

**ANDERSON, Robert**, soldier, b. at "Soldier's Retreat," near Louisville, Ky., 14 June, 1805; d. in Nice, France, 27 Oct., 1871. He graduated at West Point in 1825, and was appointed second lieutenant in the 3d artillery. He served in the Black Hawk war of 1832 as colonel of the Illinois volunteers. In 1835-'37 he was instructor of artillery at West Point, and in 1837-'38 he served in the Florida war, and was brevetted captain. Subsequently he was attached to the staff of Gen. Scott as assistant adjutant-general, and was promoted to captain in 1841. He served in the Mexican war, and was severely wounded at Molino del Rey. In 1857 he was appointed major of the 1st artillery, and on 20 Nov., 1860, he assumed com-

mand of the troops in Charleston harbor, with headquarters at Fort Moultrie. Owing to threat-



*Robert Anderson*

ened assaults, he withdrew his command, on the night of 26 Dec., to Fort Sumter, where he was soon closely invested by the confederate forces. On 13 April, 1861, he evacuated the fort, after a bombardment of nearly thirty-six hours from batteries to which he replied as long as his guns could be worked. He marched out, with his seventy men, with the honors of war, on the

14th, saluting his flag as it was hauled down, and sailed for New York on the following day. In recognition of this service he was appointed brigadier-general in the U. S. army by President Lincoln, and was assigned to the command of the department of Kentucky, and, subsequently to that of the Cumberland. In consequence of failing health, he was relieved from duty in October, 1861. He was retired from active service 27 Oct., 1863, and on 3 Feb., 1865, he was brevetted major-general. He sailed for Europe in 1869 for his health, but died there. He translated and adapted from the French "Instructions for Field Artillery, Horse and Foot" (1840), and "Evolutions of Field Batteries" (1860), both of which have been used by the war department. It was largely owing to his personal efforts that the initial steps were taken organizing the Soldiers' Home in Washington, which now harbors about 2,000 veterans of the regular army.—His brother, **Larz**, capitalist, b. near Louisville, Ky., 9 April, 1803; d. in Cincinnati, Ohio, 27 Feb., 1878, was graduated at Harvard in 1822. He was a son-in-law of Nicholas Longworth, of Cincinnati, in which city he resided and was respected for his profuse charities and public spirit.



Robert Anderson

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY.

277

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NUMBER.

1825.

CLASS RANK.

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406..(Born Ky.)..... **ROBERT ANDERSON**.....(Ap'd Ky.)..15

**Military History.**—Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from July 1, 1821, to July 1, 1825, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

BVT. SECOND LIEUT., 2D ARTILLERY, JULY 1, 1825.

SECOND LIEUT., 3D ARTILLERY, JULY 1, 1825.

Served: as Private Secretary to the U. S. Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Republic of Columbia, Oct., 1825, to July, 1826; in garrison at Ft. Monroe, Va. (Artillery School for Practice), 1826–28; on Ordnance duty, Mar. 6, 1828, to May 9, 1832; as Col. Staff (Asst. Inspector-General) of Illinois Volunteers, May 9 to Oct. 11, 1832, in the Campaign against the Sac Indians, under “Black Hawk,” being engaged in the Battle of Bad Axe, Aug. 2, 1832; on Ordnance duty, Oct. 11, 1832, to Dec. 31, 1833; in garrison

(FIRST LIEUT., 3D ARTILLERY, JUNE 30, 1833)

at Ft. Constitution, N. H., 1834; on Ordnance duty, Dec. 6, 1834, to May 5, 1835; in garrison at Ft. Constitution, N. H., 1835; at the Military Academy, 1835–37, as Asst. Instructor of Artillery, Sep. 10 to Dec. 1, 1835,—and Instructor of Artillery, Dec. 1, 1835 to Nov. 6, 1837; in the Florida War against the Seminole Indians, 1837–38, being engaged in the Action of Locha-Hatchee, Jan. 24, 1838,—Capture of forty-five Indians near Ft. Lauderdale (in command),

(BVT. CAPTAIN, APR. 2, 1838, FOR GALLANTRY AND SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT  
IN THE WAR AGAINST THE FLORIDA INDIANS)

Apr. 2, 1838,—and Skirmish in the Everglades, Apr. 24, 1838; in the Cherokee

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\* Named MATTHEW R. T. HARRISON, when he was graduated.

NUMBER.

1825.

CLASS RANK.

Nation, as Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Scott, May 9 to July 7, 1838,  
(BYT. CAPT. STAFF—ASST. ADJUTANT-GENERAL, JULY 7, 1838,  
to Nov. 30, 1841)

while emigrating the Indians to the West; as Asst. Adjutant-General of Eastern Department, July 7, 1838, to July, 1841; on Board of Officers to examine his translation of "Instruction for Field Artillery," 1841-43, and 1844; in garrison

(CAPTAIN, 3D ARTILLERY, OCT. 23, 1841)

at Ft. Moultrie, S. C., 1845-46,—Ft. Marion, Fla., 1846,—and at Ft. Brooke, Fla., 1846-47; in the War with Mexico, 1847, being engaged in the Siege of Vera Cruz, Mar. 9-29, 1847,—Battle of Cerro Gordo, Apr. 17-18, 1847,—Skirmish of Amazoque, May 14, 1847,—and Battle of Molino del Rey, Sep. 8, 1847,

(BYT. MAJOR, SEP. 8, 1847, FOR GALLANT AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT  
IN THE BATTLE OF MOLINO DEL REY, MEX.)

where he was severely wounded in the Assault of the enemy's works; on sick leave of absence, disabled by wound, 1847-48; in garrison at Ft. Preble, Me., 1848-49; as Member of Board of Officers, 1849-51, to devise "A Complete System of Instruction for Siege, Garrison, Sea-coast, and Mountain Artillery," which was adopted May 10, 1851, for the service of the United States; in garrison at Ft. Preble, Me., 1850-53; as Governor of Harrodsburg Branch Military Asylum, Ky., June 11, 1853, to Nov. 1, 1854; as Member of Board for the Armament of Fortifications, 1854-55; as Inspector of Iron-work manufactured at Trenton, N. J., for public buildings constructed under the Treasury Department, July 20, 1855, to Nov. 15, 1859; as Member of a Board to arrange the pro-

(MAJOR, 1ST ARTILLERY, OCT. 5, 1857)

gramme of Instruction at the Artillery School for Practice at Ft. Monroe, Va., 1859-60,—and of the Commission created by Act of June 21, 1860, to examine into the Organization, System of Discipline, and Course of Instruction at the U. S. Military Academy, July 18 to Dec. 13, 1860; and in command of the defenses of Charleston harbor, S. C., 1860-61.

Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding States, 1861-66: in Defense of Ft. Sumter, S. C. (to which he had transferred the garrison of Ft. Moultrie), Dec. 26, 1860, to Apr. 13, 1861, sustaining a heavy Bombardment of the work, Apr. 12-13, 1861; in command of the Department of Kentucky, May 28,

(BRIG.-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY, MAY 15, 1861)

to Aug. 15, 1861,—and of the Department of the Cumberland, Aug. 15 to Oct. 8, 1861; in waiting orders, 1861-63; in command of Ft. Adams, R. I., Aug. 19 to Oct. 27, 1863; and at New York city, on the Staff of the General

RETIRED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE, OCT. 27, 1863, FOR DISABILITY RESULTING  
FROM LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE, AND WOUNDS AND DISEASE  
CONTRACTED IN THE LINE OF DUTY)

commanding the Eastern Department, since Oct. 27, 1863.

BYT. MAJ.-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY, FEB. 3, 1865, FOR GALLANT AND  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN THE HARBOR OF CHARLESTON, S. C.,  
IN THE DEFENSE OF FORT SUMTER.

**Civil History.**—Translator, from the French, of "Instructions for Field Artillery—Horse and Foot," for the service of the United States, 1840; and of "Evolutions of Field Batteries," 1860.

