

The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 2.

The Federal iron-clads Sagamore, Nantucket and Nahant were damaged in the recent bombardment of the defences of Charleston. On the first day very little injury was inflicted on the Sagamore beyond cutting her smoke pipe nearly in two, and striking her severely on the "overhang," abreast of the engine. On the second day, after sustaining the fire of the batteries for an hour, she was withdrawn, having been struck sixteen times, three of the shots breaking clear through her decks. The damage done to the Nahant, was not known, but she did not escape unhurt. The Nantucket received a shot through her smoke pipe and another on the deck which tore up the armor and broke the planking clear through.

In the Senate of the United States yesterday, the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, on the Bank bill, accepting the House amendment, subjecting the shares of the banks to State taxation, was agreed to. A resolution was adopted requesting the Secretary of War, on the receipt of news from the armies in the field, to immediately communicate it to the Senate. The consideration of the Internal Revenue bill was continued. In the House of Representatives, a bill was reported to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States.

From Rolla, Missouri, it is reported that some three hundred guerrillas attacked, at Salem, Ark., on the 18th ult., a train of refugees escorted by ninety men of the 21 Wisconsin cavalry, and succeeded in burning the entire train and capturing eighty of the escort. A week later, another detachment of the 21 Wisconsin cavalry, consisting of ten men, whilst on a scout from Rolla, was surrounded by guerrillas, and five of the men were killed—the remaining five made their escape.

The ocean mail service between Brazil and the U. S. is to be established at once by law. Twelve round trips are to be made annually by an agreement between the two Governments. The portion of the expenses of the U. S.—is not to exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year.

Affairs in Northwestern Mexico are reported, by the way of California to be quiet.—Gens. Negreti and Ortega have withdrawn their troops to Saltillo. President Juarez cannot rely on his generals, as they act independently.

The accounts received of the crops, generally, state that they are very promising; and that there will be probably, an abundant yield in all sections where the earth has been tilled at all.

Regulations at Gibraltar require all foreign vessels passing the fortifications at Tarifa to show their national colors. The Spanish authorities insist upon this.

The evacuation of Port Royal and Fredericksburg, Va., by the Federals, is now complete, and the Confederates are in possession of those places.

The Fremont wing of the Republican party is to be called "The Radical Democracy." In their "platform" they resolve that "the Federal Union shall be preserved.

That the Constitution and laws of the United States must be observed and obeyed.

That the rebellion must be suppressed by force of arms and without compromise.

That the rights of free speech and the press, and the habeas corpus be held inviolate, save in districts where martial law has been proclaimed.

That the rebellion has destroyed slavery, and that the Federal Constitution should be amended to prohibit its re-establishment, and to secure to all men absolute equality before the law.

That integrity and economy are demanded at all times in the administration of the Government, and in time of war the want of them is criminal.

That the right of asylum, except for crime and subject to law, is a recognized principle of American liberty; that any violation of it cannot be overlooked, and must not go unrebuked.

That the national policy known as the Monroe doctrine has become a recognized principle, and that the establishment of an anti-republican Government on this continent, by any foreign power, cannot be tolerated.

That the gratitude and support of the nation is due to the faithful soldiers and earnest leaders of the Union army and navy for their heroic achievements and deathless valor in defence of an imperiled country and of civil liberty.

That the one term policy for the Presidency adopted by the people is strengthened by force of the existing evils, and should be maintained by constitutional amendment.

That the Constitution should be so amended that the President and Vice President shall be elected by a direct vote of the people.

That the question of the reconstruction of the rebellious States belongs to the people through their Representatives in Congress, and not to the Executive.

That the confiscation of the lands of the Rebels, and their distribution among the soldiers and settlers, is a measure of justice."

Mr. John Snyder, of the Stonewall brigade, Johnston's division, from Shepherdstown, Va., wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, died at the Mansion House Hospital, in this place, yesterday. Mr. S. was about forty one years of age, and leaves a wife and five children. He was much esteemed by all who knew him. His wife was written for upon his arrival at Alexandria, but reached here, after his death, almost heart broken. The body was embalmed.

