A Polish exile has been elected King of a tribe of Kaffirs.

Scenes in the U. S. House of Representatives.

It was 3½ o'clock on the 10th inst., when the House adjourned. The scenes in the chamber were the most amusing ever witnessed there. The tax bill formed the subject under consideration, or rather the subject that the House met to consider, and eight moral hours were spent in doing nothing but perpetrating jokes and taking refreshments in a liquid form.

When the House assembled, it was found that a sufficient number of members were not present to form a quorum. The Sergeant at Arms was then sent out with warrants for the arrest of absent members, and was engaged in this errand something over four hours with very unsatisfactory results. He made a round of all the hotels, theaters and other places where members usually spend the early hours of the night, and returned at about 2 a. m. in a state of exhaustion and exceeding dissatisfaction. A few members were brought in by the Sergeant and a few straggled in during his absence; and while these were trying to excuse themselves to the Chair, as many more slipped out and refreshed themselves in divers ways, but mainly by inverting on their lips glasses containing spiritual consolation.

At midnight the hilarity of some members succumbed to the influence of slumber and something else. These honorable gentlemen were so exhausted by their onerous duties that they were compelled to seek rest on the sofas, where several remained in an apparent, if not real, state of blissful unconsciousness of the important proceedings going on before the Speaker's chair. At 1 o'clock a sufficient number had assembled to form a quorum, and a motion to adjourn was decided to the negative. The House then proceeded to business, but before a vote was reached it was discovered that several members had again disappeared—for refreshment—and joking was again in order. One of the doorkeepers was sent to bring back the fugitives, and a motion was made that he be instructed to bring them back dead or alive. Mr. Eldridge moved to amend by striking out the word alive, and this provoked much merriment. A quorum was finally secured and a vote taken on Mr. Washburne's amendment to tax spirits on hand, but as all the liquor on hand had been consumed, the amendment was rejected, and the House adjourned.

In the U. S. House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. Ashley offered a preamble that whereas in consequence of the rebellion, and since the proclamation of emancipation, a large number of persons of color have been brought from the States of Maryland, Virginia, and other States, and left in and around the national capital; and whereas it is reported that many of them have died for want of food; and whereas it is reported that from ten to twenty thousand are in want; and whereas it is reported that hundreds are in the service of the United States, and fighting in defence of the Government; therefore resolved that the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the truth of said reports, and that the committee report what action, if any, is necessary in the premises, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The proposition was agreed to.

Gold, in New York, to-day, 207½.

NOTICE.—All persons indebted to the estate of E. M. WALTON, & Co., will please come forward and make immediate payments, or they will be placed in the hands of officers for collection, and those having claims will present them properly authenticated (at once).

A. R. THORP,
Administrator of E. M. WALTON dec'd.
JAMES DONOHUE,
Surviving Partner.

Feb 10—dtmar25

FOR SALE.
A GROCERY STORE, one of the best stands in the city. The stock is new and well assorted. No charge for good will. Enquire at this office, Feb 9—15