Anderson, Robert, brigadier-general, was born near Louisville, Ky., at a place called "Soldier's Retreat," June 14, 1805. In 1825 he was graduated at West Point and received a commission as second lieutenant in the 3d artillery. During the Black Hawk war, in 1832, he served as colonel of the Illinois volunteers, and after that, from 1835 to 1837, acted as instructor in artillery at West Point. He was brevetted captain for services in the Florida war, then was for a time attached to the staff of Gen. Scott as assistant adjutant-general, and in 1841 was promoted to captain. He also served in the Mexican war, and was severely wounded in the battle of Molino del Rey. In 1857 he was appointed major of the 1st artillery, and in 1860 assumed command of the troops in Charleston harbor, with headquarters at Fort Moultrie. Owing to threatened assaults, Maj. Anderson withdrew his command, on the night of Dec. 26, 1860, to Fort Sumter, where he remained until forced to evacuate, on April 14, 1861, after a bombardment of thirty-six hours, to which he replied until forced by the disabling of his guns to yield. In recognition of his services at Fort Sumter he was appointed by President Lincoln brigadier-general in the U. S. army, and was assigned to command the Department of Kentucky, being subsequently transferred to that of the Cumberland. On account of failing health he was relieved from duty in Oct., 1861, and was retired from active service on Oct. 27, 1863. On Feb. 3, 1865, he was brevetted major-general, U. S. A. In 1869 he sailed for Europe in search of health, and died there, at Nice, France, Oct. 27, 1871. He was the translator from the French of "Instructions for Field Artillery, Horse and Foot," and "Evolutions of Field Batteries." To his personal efforts credit is due for the original steps in the organization of the Soldiers' home in Washington, which has since then sheltered many thousands of Civil war veterans.

**Anderson, Robert.\***

[Born in Ky. Appointed from Ky.]

Brevet 2nd Lieut. 2nd Artillery, 1 July, 1825. 2nd Lieut. 3rd Artillery, 1 July, 1825. 1st Lieut., 30 June, 1833. (Brevet Captain Asst. Adjt. Genl., 7 July, 1838, to 30 Nov., 1841.) Captain 3rd Artillery, 23 Oct., 1841. Major 1st Artillery, 5 Oct., 1857. Brigadier Genl., 15 May, 1861. Retired 27 Oct., 1863. Died 26 Oct., 1871. *Brevet Rank*:—Brevet Captain, 2 April, 1838, for gallantry and successful conduct in the war against Florida Indians. Brevet Major, 8 Sept., 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Battle of Molino del Rey, Mexico. Brevet Major Genl., for gallant and meritorious service in the Harbor of Charleston, S. C.



# SUMTER.

☆ Capt. T. Seymour. ☆

☆ 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. G.W. Snyder. ☆

☆ 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. J.C. Davis. ☆

☆ 2<sup>d</sup> Lt. R.K. Meade. ☆

☆ 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. T. Talbot. ☆



☆ Capt. A. D. Hleday. ☆

☆ Maj. R. Anderson. ☆

☆ Asst. Surg. S.W. Crawford. ☆

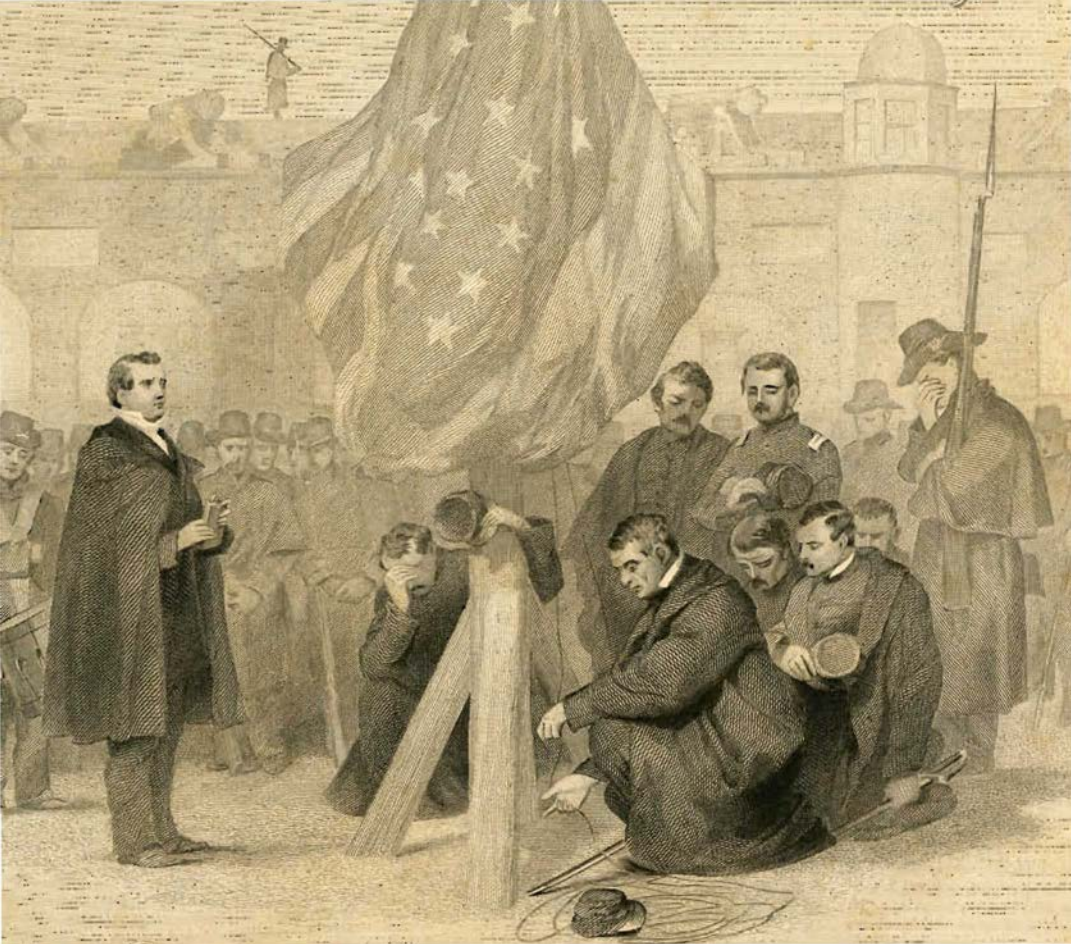
☆ Capt. J.G. Foster ☆













## CHAPTER VII.

### FORT SUMTER.

NOTHING is more remarkable in the progress of this struggle than the long-continued forbearance of the government at Washington—a forbearance in an anxiety to conciliate, carried even to the verge of imbecility—to assert its lawful authority in the face of open, stoutly-proclaimed rebellion. While it was a series of plottings, threats, and defiance on one side, it was all delicacy and consideration on the other. The country waited with impatience for the action of the Administration. It is impossible to read the newspapers of those weary weeks continuing beyond the term of Mr. Buchanan's culpable neglect, a full month after the inauguration of his successor, without vividly recalling the painful emotions which loyal citizens experienced as the proud pillars and lofty fabric of the national greatness seemed to be tottering to their fall. Have we a country, a government

and laws? Do we live as a nation? Is treason a crime known to the Constitution? Do this much vaunted flag, these foreign treaties which we have made, these laws which we have hitherto obeyed, this President and these Houses of Congress so solemnly established at Washington, these Judges of the Supreme Court, this bond and pledge of States from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico—do these institutions which we have so long revered, which our fathers bequeathed to us, for which they bled and died,—do they mean nothing? In this pause of inaction, when fortunes were crumbling on all sides in the dread uncertainty, and men's hearts were failing them for fear, the country was at length roused from its despondency by undoubted intimations from Washington that the hour of action was at hand.



