

ITEMS—GENERAL AND LOCAL.

A series of lectures, of which that of Surgeon Cox was the first, we learn is contemplated by the "Vanderkief Literary Association." A number of literary gentlemen have been named and will be invited successively, and we have no doubt they will accede to the request, and afford us a source of rich entertainment, and be at the same time a fine literary feast.

The Legislature continues to draw many visitors to the City. The hotels and boarding houses are constantly filled. The most important public business before the Legislature having been disposed of, it is engaged now with local matter, or that effecting the different cities and counties of the State, accounts of which are given in the daily papers.

We see by the late advices from Fortress Monroe and Richmond that 109 Union Officers, including Col. STREIGHT, escaped from the Libby Prison at Richmond, a short time since, only 46 of them have been retaken. This is bound to be the case and unless unusual vigilance is used we should not be surprised to see more and still more escaping to our lines, not only officers but privates. Doubtless they think death can come but once, and the manner of dying is but a question, and seeing the chances in one case is greater than in the other, they prefer to attempt their escape.

The last few days have been the coldest of the season. The Severn is again frozen over, and if the cold continues, very thick ice will form and obstruct, for a time, navigation. On account of the boisterous and cold weather, very little communication is had with the Russian Fleet, nor from the fleet with the shore.—We opine, however, it will not last a great while, as in this climate we are perfectly familiar with the constant reverses of temperature—often as great as from summer to mid-winter. We had hoped that the beautiful weather of a few weeks ago would have continued, at least with very little modification, and lesson to a material extent the expenses and sufferings of the poorer classes.

The number of patients in our Hospital is gradually lessening. Each week more or less leave us either for the field, or are transferred to other Hospitals nearer their homes. Not having received many accessions it produces a more than usual quiet in our midst, and gives us comparatively little labor to perform. But it will make greater room for those poor unfortunates in the Richmond prisons, who we expect will arrive one of these days. The subject of exchange has not been settled yet, but we think it not impossible that it will be accomplished before long. Gen BUTLER is firm in maintaining his positions, and we think the Rebels knowing his determination, will yield a point of etiquette or feeling of malignancy which they deem warrantable and to which they adhere with so much tenacity.

A very serious accident occurred to the Chapel connected with this Hospital, on Tuesday evening. It was on the occasion of a lecture from Surgeon C. C. Cox, U. S. V., Medical Purveyor, on the life and character of HENRY CLAY. The room was quite full, and many ladies were included in the audience. When the lecture was about half through, and much anxiety and great interest was felt in the matter and manner of the lecturer, the chandelier, a part of the Christmas decoration, composed of circles of wood and rope, covered with evergreens and suspended from the ceiling in the centre of the Chapel, and dotted with candles, caught fire, from, probably, the burning down of some of the candles, and ignition of the dry leaves and evergreens, which soon spread and run up towards the ceiling and enveloped the whole in a bright blaze, which communicated to the joist and laths above, injuring the ceiling to some extent, and filling the room with a dense volume of smoke. Of course it produced great consternation, especially among the ladies, who hastened to retire, leaving the more stalwart, and the firemen to take care of the fire and the building. The damages were not very great and can be repaired at a small cost, but the loss of the lecture was felt very seriously, and it was indeed unfortunate that the fire occurred at that time and under such circumstances.

A Review of the Reviewer.

The following is an article from the *Knapsack*, reviewing the Reviewer of the "Vanderkief Literary Association."

