ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS.

Uncanny Sight in a Graveyard—Colored Republican Convention—Brevities.

One of the most uncanny localities in Alexandria is in the vicinity of the old "contraband graveyard," at the end of South Washington street and just opposite the Catholic cemetery. This burial place was established by the United States Government about 1862 for the interment of deceased contrabands, and is contiguous to the old smallpox burying ground and hospital. During the war many contrabands flocked to Alexandria from all parts of Virginia, and a great many of them died from want and exposure. The graveyard is on a level stretch about 200 yards square, and many of the mounds are still pretty well preserved.

The property is owned by private parties, the Government having taken possession without their consent when the city was under martial law. Of late the owners have been allowing the neighboring brick yards to dig clay from the outer edges of the graveyard with which to make brick. This digging, seconded by heavy rains, has resulted in uncarthing many coffins and skeletons and leaving the outer graves in very bad condition. Some time ago, it is said, coffin ends protruded from the banks like cannon from the embrasures of some great fort. There are many bones scattered around, and a visitor retired from the field yesterday afternoon with the shoulder-blade of some poor old black contraband who had found his last resting-place there in 1862. There is only one tombstone on the entire site. It is a small marble affair and bears the inscription: "Moses James, died September 4, 1865, aged seventy years." One of the brick-yard men, in referring to the taking of clay from this graveyard, said yesterday: "The bricks made from that clay will be good to build haunted houses with." The old site has been used of late as a sort of potter's field.

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