The conduct of the leaders of the Rebellion at the city of Charleston gave the occasion for this display for resolution. After the attempted relief of Fort Sumter, in January, by the *Star of the West*, the demand of the insurgents for its reduction became still more pressing. In vain had the State pronounced itself sovereign and independent if a foreign power, for so the people affected to regard the United States, were to be allowed to hold possession of the most important defence in its chief harbor, threaten the city and control its foreign commerce. The reduction of Sumter became in fact a necessity of the Rebellion, indispensable to South Carolina, and essential to her influence with the neighboring States whose fortunes she desired to involve in the same evil destiny with her own. "No longer hoping for concessions," was the language of an insolent appeal which appeared towards the end of January in the *Charleston Mercury*, "let us be ready for war, and when we have driven every foreign soldier from our shores, then let us take our place in the glorious Republic the future promises us. Border Southern States will never join us until we have indicated our power to free ourselves—until we have proven that a garrison of seventy men cannot hold the portal of our commerce. The fate of the Southern Confederacy hangs by the ensign halliards of Fort Sumter." Active preparations of defence and attack were going on in the harbor against which General Anderson, in concert with his Government, hoping for a peaceful settlement of the existing difficulties or hesitating to strike the first blow to begin a war of which no man could see the consequences, offered no resistance.

The ingenuity of the people of Charles-

ton was much exercised, in advance of the regular operations of war, as to the best method of capturing the fort. "A variety of plans," says a chronicler of the day, early in January, "have been devised, but, as yet, none have been put in practice. One man thought it might be taken by floating down to the fort rafts piled with burning tar-barrels, thus attempting to smoke the American troops out as you would smoke a rabbit out of a hollow. Another was for filling bombs with prussic acid and giving each of the United States soldiers a smell. Still another supposed that the fort might be taken without bloodshed, by offering to each soldier ten dollars and a speaking to. And still another thought that by erecting a barricade of cotton bales, and arming it with cannon, a floating battery might be made, which, with the aid of Forts Moultrie and Johnson, and Castle Pinckney, together with redoubts thrown up on Morris' and Jones' Islands, and with further assistance of an armed fleet, an attack might be made on the fort, and at some convenient point a party of sharpshooters might be stationed, who would pick off the garrison, man by man, thus giving an opportunity to a party of infantry to scale the walls of the fort. Such a storming, however, could only be accomplished by an immense sacrifice of life; and the only practicable mode of taking the fort would seem to be by a protracted siege, and by the unchristian mode of starving them."\*

The month of February was passed in this uncertain condition of hostilities, both parties making eager efforts, though with very unequal opportunities, to strengthen their respective works. Early in March,

\* The *South Carolinian*, January 7. Moore's Rebellion Record, vol. 1, Diary, p. 11.



the State of South Carolina having resigned its boasted military prerogative into the supreme hands of the Confederate Government at Montgomery, a new actor appeared upon the scene in the person of a military officer, *pars belli haud temnenda*, sent by President Jefferson Davis to take command of the forces at Charleston. This was General Peter Gustav Toutant Beauregard, late a Major in the United States Service. A native of the State of Louisiana, of Canadian descent, he had entered the Military Academy at West Point at an early age, and after a career of distinguished credit, graduated in 1838, the second of a class of forty-five, with the appointment of Second Lieutenant in the First regiment of Artillery. He was then immediately transferred to the Corps of Engineers, in which he was promoted the following year to be First Lieutenant. He served with great distinction in that capacity with the army of General Scott during the Mexican War, from Vera Cruz to the capital, being brevetted Captain for his gallant conduct at Contreras and Churubusco, and Major for like honorable service at Chapultepec. General Scott handsomely acknowledged his merits in the Official Reports, making particular mention of his share in the brilliant achievements at entering the city of Mexico, where he was wounded at the assault on the Belen Gate. Among his honored companions on that occasion were Lieutenants G. W. Smith and George B. McClellan, both destined to be prominent with him in the Rebellion, one his associate in arms, the other his antagonist. After the war Major Beauregard was employed by the Government in the construction of the fortifications at the entrance to the Mis-

issippi. On the eve of the Rebellion he was appointed in Mr. Buchanan's Administration to the important duty of Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, as the successor of Major Delafield, but had hardly time to think of the office before he was precipitated with his State in the Revolt. He resigned his commission in the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army on the 20th of February, 1861, two days after the inauguration of Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederate States. His exact professional knowledge, united with his energy of character, immediately on his arrival at Charleston, gave increased efficiency to the military preparations for the reduction of Sumter, which now awaited the conclusion of the negotiation at Washington.

One of the first acts of the Confederate Government at Montgomery was to send three distinguished citizens of the South, Messrs. A. B. Roman of Louisiana, formerly Governor of the State; John Forsyth of Alabama, Minister to Mexico in President Buchanan's administration; Martin J. Crawford of Georgia, one of the seceding members of the recent Congress, as commissioners to open negotiations with the Government at Washington concerning all questions growing out of the separation, with a view to their peaceable solution. They arrived at the capital the day after President Lincoln's inauguration, and a week later, on the twelfth, Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford addressed a formal communication to the Secretary of State, setting forth the motive of their visit, and asking the appointment of an early day to present their credentials and the objects of the mission, to the President. To this Mr. Seward wrote an answer, that he was



unable to comply with the request, and that he had no authority, nor was he at liberty to recognize them as diplomatic agents, or hold correspondence or other communication with them. The refusal thus decided was courteously expressed, and was accompanied by this explanation of the writer's view of the position of affairs :—"The Secretary of State frankly confesses that he understands the events which have recently occurred, and the condition of political affairs which actually exists in the part of the Union to which his attention has thus been directed, very differently from the aspect in which they are presented by Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford. He sees in them, not a rightful and accomplished revolution and an independent nation, with an established government, but rather a perversion of a temporary and partisan excitement to the inconsiderate purposes of an unjustifiable and unconstitutional aggression upon the rights and the authority vested in the federal government, and hitherto benignly exercised, as from their very nature they always must so be exercised, for the maintenance of the Union, the preservation of liberty, and the security, peace, welfare, happiness, and aggrandizement of the American people. The Secretary of State, therefore, avows to Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford that he looks patiently, but confidently, to the cure of evils which have resulted from proceedings so unnecessary, so unwise, so unusual, and so unnatural, not to irregular negotiations, having in view new and untried relations with agencies unknown to and acting in derogation of the Constitution and laws, but to regular and considerate action of the people of those States, in coöperation with their brethren in the other States, through the Congress

of the United States, and such extraordinary conventions, if there shall be need thereof, as the federal Constitution contemplates and authorizes to be assembled."

This reply of Mr. Seward was dated March 15th but, by agreement was not called for or delivered till the 8th of April; a delay for which the Commissioners, in the letter which they wrote on its receipt, thus accounted. They were assured at the outset, they said, "by a person occupying a high official position in the Government, and who, as they believed, was speaking by authority, that Fort Sumter would be evacuated within a very few days, and that no measure changing the existing *status* prejudicially to the Confederate States, as respects Fort Pickens, was then contemplated, and these assurances were subsequently repeated, with the addition that any contemplated change as respects Pickens, would be notified to them. On the 1st of April they were again informed that there might be an attempt to supply Fort Sumter with provisions, but that Gov. Pickens should have previous notice of this attempt. There was no suggestion of any reinforcements. They did not hesitate to believe that these assurances expressed the intentions of the Administration at the time, or at all events of prominent members of that Administration. This delay was assented to, for the express purpose of attaining the great end of their mission, to wit: A pacific solution of existing complications. . . . It was only when all these anxious efforts for peace had been exhausted, and it became clear that Mr. Lincoln had determined to appeal to the sword to reduce the people of the Confederate States to the will of the section



or party whose President he is, that they resumed the official negotiation temporarily suspended, and sent their Secretary for a reply to their official note of March 12."

