

The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 1.

NEWS BY TO-DAY'S MAIL.

Professor Agassiz and his party, comprising his wife and thirteen or fourteen gentlemen, mostly from Cambridge University, leave New York for Brazil on board the steamship Colorado to day. The savans are on a scientific tour.

At the present time there are 17 prisoners in the Old Capitol prison, and 109 in Carroll prison in Washington, making a total of 126.

During the month of March, 2,860 deserters from the Confederate army were received in Washington, to all of whom the oath of allegiance was administered by Capt. Russell, of Col. Ingraham's staff.

The money market, in New York, yesterday, was quiet. Gold was quoted, at 10.30 A. M., at 153½; at 1.45 P. M., at 152; at 4 P. M., at 151, and at 10.15 P. M., at 151½. In the evening, gold was steady on call, and stocks were not very strong.

Col. Baker, Chief of the War Department detectives, apprehended and sent to the Old Capitol prison on Thursday, Wm. H. Bull, transportation clerk in the New York Quartermaster's office. Bull's alleged crime is the forging of Secretary Stanton's signature on spurious Government passes from New York to Hilton Head and other points on the Southern coast.

The steamer President Fillmore has collided with and sunk the British brig Gold Hunter.

Three powder mills were blown up at Canton, Conn., without loss of life, on the 30th.

Nicaragua advices to the 11th inst. state that a bill has passed the Senate, granting 2,400 acres of land to actual (white) settlers in Nicaragua; President Martinez has recommended the extension of the term of contract of the Central American Transit Company for fifty years.

The steamer Dictator arrived at Washington, yesterday, met Secretary Seward a short distance this side of City Point, on his way down. President Lincoln was on board the River Queen, off City Point, awaiting Mr. Seward's arrival. Gen. Grant had moved his headquarters from City Point to the front of Petersburg.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"It is understood that Hon. H. G. Stebbins of New York, who goes to Europe on the 5th of April, will be entrusted with some very important Government business."

Memphis dispatches of yesterday announce that Gen. Washburne has offered large rewards for the capture and conviction of guerrillas within his lines; that deserters, were recruited and organized in the vicinity of Meridian, Miss., and that General Forrest threatens to hang all whom he captures.

One hundred and eighty-two thousand foreign immigrants arrived in New York city, during the year 1864.

The U. S. post office has been re opened at Wilmington, N. C.

The new State Government of Tennessee will be organized at Nashville, on the 3d inst.

A dispatch received at headquarters from General Mitchell, dated Fort Kearney, March 28, says, his command captured one hundred and fifty lodges of Sioux Indians and ninety Arapahoes, about one hundred and fifty miles north of Fort Laramie.

Gen. Sherman has returned by steamer, to Goldsboro', from his late visit to Gen. Grant.

A young Russian shot himself in the streets of Paris a few days since because his family wanted him to return home. Sooner than leave Paris he killed himself.

A letter from Parkersburg, West Virginia, dated the 28th ult., informs us that at one o'clock on the morning of that day a fire broke out in Parkersburg, West Virginia, which raged for six or seven hours and before it could be subdued destroyed an entire block in the centre of the city. Amongst the buildings destroyed were the Second National Bank (lately organized) the Continental Restaurant, the office of the Gazette, (the only newspaper in the town) and many stores. The loss is estimated at \$200,000, on which there was no insurance.

Prices continue to decline in New York—Flour, wheat, corn, oats, whiskey, &c., are all lower.

Some failures in the grain trade are reported in Philadelphia.

The finding and sentence in the Develin and Cahill New York bounty broke cases, tried before Gen. Bragg's Military Commission, have been confirmed by the Secretary of War. John Develin was sentenced to ten years' in the penitentiary and fined \$10,000; James Develin, seven years' imprisonment and \$5,000 fine, and John Cahill to five years' imprisonment. They are to be sent to the Clinton prison. This is the first installment of a large batch of similar cases.