MISS EDITRESS:—There was a conundrum in the last *Knapsack*, which refers to the "Critical Reviewer." I think it is with the general consent of this audience, that I pronounce it the truest and brightest thing that has been uttered since the Lyceum opened. When you consider how the "Reviewer" has run backwards and kicked up his heels, to avoid a good thing in the *Knapsack*, or an apt point in the debate, and has brayed over some hobby of his own, 'till we are nearly deafened—the comparison seems perfect. I have seen a good many of his kind in my day. Some very long eared, and very fast animals, but never one who could run backward as fast as the "Reviewer," or one who was not sagacious enough, to know oats from straw, when they were right under his nose. Sometimes I am in doubt as to whether this animal is purely obstinate or stone blind! But since the interest of his articles comes from the fact that they are monstrously onesided—indiscriminate and superficial, I am rather amused than otherwise to look on and see him pull in the direction he likes best—so long as it strains no one but himself. I have heard some persons regret that the Critic's perch is not occupied by a higher bred—more wise and impartial observer, since the field is open for such an one. But we must all bear in mind, that very few of the long eared kind, ever presume to occupy the position this one has. So we will yield him his laurels, although *thistles* and *mullen*, would suit his case better, if they could be obtained. In passing, I congratulate this literary society, on its success, and the unlooked for talent, variously developed which has distinguished its meetings. The subjects for debate have been admirably chosen, and well sustained, with few exceptions. The same may be said of the declamations—while the "*Knapsack*" has abounded in original contributions, that would grace any literary journal in the country. It has given me pleasure to know, that decided approbation is always given to its best articles, by an intelligent audience—a compensation most desirable, doubtless to its noble co-workers, who are responsible in such a measure, for its success. Our uncourtous "long eared" friend should remember this. But with one word more—apropos to him—I close. I knew a man when I was a boy, who set himself up in the market as a judge of *cheese* by the smell. His decisions were not always satisfactory to the competitors for the best articles. So somebody brought him a well disguised *grind stone*, by way of joke. The cheeses were thrown aside, without comment, and the last I saw of the judge he had his nose in the hole of the grind-stone, trying to catch the scent. "*Sic transit gloria mundi.*"

A CRITICAL CROAKER.

When the tax on newspapers proposed by WM. PITT, in 1789, was under discussion in the House of Commons, Mr. DRAKE said he disliked the tax, and would oppose it from motives of gratitude. "The gentlemen concerned in writing for them had been particularly kind to him, they had made him deliver many well shaped speeches, though he was convinced he had never spoken so well in his life."

AN ILLUSTRIOUS DINNER PARTY.—There were at the dinner table of a Cabinet officer in Washington, the other evening, one Vice President, one Secretary of the Treasury, three Senators, three ex-Senators, two ex-Major-Generals, three ex-Representatives, and six ex-Governors, and yet there were only six persons in all. The persons were MESSRS. HAMLIN, CHASE, SPRAGUE, MORGAN, KING and RAMSEY.—*Philadelphia Enquirer.*

Report of Changes in Divisions No. 1 and 2.

Division No. 1.

B. A. VANDERKIEFT, SURGEON IN CHARGE.

Admitted:

- W. Estep, Surgeon, 126th Ohio Vols., Feb. 16th.
- W. W. Grey, Captain, 1st N. J. Cav., Feb. 17th.
- J. W. Brown, 1st Lieut., 4th Md. Vols., Feb. 17th.
- G. W. Thompson, Lieut., 1st Md. Vols., Feb. 17th.
- C. C. Adrian, Lieut., 8th Md. Vols., Feb. 17th.
- James McBarrell, Private, B, 149th Pa. Vols., Feb. 14th.
- Thomas White, Private, I, 40th N. Y. Vols., Feb. 14th.

Returned to Duty:

- James A. Quinlan, Sergeant, A, 11th Mass. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- John McCarthy, Sergeant, A, 13th Pa. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- John R. Hill, Sergeant, D, 1st Mass. Cav., Feb. 12th.
- John McGleelan, Corporal, C, 2d, Md. Cav., Feb. 13th.