In the same communication, among other threatening intimations, they thus, with a calm confidence in the result, replied to the pacific suggestions of negotiation by Mr. Seward, which we have just cited from his letter :—"The undersigned, like the Secretary of State, have no purpose 'to invite or engage in discussion' of the subject on which their two Governments are so irreconcilably at variance. It is this variance that has broken up the old Union, the disintegration of which has only begun. It is proper, however, to advise you that it were well to dismiss the hopes you seem to entertain that, by any of the modes indicated, the people of the Confederate States will ever be brought to submit to the authority of the Government of the United States. You are dealing with delusions, too, when you seek to separate our people from our Government, and to characterize the deliberate, sovereign act of the people as a 'perversion of a temporary and partisan excitement.' If you cherish these dreams you will be awakened from them and find them as unreal and unsubstantial, as others in which you have recently indulged. The undersigned would omit the performance of an obvious duty were they to fail to make known to the Government of the United States, that the people of the Confederate States have declared their independence with a full knowledge of all the responsibilities of that act, and with as firm a determination to maintain it by all the means with which nature has endowed them, as that which sustained their fath-

ers when they threw off the authority of the British crown."\*

The immediate cause of this explosion was that the Government, in accordance with the understanding alluded to by the Commissioners, had announced its intention to provision the garrison of Fort Sumter, which, by an order of General Beauregard of the 5th of April, had been deprived of its carefully regulated daily supply of food from the city. Lieutenant Talbot was sent from Washington to communicate this resolve to Governor Pickens. He arrived in Charleston on the 8th, and delivered his message. On its receipt General Beauregard thus addressed Mr. L. P. Walker, the Secretary of War of the Confederate States, at Montgomery, by telegraph :—"An authorized messenger from President Lincoln, just informed Governor Pickens and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumter peaceably, or otherwise by force." To this the following reply was received, dated the 10th :—"If you have no doubt of the authorized character of the agent who communicated to you the intention of the Washington Government, to supply Fort Sumter by force, you will at once demand its evacuation, and if this is refused, proceed in such a manner as you may determine to reduce it. Answer." Word was sent back the same day :—"The demand will be made tomorrow at twelve o'clock." To this the Secretary of War immediately answered :—"Unless there are especial reasons connected with your own condition it is considered proper that you should make the demand at an early hour ;"—to which urgent message it was responded :—"The reasons are special for twelve o'clock."

\* Letter of Messrs. Forsyth, Crawford, and Roman to Hon. W. H. Seward, Wash'ngton, April 9, 1861.



Two hours later than the time appointed, his military preparations having been carefully made, General Beauregard sent a letter to Major Anderson, stating that "the Government of the Confederate States had hitherto forbore from any hostile demonstration against Fort Sumter, in the hope that the Government of the United States, with a view to the amicable adjustment of all questions between the two Governments, and to avert the calamities of war, would voluntarily evacuate it." There was reason, he asserted, to believe that the Government of the United States would, at the time, have pursued such a course, and, with this impression no demand had hitherto been made for the surrender. Now, however, the Confederate States could "no longer delay assuming actual possession of a fortification commanding the entrance of one of their harbors and necessary to its defense and security." He then communicated in the name of his Government a demand of the evacuation of Fort Sumter, offering "all proper facilities for the removal of yourself and command, together with company arms and property, and all private property, to any port in the United States which you may elect. The flag which you have upheld so long and with so much fortitude, under the most trying circumstances, may be saluted by you on taking it down." This demand was carried by Colonel Chesnut and Captain Lee, Aids of General Beauregard. The reply of Major Anderson was immediate, in few words:—"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication demanding the evacuation of this fort; and to say in reply thereto that it is a demand with which I regret my sense of honor and of my obligation to my Government prevent my compliance." An ac-

knowledge was added of "the fair, manly and courteous terms proposed" and "the high compliment" paid him. There were also some remarks made by Major Anderson to the Aids, to the effect that in the present condition of the fort, his forces would soon be starved out, if they were not in the meantime battered to pieces. This reply presently brought from General Beauregard the following communication to Major Anderson, dated an hour before midnight of the same day:—"In consequence of the verbal observations made by you to my Aids, Messrs. Chesnut and Lee, in relation to the condition of your supplies, and that you would in a few days be starved out if our guns did not batter you to pieces—or words to that effect;—and desiring no useless effusion of blood, I communicated both the verbal communication and your written answer to my communication to my Government. If you will state the time at which you will evacuate Fort Sumter, and agree that in the meantime you will not use your guns against us, unless ours shall be employed against Fort Sumter, we will abstain from opening fire upon you. Colonel Chesnut and Captain Lee are authorized by me to enter into an agreement with you. You are, therefore, requested to communicate to them an open answer." Two hours after it was written, at one o'clock on the morning of the 12th—there was little sleep that night for the military authorities—this missive was presented at the fort by an embassy consisting of four Aids of General Beauregard, Colonel Chesnut, Colonel Chisholm, Captain Lee, and Mr. Pryor of Virginia. The letter was at once considered by Major Anderson and the following reply addressed to General Beauregard, dated half-past two o'clock



the same morning, submitted to the ambassadors :—"General, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your second communication of the 11th inst., by Colonel Chesnut, and to state, in reply, that cordially uniting with you in the desire to avoid the useless effusion of blood, I will, if provided with the proper and necessary means of transportation, evacuate Fort Sumter by noon on the 15th instant, should I not receive, prior to that time, controlling instructions from my Government or additional supplies ; and that I will not, in the meantime, open my fire upon your forces, unless compelled to do so by some hostile act against this fort, or the flag of my Government by the forces under your command, or by some portion of them, or by the perpetration of some act showing a hostile intention on your part against this fort or the flag it bears." In accordance with their instructions this communication was read by Colonel Chesnut and Captain Lee and immediately answered, on the spot, in the following reply, dated twenty minutes past three :—"Sir : By authority of Brigadier-General Beauregard, commanding the Provisional Forces of the Confederate States, we have the honor to notify you that he will open the fire of his batteries on Fort Sumter in one hour from this time."

The position of the respective forces in this conflict may be thus generally indicated. Entering the harbor of Charleston by the main channel from the Atlantic there were to the right, on the north, Sullivan's Island with the defences of Fort Moultrie and several adjoining batteries commanding the approach from the sea ; within, on the upper end of the island, in an advantageous position for sweeping the left flank of Fort Sumter,

a floating battery, constructed of palmetto logs with iron facings, mounting two 42 and two 32-pounders ; while beyond, toward the city, a mortar battery was erected at Mount Pleasant. On the south, at Cummings' Point, a projection of Morris' Island, there was a formidable iron protected battery, and beyond, on another point of land on James Island, a mortar battery at Fort Johnson. In front of the two positions just named, though at unequal distances, commanding the channel and facing Fort Moultrie, stood Fort Sumter.

Before daylight, at half-past four, of Friday, the 12th of April, the hostile proceedings commenced with the firing of a signal shell from Fort Johnson, and in half an hour the fire from the rebel batteries became general. It was not returned, however, from Fort Sumter till a few minutes before seven o'clock, when Major Anderson, having divided his small force into three relief parties, each to serve for two hours, commenced a vigorous, but, as it proved, ineffectual attack upon the iron battery at Cummings' Point. The enemy's aim from that powerful battery and the two others at the Point, as well as from their Enfilade Battery, Floating Battery, and Dahlgren Battery, at Sullivan's Island, was to prevent the working and dismount the barbette guns of Fort Sumter, and so well were these stations taken and their guns handled for the purpose, that the attempt was successful, without any extraordinary difficulty or risk to the assailants, who, well instructed and well protected, skillfully avoided the shot which were poured upon them. "During the day," says General Beauregard, in his report of the engagement, "the fire of my batteries was kept up



most spiritedly, the guns and mortars being worked in the coolest manner, preserving the prescribed intervals of firing. Towards evening it became evident that our fire was very effective, as the enemy was driven from his barbette guns, which he attempted to work in the morning, and his fire was confined to his casemated guns, but in a less active manner than in the morning, and it was observed that several of his guns *en barbette* were disabled." The fire of Fort Sumter, beside its assault upon the Cummings' Point Battery, was mainly directed upon Fort Moultrie and its adjoining batteries, and, it is admitted, was skillfully employed. The assailing works of the South Carolinians, however, were too numerous and powerful in comparison, and the well-trained men who occupied them had been suffered too long to make their ample preparations to render the contest anything but an unequal one. The combatants surrounding the beleaguered fort were at least fifty to one, amply furnished with all the munitions of war and with powerful reserves at hand; within, a handful of defenders with a scant supply of food, were not in a position to hold out long, even if the assault were indifferently conducted. But, as it happened, it was attended with some unusual embarrassments. Three times on Friday, the barracks were set on fire and gallantly extinguished by the men. There were many other individual acts of courage, in manning the guns under the heavy assault, performed that day by the little band. One of the workmen, it is said, was found at a gun which from its exposed position had been abandoned. "What are you doing here with that gun?" he was asked. "Hit it right in the centre," was the reply, indicating

his successful shot aimed at the floating battery. Another, Sergeant Kearney, an old Mexican war veteran, was struck on the head and knocked down by a portion of the concrete, dashed by the accurate fire of the enemy, from an embrasure. He was asked if he was hurt badly. "No," said he, as he resumed his work, "I was only knocked down temporarily."