The special correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, writing from Vicksburg, under a recent date, says:—"For some time past a Military Commission has been in session here, of which Col. Howe, of Illinois, was President. It was appointed to inquire into the disposition made of six hundred and fifty-seven bales of Government cotton in the warehouses here, which disappeared in August last. The commission have completed their labors, and I am informed, by authority beyond question, that their report is of a most damaging character to certain officials."

A singular case has just come to light in Boston. One Johnson, in the service, stole \$13,000 in Government bonds, and forwarded them to his mother in South Boston for safe keeping. A daughter in law of the mother got wind of the money, and stole it from the old lady, who had placed it between the bed and mattress on which she slept. Officers of the law here stepped in, and the money was found at last in the breast pads of the last thief. Quite a number of this interesting family have been arrested, and the case is expected to develop rich things.

Peace rumors are again prevalent. They are based upon the fact that President Lincoln has been for several days on the James River.

W. T. Smithson and W. F. Owens have formed a partnership, under the style of W. T. Smithson & Co., in Baltimore, for the purpose of conducting the banking and stock commission business in all its branches. Mr. W. T. Smithson was for many years a well-known banker in Washington.

The workmen of Paris are busy making locomotives for Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Denmark, Spain and Russia.

The Philadelphia coal dealers are delivering coal to consumers in square iron boxes holding seventy-five pounds, which are emptied into the cellars without dirt or confusion.

Chas. A. Burt, the well known and wealthy brewer at Albany, was killed on Tuesday, by the accidental falling of a stone from the top of his brewery.

There are now, in the vast pineries of the Upper Mississippi, not far from one hundred and fifty million feet of logs cut and ready for the spring "drive."

A girl only thirteen years old, named Caroline Miller, is under indictment at Louisville, Ky., for the murder of her father. She hated him, and administered rat poison.

A new line of steamers is to be established between Boston and Liverpool.

THE FIRST OF APRIL.—This day is consecrated to joking. Impostures of every description are practised upon all individuals, associations, and even whole communities, in every conceivable way which is practicable, and woe be to the unlucky wight who "cannot take a joke." This custom prevails extensively in many nations, but is most observed in England, France, and the United States.—English antiquaries appear unable to trace the origin of the custom, or to say how long it has existed. The Hindoos have in their Huli, which terminates with the 31st of March, a precisely similar festival, during which the great aim is to send persons away with messages to ideal individuals, or individuals sure to be from home, and enjoy a laugh at their disappointment. To find the practice so widely prevalent over the earth, and with so near a coincidence of day, seems to indicate that it has had a very early origin among mankind.—*Wash. Chron.*

Among the acts passed at the recent session of the Assembly of Maryland was one for the relief of parties and their sureties who stand indebted to the State upon sheriffs and collectors' bonds, of date prior to 1860—most of which debts had been put in suit by the Comptroller under a joint resolution passed at a former session. The new Act releases the interest on these debts, provided that before the 1st day of October next the parties shall pay the principal, and all attorney's fees and commissions, sheriff's fees and the cost, &c.

The fact that the upward passage of shad and salmon in the Connecticut, Merrimack, and Saco rivers has been lately almost entirely prevented by dams erected by Massachusetts manufacturing companies induced the last Legislature of New Hampshire to adopt resolutions calling the attention of the Massachusetts Legislature to the matter, and asking for relief. The resolutions have been referred to a joint special committee.

The ball given by General McDowell, in San Francisco, was a splendid affair. The costumes of some of the ladies were exceedingly rich, and would have graced a royal court. Mrs. Bacon, of Virginia City wore nearly \$100,000 worth of jewels. Mrs. Hensley, of San Jose, was also resplendent with jewels.

Rev. Mr. Bates, will preach, to-morrow, morning and evening, at the Methodist Church.

Rev. W. T. D. Clemm, (Pastor) will preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, to-morrow, at 11 o'clock a. m., and 7½ p. m.

FURNITURE—Will be sold, by auction, to the highest bidder, at 35 Pitt street, on Tuesday next, the 4th of April, at 10 o'clock a. m., certain articles of HOUSEKEEPING. Terms—cash on delivery.

ap 1 31 T. B. ROBERTSON.

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