The New York News does not credit the reported Federal victory at Dallas, and says: "The statement that twenty-five hundred of the Confederates were killed and wounded, to say nothing of prisoners captured, with the loss of less than three hundred on the Federal side is so extraordinary that we are compelled to believe it is founded in error. In field operations such disparity in the losses rarely occurs. We venture the opinion that correct intelligence will materially modify the report."

Strawberries are now in "full season" and quite a plentiful supply. They were selling this morning, from 12½ to 25 cts per quart, very good.

The C. & O. Canal Company are improving the tow paths, &c., of the Canal, above Georgetown. The revenue for May was \$24,000—and an increase is expected this month.

The June term of the County Court for this County, commences on Monday next.

Letter from the Rev. R. L. Dabney.
[From the New York News.]
HAMPDEN SIDNEY, Va., April 4, 1864.
MY DEAR FRIEND: Your valued letter of November 9, 1863, reached me after some delay, and every week since the old year went out, I have been purposing to reply. I delayed in order to get some documents which I thought would be interesting; and having returned from Richmond Saturday with part of these, I now seat myself for a pleasant chat with you.

I was surprised to see my last to you in the New York papers. It was written too much *currente calamo* for the public. But from the bold expression of my opinions I have never been accustomed to shrink under any circumstances.

Our seminary now has only four students, disabled or furloughed soldiers. My duties here are, of course, greatly diminished in interest at the present, and I should be very ill content to stay here but for my engagement on a Life of General Jackson. Having been selected for this work by Mrs. J. and General Ewell his successor, I have devoted myself to it for some months, as perhaps the best work I could undertake, both to the cause of Christ and our country. I have received from Mrs. J., of course, all the documents her husband left, and the authorities have extended the most liberal facilities to me for making the narrative full and correct. General Jackson's friends and comrades in arms likewise have been exceedingly kind, and I am convinced that I have a mass of material such as no other person has or can have for illustrating his life. I shall complete it in two very modest volumes.—The first is already written and about to be published. It will appear in the Confederate States and in London nearly at the same time, having been already advertised in the latter place. My friend, Dr. Scheldt De Vere, of our University, who is preparing a German version, tells me that he has seen some allusion to it in papers in the United States.

Mrs. Dabney sends you five specimens of the ladies' wear, manufactured at home by herself and neighbors. They will interest the ladies of your family. They will see that our women—the most obstinate of all rebels—do not intend to be subjugated by having "nothing to wear." They are now generally clad in these fabrics of home and at church, and covered with home made bonnets of braided straw, trimmed with flowers made and colored at home, and with bands and rosettes made of corn shucks. Let not the New York ladies with their luxurious Paris finery, sneer, they have no idea how nice the corn shuck rosettes are, dyed with native dyes, any color, embroidered with silk raveled from old scarfs or stockings, and as glossy as Lyons silk. They may be assured that in these home manufactures our Confederate belles look fine enough to win the hearts of our gallant men.

Our blockaded condition is not so bad as our enemies would like to believe. Just in this part of Virginia the crops were very short last year, on account of excessive rains, drowning the valleys, so much relied on here for Indian corn; but in Upper Virginia and all south of us nature poured out a prodigal abundance of our great staple. Our swine were much decimated by hog cholera last year, hence a scarcity of bacon; but we have the syrup of the Chinese cane, maple sugar, etc., and make out pretty well. The article in the Sentinel will inform you very justly concerning the great and beneficial financial revolution through which we have just passed. Never was such taxation seen, as our people now stand, and almost universally without a murmur. The tax and currency laws I send, diffused more general joy among our people than if some one had brought them a rich present. Our enemies may rely upon it that we are just stripping in good earnest for the conflict. The war is just beginning with us.

One point I should greatly desire to see urged at the North, the utter futility of the hope of lightening their war debt by the proceeds of confiscation. What are the reasons