The enemy's batteries having readily gained the range of the fort, a steady fire of shell from the mortars was thrown at regular intervals of ten or fifteen minutes within its enclosure, effectually depriving the garrison of rest during the night of Friday, which proved rainy and dark, with a high wind. A guard was kept up by Major Anderson at different points of the work, that he might be ready to repel assailants from the bay or receive the expected reinforcements from the United States vessels of the relieving expedition which had arrived off the bar, and been seen from the fort in the afternoon. The following morning the sun rose in a cloudless sky, and the firing was vigorously resumed on both sides. Presently at nine o'clock, smoke was discovered issuing from Sumter. The wood-work of the quarters was in flames. Upon this the fire of the besieging batteries was plied, if possible, with greater vigor, red hot shot being thrown into the fort. When the smoke was seen, says Beauregard, "the fire of our batteries was increased as a matter of course, for the purpose of bringing the enemy to terms as speedily as possible, inasmuch as his flag was still floating defiantly above him. Fort Sumter continued to fire from time to time, but at long and irregular intervals, amid the dense smoke, flying shot and bursting shells. Our brave troops, carried away



by their naturally generous impulses, mounted the different batteries, and at every discharge from the fort cheered the garrison for its pluck and gallantry, and hooted the fleet lying inactive just outside the bar."

The flag of Sumter which was raised on a staff in the open parade, had gallantly resisted the perils of the previous day. The halyards had been cut by the bursting shell, but, entangled with the ropes, it still adhered to its position. It was now, however, destined to succumb to the incessant fire when an hour after midday the staff itself was shot away some fifty feet from the truck, it being the ninth time, it was said, that it had been hit. The flag was then nailed to a temporary staff, and planted upon the ramparts. This gallant act was performed by a member of the police force of New York, named Peter Hart, who had accompanied Mrs. Anderson, the wife of the commander, on a visit to the fort soon after its occupation, and who, on her departure, had been suffered to remain. Though not enlisted in the service, he was quite willing to encounter the fiery storm descending upon the area, and peril his life for the maintenance of the flag.

Meanwhile, it being found impossible to extinguish the flames, the efforts of officers and men who were not immediately employed at the guns, were directed to remove the powder from the magazine before the rapid spread of the conflagration should compel it to be closed and rendered inaccessible. Fifty barrels were thus removed and distributed through the casemates, when the heat made it necessary to close the magazine doors and pack earth upon them. As the fire increased, clouds of smoke and

cinders were driven into the casemates, exposing the powder in its new situation to great risk of explosion, when, by order of the commanding officer, all but five barrels were thrown out of the embrasures into the water. The supply of cartridges was so short that the men were employed during the bombardment in manufacturing the bags from blankets, shirts, sheets and such accidental materials. Shell lying exposed were exploded by the shot or the flames from the barracks, which it was a vain endeavor of the officers and men to check. The gunners, begrimed, weary, exhausted, oppressed almost to suffocation by the stifling atmosphere, could breathe the infected air only by throwing themselves with their faces to the ground, and protecting their respiration with wet cloths and handkerchiefs. Fortunately the men were few in number or the slaughter would have been fearful, from the inability to secure shelter. This continued for hours, the fire of the assailants being still poured in with increasing fury, while the defenders could reply only at intervals with an occasional shot. It was evident to the combatants on the bay, and to the eager spectators at Charleston, who witnessed the smoke, flames and explosions, that such a scene must soon end in the utter destruction, if not of the fort, at least of its inmates.

At this crisis, when the flag had disappeared from the staff and not yet been seen on the ramparts, a boat was sent in the midst of a heavy fire of shot and shell to the fort from Cummings' Point, bearing Colonel Louis T. Wigfall of Texas, a seceding United States Senator of the late Congress, at present a volunteer aid of General Beauregard. He had been detached by that officer for



special duty on Morris' Island and was now crossing by order of Brigadier-General Simons with a flag of truce—a white handkerchief elevated on the point of his sword—"to ascertain from Major Anderson whether his intention was to surrender, his flag being down and his quarters in flames." On arriving outside the fort he announced himself and called for Major Anderson who, immediately, accompanied by Lieutenant Snyder, passed through the blazing gateway to meet him. Before they could reach him, however, Colonel Wigfall had been admitted through an embrasure into the fort where he was met by Captain Foster, Lieutenant Mead and Lieutenant Davis, when the following conversation is reported to have occurred. Hastily asking to see Major Anderson, he added in an excited manner, "Let us stop this firing. You are on fire and your flag is down. Let us quit." To this Lieutenant Davis replied, "No, sir, our flag is not down. Step out here and you will see it waving over the ramparts." "Let us quit this," said Wigfall. "Here's a white flag. Will any body wave it out of the embrasure." One of the officers replied, "That is for you to do, if you choose." Wigfall responded, "If there is no one else to do it, I will," and jumping into the embrasure waved the flag toward Moultrie, while the firing was still continued from that fort and the batteries on Sullivan's Island. Having thus made the act his own, at his request, he was relieved of this hazardous occupation by a corporal who was directed to hold "Colonel Wigfall's flag." The new incumbent, however, soon grew as impatient of the duty as the rebel Senator. When several shots had presently struck around him he started back exclaiming, "D—n it. I won't hold that flag, for they

don't respect it. They are firing at it. They struck their colors but we never did." Upon which Wigfall remarked, "They fired at me two or three times and I stood it; and I should think you might stand it once;" adding, "If you will show a white flag from your ramparts they will cease firing." Lieutenant Davis replied, "If you request that a flag shall be shown there while you hold a conference with Major Anderson, and for that purpose alone, it may be done."

At this point Major Anderson came up, having reëntered through an embrasure, when the Colonel introduced himself. "Major Anderson," said he, "you have defended your flag nobly, sir. You have done all that is possible for men to do, and General Beauregard wishes to stop the fight. On what terms, Major Anderson, will you evacuate the fort?" To this Major Anderson replied, "General Beauregard is already acquainted with my only terms." "Do I understand that you will evacuate upon the terms proposed the other day?" "Yes, sir, and on those conditions only." "Then, sir," said Colonel Wigfall, "I understand that the fort is to be ours?" "On those conditions only, I repeat." "Very well," said Wigfall, and he retired. Such was the conversation as it was understood and reported by the inmates of Fort Sumter. The commanding officer understood the conditions to be accepted on the basis spoken of, and the white flag was raised and the United States flag lowered accordingly.