- John Niemeyer, Private, C, 2d Md. Cav., Feb. 13th.
- Freeman Easterly, Private, I, 154th N. Y. Vols., Feb. 17th.
- Charles Albert, Private, B, 2d Md. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- S. Rasnurssan, Private, I, 82d Ill. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- James A. Boyd, Private, A, 116th Ohio Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Louis White, Private, D, 6th Ohio Cav., Feb. 15th.
- Levi H. Rardin, Private, K, 1st Ohio Artillery, Feb. 15th.
- Silas Cramer, Private, G, 27th Mich. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Joseph Sanford, Private, E, 7th Mich. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- Robert Thompson, Private, B, 7th Mich. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- Gilbut Salliat, Private, J, 4th Mich. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- John Bupp, Private, G, 87th Pa. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Jeremiah Perry, Private, 26th Pa. Battery, Feb. 15th.
- James C. Snedaker, Private, A, 18th Pa. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- J. T. Sharer, Private, B, 15th N. J. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Daniel McDougall, Private, K, 18th Conn. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- William Dean, Private, H, 18th Conn. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Harvey Whitmore, Private, D, 18th Conn. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Cyrus Raymond, Private, H, 17th Conn. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Milo S. Lathe, Private, F, 38th Mass. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- George C. White, Private, K, 28th Mass. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Martin Welch, Private, E, 15th Mass. Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Daniel McKenzie, Private, G, 1st Maine Vols., Feb. 15th.
- R. W. Bailey, Private, E, 20th Maine Vols., Feb. 15th.
- Enoch Hollis, Private, B, 19th Maine Vols., Feb. 15th.
- John Palmer, Private, D, 16th Maine Vols., Feb. 15th.
- James McCabe, Private, B, 4th Maine Vols., Feb. 15th.
- N. S. Ricker, Private, A, 1st Maine Cav., Feb. 15th.
- George W. Chase, Private, G, 6th U. S. Cav., Feb. 15th.
- George B. Keel, Private, K, 2d U. S. Infantry, Feb. 15th.
- Fred Ebenle, Private, I, 1st U. S. Artillery, Feb. 15th.

On Furlough:

- Alex Macdonald, Sergeant, 118th Co., Invalid Corps, 15 days.
- Julius Geipel, Corporal, G, 107th Ohio Vols., 20 days.
- Jesse G. Lincoln, Corporal, C, 75th Ohio Vols., 20 days.
- E. B. Green, Private, U. S. Signal Corps, 20 days.
- Charles Count, Private, G, 17th U. S. Infantry, 20 days.
- Jesse Fry, Private, D, 140th Pa. Vols., 20 days.
- H. T. Buryea, Private, M, 2d N. Y. Cav., 30 days.
- A. Hallister, Private, F, 22d Wis. Vols., 25 days.
- H. Wickworth, Private, K, 3d Md. Vols., 20 days.
- Charles Tasker, Private, A, 6th U. S. Cav., 20 days.
- John H. Tift, Private, A, 18th Conn. Vols., 20 days.
- W. J. Brown, Private, B, 88th N. Y. Vols., 20 days.
- Wm. Blackwell, Private, E, 42d Pa. Vols., 20 days.
- Wallace Ball, Private, D, 12th Ill. Cav., 30 days.
- W. H. Parham, Private, H, 143d N. Y. Vols., 25 days.
- Lyman A. Beed, Private, C, 105th N. Y. Vols., 20 days.

Returned from Furlough:

- W. A. McMillan, Sergeant, I, 140th Pa. Vols.
- Daniel W. Finch, Sergeant, A, 126th N. Y. Vols.
- Richard W. Millneo, Corporal, E, 111th N. Y. Vols.
- George D. Marston, Corporal, I, 16th Maine Vols.
- Erastus Hull, Corporal, M, 6th Mich. Cav.
- Solomon Ulrich, Private, 119th Co., Invalid Corps.
- J. F. Bennett, Private, 118th Co., Invalid Corps.
- V. P. Sylveria, Private, F, 1st Mass. Vols.
- John Jamison, Private, D, 9th Mass. Vols.
- W. Warred, Private, D, 12th Mass. Vols.
- Wm. H. Wilcoxson, Private, 2d Conn. Battery.
- John B. Van Nest, Private, I, 11th N. J. Vols.
- W. H. Wible, Private, G, 14th Pa. Cav.
- A. C. G. Slocum, Private, C, 78th Pa. Vols.
- Henry P. Smith, Private, K, 100th Ohio Vols.
- Samuel Binkley, Private, K, 100th Ohio Vols.
- M. M. Raymond, Private, C, 18th Mass. Vols.
- Isaac E. Rose, Private, D, 141st N. Y. Vols.
- Conrad Haverland, Private, A, 13 Ohio Vols.
- Levi Nawlin, Private, I, 36th Ohio Vols.
- Edmund Dawding, Private, B, 14th Mass. Vols.
- S. W. Russell, Private, H, 32d Mass. Vols.
- Joseph Newhall, Private, A, 40th Mass. Vols.
- George L. Wilson, Private, K, 18 Conn. Vols.
- Lorenzo Hoard, Private, C, 142d N. Y. Vols.
- Henry Scott, Private, D, 68th Pa. Vols.
- David Anderson, Private, E, 1st N. J. Vols.
- Abraham Heck, Private, A, 6th U. S. Cav.
- Jacob R. Goodwin, Private, E, 11th U. S. Infantry.
- Adolph Quilde, Private, G, 12th Mass. Vols.
- Spencer Whitlock, Private, G, 154th N. Y. Vols.
- A. C. Brill, Private, D, 8th N. J. Vols.
- George W. Wood, Private, C, 12th N. J. Vols.
- Peter Fetterman, Private, I, 12th Pa. Cav.
- E. Bedford, Private, K, 141st Pa. Vols.
- William A. Douglass, 2d Lieut., 14th U. S. Infantry, returned from leave of absence, Feb. 14th.

Transferred:

- E. H. Parker, Sergeant, E, 1st Va. Cav., to Grafton, Western Va.
- Harry B. Philbrook, Private, 118th Co., Invalid Corps to A. G. Office, Washington, D. C.
- C. C. Chamberlain, Hospital Steward, U. S. A., ordered to report to Medical Director, department of Virginia and North Carolina.

Deserted while on Furlough:

- James M. Smith, Corporal, G, 2d Mass. Cav.
- Edward Lee, Private, F, 14th Conn. Vols.
- William Hussey, Private, B, 1st Va. Light Artillery.

Division No. 2.

G. B. PARKER, SURGEON IN CHARGE.

Admitted:

- William Waley, Private, I, 125th N. Y. Vols.
- Daniel Shaw, Private, A, 18th Conn. Vols.
- James E. Smith, Private, F, 8th N. Y. Cav.
- Lafayette Stanhope, Private, B, 1st Va. Cav.

Returned to Duty:

- Thomas H. Joseph, Sergeant, B, 3d Del. Vols.
- Joseph Dawling, Corporal, H, 9th N. Y. S. M.
- Charles Anderson, Private, D, 1st Me. Vols.
- Edward George, Private, H, 4th Ohio Vols.
- Benjamin T. Norris, Private, F, 126th Ohio Vols.
- Abel Jones, Private, A, 1st Mass. Cav.
- David Smith, Private, I, 14th Mass. Artillery.
- Lewis Bess, Private, F, 14th N. Y. S. M.
- John N. Silva, Private, E, 14th N. Y. S. M.
- Mathew Waiser, Private, C, 43d N. Y. Vols.
- Samuel D. Woodford, Sergeant, I, 154th N. Y. Vols.
- Moses Amo, Private, E, 24th Mich. Vols.

On Furlough:

- Alfred E. Beaver, Private, I, 162d N. Y. Vols.
- D. H. Clark, Private, B, 12th Mass. Vols.
- Isaac C. Davis, Private, F, 12th Pa. Cav.

Transferred:

- Thomas White, Private, I, 40th N. Y. Vols.