Shortly after this scene a new deputation appeared at the fort, sent by General Beauregard himself, on noticing the change of the flag, to offer assistance to the garrison in their evident extremity. It consisted of three of his Aids, Cap-



tains Lee, Roger A. Pryor and W. Porcher Miles. They delivered their message, proffering assistance, and Major Anderson replied, that he had already agreed upon the terms of evacuation, when it appeared that some misunderstanding had arisen, or that Wigfall had acted without the authority of the Commander in Chief. This new embarrassment, however, was cured by the prompt arrival of another embassy sent by General Beauregard, consisting of Major D. R. Jones, the chief of his Staff, with several other Aids, charged with the voluntary offer of substantially the same propositions submitted to Major Anderson in the correspondence a few days preceding the bombardment, with the exception of the privilege of saluting his flag. To this Major Anderson replied—we cite here the language of General Beauregard's Report—"It would be exceedingly gratifying to him, as well as to his command, to be permitted to salute their flag, having so gallantly defended the fort, under such trying circumstances, and he hoped that General Beauregard would not refuse it, as such a privilege was not unusual." He further said, "he would not urge the point, but would prefer to refer the matter again to General Beauregard." "The point was, therefore," continues General Beauregard, "left open until the matter was submitted to me. I very cheerfully agreed to allow the salute as an honorable testimony to the gallantry and fortitude with which Major Anderson and his command had defended their post, and I informed Major Anderson of my decision about half-past seven o'clock, through Major Jones." Previous to the return of Major Jones, it should be added, General Beauregard sent a fire-en-

gine, under Mr. H. Nathan, Chief of the Fire Department, and Surgeon-General Gibbes of South Carolina, with several of his Aids, to offer further assistance to the garrison of Fort Sumter, which was declined.\*

An incident is related as having occurred in the somewhat confused embassies attending the surrender, which, happily escaping the tragic, is not without that tinge of the ludicrous which is found often provokingly blended with the dignity of great and imposing events. We give the story as we find it in a newspaper of the day—a specimen of the rough humors of the war. "Roger A. Pryor of Virginia, ex-Member of Congress, was one of the second deputation that waited upon Major Anderson. He was the very embodiment of Southern chivalry. Literally dressed to kill, bristling with bowie-knives and revolvers, like a walking arsenal, he appeared to think himself individually capable of capturing the fort, without any extraneous assistance. Inside of the fort he seemed to think himself master of every thing—monarch of all he surveyed—and, in keeping with this pretension, seeing upon the table what appeared to be a glass of brandy, drank it without ceremony. Surgeon Crawford, who had witnessed the feat, approached him and said: "Sir, what you have drunk is poison—it was the iodide of potassium—you are a dead man." The representative of chivalry instantly collapsed. bowie-knives, revolvers and all, and passed into the hands of Surgeon Crawford, who, by purgings, pumpings, and pukings, defeated his own prophecy in regard to his

\* Official Report of Brigadier-General G. T. Beauregard to Brigadier-General Cooper, Adjutant-General C. S. A., Headquarters Provisional Army, Charleston, S. C., April 27, 1861.



fate. Mr. Pryor left Fort Sumter "a wiser, if not a better man."\*

It was arranged at the request of Major Anderson, in accordance with the liberal terms of the surrender, that the formal evacuation should take place on Sunday, the day after the final bombardment. A steamer was to be placed at his disposal for the removal of his command with their effects, and the flag was to be saluted by the force in the garrison previous to embarkation. Lieutenant Snyder was sent from the fort to communicate with the fleet lying off the harbor, to arrange for the reception on board the national vessels. Saturday night was mostly spent in packing up the personal property and hospital stores for the departure. Early the next morning the preparations were completed. Lieutenant Snyder was conducted to the fleet by Commodore Hartstein and several officers of General Beauregard's staff, and presently returned with Captain Gillis of the United States Navy, the commander of the *Pocahontas*, to the fort. The Charleston steamer *Isabel*, which had been provided by the military authorities, was brought up to conduct the garrison to the ships; while the old flag, stained and torn in battle, which for nearly four months had animated the spirits of the defenders during the anxious siege, and which they had so gallantly sustained during the last two days in the fiery attack of shot and shell and the more fearful conflagration, was raised upon the ramparts waiting the honors of the parting salute. It is stated to have been the intention of Major Anderson to have fired a salute of one hundred guns, but the number was reduced to fifty by an untoward accident,

which imparted an additional gloom to the melancholy scene. In the course of the firing a quantity of ammunition near the guns was exploded, instantly killing one of the men and fatally wounding another, while several others were more or less injured. Every attention was paid to the sufferers by Dr. Crawford of the garrison, assisted by Prof. Chisholm of Charleston, Assistant-Surgeon Maddox of the State forces, and others. When the salute was finished, the victim of the disaster, private Hough, was buried with military honors in the centre of the parade ground, the Chaplain of the Confederate troops assisting at the funeral service. After this ceremony the United States troops, dressed in full uniform, wearing their arms, were formed into line, and, to the national air of "Yankee Doodle," marched out of the fort.

Whilst this was taking place at Sumter a distinguished party of the civil and military authorities of South Carolina and the Confederate Government were on their way to the spot, the story of whose visit, as narrated at the time in the Charleston *Mercury* will convey to the reader a vivid impression of the scenes of the day. "At half-past twelve," says the writer, "his Excellency Governor Pickens, with his Aids, and Messrs. Jamison, Harlee and Magrath, of his Executive Council, and General Beauregard, with his Aids, Messrs. Miles, Prior, Manning, Chesnut and Jones, and many distinguished gentlemen, invited to be present, took their departure in a steamer from Southern Wharf, and were borne in the direction of the Fort. As we advanced, it was apparent, however, that the evacuation was not completed. Though the steamer *Isabel*, at the request of Major Anderson, had been present

\* *N. Y. Tribune*, April 19, 1861. Moore's *Rebellion Record*, I, Incidents, &c., p. 28.



from nine o'clock, and the expectation had been occasioned that very soon thereafter his command would be under way, still causes of delay had intervened. To avoid the embarrassments of a premature arrival, the party was landed on Sullivan's Island. Availing themselves of the opportunities thus afforded, they visited the floating battery, the Dahlgren battery, the enfilading battery, and were ascending the mortar battery, when the booming of the guns upon the parapets of Fort Sumter, announced the lowering of the "stars and stripes." In the terms of the capitulation it was allowed to Major Anderson to salute his flag, and it was perhaps expected that he would fire the usual complement of twenty-one guns ; but, reaching that number, he still went on to fire, and the apprehension was that he might exhibit the discourtesy of numbering thirty-four. But he continued still to fire, up to fifty, and then slowly lowering his flag, the shouts from assembled thousands, upon the shores and the steamers, and every species of water craft, announced that the authority of the late United States upon the last foot of Carolina's soil was finally withdrawn. It had been noticed that at the firing of the seventeenth gun, there was the sound as of two reports, and the impression was, that two guns had been fired together ; but, as the party, reëmbarking, were on their way to Fort Sumter, they were met by a boat, which announced that one of the caissons had exploded, and made the earnest request that the boat would return to Sullivan's Island for a fire-engine, from the apprehension that the magazine might be in danger. This obtained, the party again started for the fort, and made their entrance.

"It were vain to attempt a detailed

description of the scene. Every point and every object in the interior of the fort, to which the eye was turned, except the outer walls and casemates, which are still strong, bore the impress of ruin. It were as if the Genius of Destruction had tasked its energies to make the thing complete, brooded over by the desolation of ages. It could scarce have been developed to a more full maturity of ruin. The walls of the internal structure, roofless, bare, blackened, and perforated by shot and shell, hung in fragments, and seemed in instant readiness to totter down. Near the centre of the parade-ground was the hurried grave of one who had fallen from the recent casualty. To the left of the entrance was a man who seemed to be at the verge of death. In the ruins, to the right, there was another. The shattered flag-staff, pierced by four balls, lay sprawling on the ground. The parade-ground was strewn with fragments of shell and of the dilapidated buildings. At least four guns were dismounted on the ramparts, and at every step the way was impeded by portions of the broken structure. And so it was that the authorities, compelled to yield the fortress, had at least the satisfaction of leaving it in a condition calculated to inspire the least possible pleasure to its captors.

"Of all this, however, the feeling was lost when, ascending to the parapet, the brilliant panorama of the bay appeared. And when, from this key to the harbor, the view expanded to the waving outline of main and island, and when, upon this key, the flag of the Confederacy, together with the Palmetto flag, were both expanded to the breeze ; and when the deafening shouts arose from the masses clustered upon boats and upon the shores, and when the batteries around the entire



circuit shook the fortress with the thunders of their salutation, the feeling that the victory was indeed complete ; that the triumph was a fact accomplished ; that liberty had indeed been vindicated, and that the State had established her claim to the skill and courage necessary to the cause she had the intellectual intrepidity to avow, thrilled in the breast of every one of Carolina's sons, as seldom has such feeling thrilled in the breasts of any men before. Shortly after the arrival, the garrison marched out, and were received on board the *Isabel* ; which, however, from the condition of the tide was unable to move off, and it was a somewhat unpleasant circumstance that Major Anderson and his command should have been made unwilling spectators of the exultations inspired by their defeat."

We may indeed, severely as all patriots must censure the fatal policy of the attack upon Fort Sumter, and the wicked counsels of the conspirators against the peace and happiness of the nation which inspired it, allow the authorities at Charleston credit for a certain generosity in their manner of proceeding after the work was taken—though it would have added to their claims to respect, if the firing had not been so ruthlessly continued, and even augmented, when the fort was in flames. The leaders appear to have been touched by the gallantry of the defenders. In their own view of the matter, they doubtless thought they were making considerable concessions to a fallen foe in the easy and honorable terms of surrender. What that point of view was, and how the capitulation was represented at the South, we may learn from an extraordinary passage in the Message at the close of the month, of President Jefferson Davis to his Con-

federate Congress. "I cannot refrain," says he, in that document, "from a well deserved tribute to the noble State, the eminent soldierly qualities of whose people were so conspicuously displayed in the port of Charleston. For months they had been irritated by the spectacle of a fortress held within their principal harbor, as a standing menace against their peace and independence. Built in part with their own money, its custody confided with their own consent to an agent who held no power over them, other than such as they had themselves delegated for their own benefit, intended to be used by that agent for their own protection against foreign attack, they saw it held with persistent tenacity as a means of offence against them by the very government which they had established for their protection. They had beleaguered it for months—felt entire confidence in their power to capture it—yet yielded to the requirements of discipline, curbed their impatience, submitted without complaint to the unaccustomed hardships, labors and privations of a protracted siege ; and when at length their patience was rewarded by the signal for attack, and success had crowned their steady and gallant conduct—even in the very moment of triumph—they evinced a chivalrous regard for the feelings of the brave but unfortunate officer who had been compelled to lower his flag. All manifestations of exultation were checked in his presence. Their commanding general, with their cordial approval and the consent of his Government, refrained from imposing any terms that could wound the sensibilities of the commander of the fort. He was permitted to retire with the honors of war—to salute his flag, to depart freely with all his



command, and was escorted to the vessel in which he embarked with the highest marks of respect from those against whom his guns had been so recently directed. Not only does every event connected with the siege reflect the highest honor on South Carolina, but the forbearance of her people, and of this government, of making any harsh use of a victory obtained under circumstances of such peculiar provocation, attest to the fullest extent the absence of any purpose beyond securing their own tranquility, and the sincere desire to avoid the calamities of war."

Major Anderson, with his command, remained Sunday night in the harbor on board the *Isabel*. On Monday morning they were transported to the steamer *Baltic*, and sailed immediately for the north. When the men were all embarked, the flag of Sumter was raised to the mast head and saluted by the guns of the *Baltic*, the *Pocahontas*, the *Pawnee* and *Harriet Lane*. As the ship entered the bay of New York, on the morning of the 18th, the flag was again elevated and greeted with the salutes of the forts and the cheers of enthusiastic spectators. On his approach to the harbor, while off Sandy Hook, Major Anderson addressed this brief despatch to the Secretary of War:—"Having defended Fort Sumter for thirty-four hours, until the quarters were entirely burned, the main gates destroyed by fire, the gorge wall seriously injured, the magazine surrounded by flames and its doors closed from the effects of the heat, four barrels and three cartridges of powder only being available, and no provisions but pork remaining, I accepted terms of evacuation offered by General Beauregard, being the same offered by him on the 11th inst.,

prior to the commencement of hostilities, and marched out of the fort Sunday afternoon, the 14th inst., with colors flying and drums beating, bringing away company and private property and saluting my flag with fifty guns."\*

Captain Foster's Engineer journal of the bombardment, published with the Annual Report of the War Department, presents us with many interesting particulars of the defence in an authentic form. It appears from this that for a few days preceding the attack, when the enemy's batteries were first unmasked on Sullivan's Island, there was great activity in the fort in providing additional security for the working of the heavy guns on the parapet, which were intended to operate upon Fort Moultrie and Cummings' Point, and in preparing means for quickly unloading any vessel which might run in with supplies for the garrison. In the absence of sand-bags a heavy double curb of boards and scantling, to serve as a traverse or screen for the protection of the gunners, was raised by night to the parapet and filled with earth, which had been hoisted from the parade. Ladders and runaways were provided to take in reinforcements and provisions at the embrasures, one of which was enlarged to the size of a barrel. On the 9th of April the quantity of bread is reported as "very small," and only half-rations of it were allowed to the men. The next day it failed entirely, and its place was supplied by "picking over some damaged rice, which, while spread out during the day in one of the quarters had been filled with pieces of glass from the window panes shattered by the concussion of guns fired in practice." It being found

\* Major Anderson to the Hon. S. Cameron, Secretary of War, steamship *Baltic*, off Sandy Hook, April 18, 1861.



that there were few cartridges on hand, the surplus blankets and extra company clothing were cut up to make bags for an additional supply. The manufacture, however, proceeded slowly, for there were but six needles to work with in the fort. At the commencement of the action the entire armament consisted of twenty-seven guns mounted *en barbette*, of which two were 10-inch columbiads, six 8-inch columbiads, six 42-pounders, three 32's, six 24's, and four 8-inch sea-coast howitzers; of twenty-one guns, four 42-pounders and the rest 32-pounders in the lower casemate tier—the embrasures of the upper were filled with brick and stone and earth—while on the parade one 10-inch columbiad was arranged to throw shells into Charleston, and four 8-inch columbiads to throw shells into the batteries on Cummings' Point. Of all these, the casemate guns were the only ones used. The supply of cartridges, seven hundred in number, with which the action commenced, became so much reduced by the middle of the first day that "although the six needles were kept steadily employed" the firing was of necessity confined to six guns.

The effect of the fire Captain Foster admits was not very good, which he attributes to the insufficient calibre of the guns for the long range. Not much damage, he says, "appeared to be done to any of the batteries except those of Fort Moultrie where our two 42-pounders appeared to have silenced one gun for a time, to have injured the embrasures considerably, riddled the barracks and quarters, and torn three holes through their flag. The so-called 'floating battery' was struck very frequently by our shot, one of them penetrating at the angle between the front and roof, entirely

through the iron covering and woodwork beneath, and wounding one man. The rest of the 32-pounder balls failed to penetrate the front or the roof, but were deflected from their surfaces, which were arranged at a suitable angle for this purpose. We could not strike below the water-line on account of the sea-wall behind which the battery had been grounded, and which was just high enough to allow their guns to fire over it and to intercept all our ricochet shots. The columbiad battery and Dahlgren battery near the floating battery did not appear to be much injured by the few shots that were fired at them. Only one or two shots were fired at Fort Johnson, and none at Castle Pinckney or the city. Our fire towards Morris' Island was mainly directed at the iron-clad battery, but the small calibre of our shot failed to penetrate the covering when struck fairly. The aim was therefore taken at the embrasures, which were struck at least twice, disabling the guns for a time."

In regard to the fire from the enemy and its effect upon the fort, Captain Foster states that "the vertical fire was so well directed and so well sustained that from the seventeen mortars engaged in firing 10-inch shells, one half of the shells came within or exploded above the parapet of the fort and only about ten buried themselves in the soft earth of the parade without exploding. In consequence of this precision of vertical fire Major Anderson decided not to man the upper tier of guns, as by doing so the loss of men, notwithstanding the traverses and bomb-proof shelters that I had constructed, must have been great. These guns were therefore fired only once or twice by some men who ven-



tured upon the parapet for this purpose. In doing this they managed without much care, producing little or no effect upon the enemy, besides doing injury to the guns. At the third fire of the 10-inch columbiad at the right gorge angle it was omitted to throw the friction wheels out of bearing, and consequently, in the recoil, the gun ran entirely off its chassiz, overturning itself, and in its fall dismounting the 8-inch sea coast howitzer next to it. The direction of the enemy's shells being from the north-east, north, south-west and south-east, sought every part of the work, and the fuses being well graduated, exploded, in most instances, just within the line of parapet. To this kind of fire no return was made from the columbiads arranged to fire shell, nor were the hot shot furnaces used or opened. The effect of the direct fire of the enemy was not so marked as the vertical. For several hours from the commencement a large proportion of their shot missed the fort. An 8-inch columbiad of the upper tier was dismounted, and another struck on its side and cracked by the guns of Fort Moultrie. Three of the iron cisterns over the hall-ways were destroyed by shots during the day, and the quarters below deluged by their contents of water, aiding in preventing the extension of the fires. The enemy's fire on the second day was more rapid and effective. None of the upper tier of guns, however, were dismounted. After the cessation of fire about six hundred shot marks on the face of the scarp wall were counted, but they were so scattered that no breached effect could have been expected from such fire, and probably none was attempted except at the right gorge angle. The only effect of the direct fire during the two days was to dis-

able three barbette guns, knock off large portions of the chimneys and brick walls projecting above the parapet, and to set the quarters on fire with hot shot."

Notwithstanding, however, the terrible fire of the descending shells and the conflagration of the quarters, the fort, Captain Foster thinks, might have been held for some time had it not been for other insurmountable difficulties. "We could," he says, "have resumed the firing as soon as the walls cooled sufficient to open the magazines; and then having blown down the wall left projecting above the parapet, so as to get rid of flying bricks, and built up the main gates with stones and rubbish, the fort would actually have been in a more defensible condition than when the action commenced. In fact it would have been better if the chimneys, roofs and upper walls of the quarters and barracks had been removed before the firing began, but the short notice and the small force did not permit anything of this kind after the notice of the attack was received. The weakness of the defence principally lay in the lack of cartridge bags and of the materials to make them, by which the fire of our batteries was all the time rendered slow, and towards the last was nearly suspended. The lack of a sufficient number of men to man the barbette tier of guns, at the risk of losing several by the heavy vertical fire of the enemy, also prevented us making use of the only guns that had the power to smash his iron-clad batteries, or of throwing shells into his open batteries so as to destroy his cannoniers. The want of provisions would soon have caused the surrender of the fort, but with plenty of cartridges the men would have cheerfully fought five or six days, and, if necessary, much longer, on pork alone,



of which we had a sufficient supply. I do not think that a breach could have been effected in the gorge at the distance of the battery on Cummings' Point within a week or ten days; and even then, with the small garrison to defend it, and means for obstructing it at our disposal, the operation of assaulting it, with even vastly superior numbers, would have been very doubtful in its results."\*

Having thus briefly narrated the fortunes of Fort Sumter and its gallant defenders during the bombardment, we may turn to contemplate more particularly the means by which the capture was effected. The well contrived battery at Cummings' Point, where the guns were pointed from a shelving defence constructed of railroad iron, admirably adapted for the protection of those within, by throwing off opposing balls at an angle, was most effective in its discharges against the fort. Its contiguity to the less defended side of the fort also aided its destructiveness. The guns of this battery, which were admitted by Major Anderson to have been well handled, numbered three 8-inch or 64-pound columbiads, from which were fired during the combat one hundred and eighty-three solid shot and sixty shells. The distance was about twelve hundred yards, a short range for these powerful missives. In addition to this Stevens or Iron Battery, worked by a detachment of the Palmetto Guard, there were mounted at the Point on Morris' Island two 42-pound guns, six 10-inch mortars and a 12-pounder imported Blakely rifle cannon, all of which were efficient in sweeping the exposed places of the fort. Nearly four

hundred shells and as many solid shot were thrown from these works.

Sullivan's Island, on the opposite side, mounted no less than six distinct batteries bearing on Fort Sumter at various distances. The most important of these was the Sumter Battery of Fort Moultrie, commanded by Lieutenant Alfred Rhett. There were in this battery three 64-pound columbiads, two 32 and four 24-pounders, from which were discharged six hundred and fifty shots, including two hundred and forty-eight 64-pound balls and forty-one red hot 32-pound balls. The distance is about eighteen hundred yards. Other batteries to the right and left mounted eleven guns of heavy calibre and four 10-inch mortars, discharging more than a thousand solid shot and some two hundred and fifty shells. There were also the Mount Pleasant mortar battery and two others on James Island, mounting altogether six 10-inch mortars. From fourteen batteries, in all, mounting forty-two heavy guns and mortars, well manned and in full action, were thrown more than three thousand balls and shells. The exact number is stated at two thousand three hundred and sixty-one shot and nine hundred and eighty shells.\* The number of men actively employed in the circuit of the Confederate works, may with moderation be stated as exceeding three thousand. The force in reserve would swell the number to seven or eight thousand.

Fort Sumter was constructed for three tiers of guns, two in casemated batteries, and the third *en barbette*. To man its entire armament when complete, of one hundred and forty guns, would require the services of at least six hundred men. The

\* Engineer Journal of the Bombardment of Fort Sumter, by Captain J. G. Foster, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. New York, October 1, 1861.

\* These details are from an elaborate article published in the Charleston *Mercury*, May 2, 3.



fort being unfinished, however, when Major Anderson took possession, and being occupied and held under very unfavorable circumstances, without supplies of materials, notwithstanding the zealous labor of its defenders was, at the time of the siege, in a very inadequate condition for defence. It had, as we have seen when the attack had commenced, but fifty-three guns mounted, and of these twenty-one only were used. Its entire force was a body, all told, of one hundred and thirteen men, of whom nine were commissioned officers, seventeen non-commissioned, forty-two privates, six attached to the band, a small number of mechanics, and the rest laborers. The artillery force, under favorable circumstances, was barely equal to the management of nine guns. The officers, however, were of a resolute spirit, and their men, two companies of the First Artillery, shewed themselves every way worthy of the occasion. The names of the gallant little band in command under Major Anderson are worth remembering. More than one of them by their services in the subsequent war have gained additional claims upon the public attention. They were Assistant-Surgeon S. Wylie Crawford, of the Medical Staff; Captain Abner Doubleday, Captain Truman Seymour, First Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, Second Lieutenant N. J. Hall, all of the First Artillery; Captain J. G. Foster, Lieutenant G. W. Snyder and R. K. Meade, of the Engineers. Captain Foster, a native of New Hampshire, was a distinguished graduate of West Point of the class of 1846. He served in Mexico with honor, being severely wounded at El Molino del Rey, was brevetted Captain, and subsequently was employed as Assistant Professor of Engineering at West Point. After the defence of Sumter

he was engaged in the superintendence of raising fortifications at Sandy Hook. He was next appointed by the President Brigadier-General of volunteers, in which capacity we shall meet with him again in the North Carolina Expedition of General Burnside.

All accounts agree as to the zest with which the incessant murderous fire was hurled upon the devoted fort, and the fortitude with which it was sustained. The usually cool narrative of General Beauregard in his official account, approaches enthusiasm as he enumerates the particular services rendered by the warriors of South Carolina in this memorable action. The names are too numerous to recount, but we may mention as especially honored by their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Ripley, Commandant of Batteries on Sullivan's Island, Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. De Sausure who directed the batteries on Morris' Island, Major P. F. Stevens, of the Naval Academy in charge of the Cummings' Point Batteries, Captain Thomas, of the Citadel Academy, at the same spot, "who had charge of the rifle-cannon, and had the honor of using this valuable weapon, a gift of one of South Carolina's distant Sons to his native State, with peculiar effect;" while to the engineers, Majors Whiting and Gwynn and others, "too much praise cannot be bestowed for their untiring zeal, energy and gallantry." Captain Hartstein, who at the surrender showed praiseworthy attentions to his old associates, is in particular commended for the service which he rendered in the naval department as one of the General's volunteer Aids, "perfectly indefatigable in guarding the entrance into the harbor, and in transmitting my orders." Colonel Wigfall



in like manner is commended for the devotion, which we have recorded, in his passage to Fort Sumter in an open boat amidst a heavy fire of shot and shell. Nor, as one of the interesting anecdotes of the occasion, must the incident much dwelt upon at the time in South Carolina, be forgotten, of "the venerable and gallant Edward Ruffin of Virginia, at the iron battery, firing many guns, undergoing every fatigue and sharing the hardships at the battery with the youngest of the Palmettos." The last named gentleman hastened over to the island from Charleston as a volunteer, was elected a member of the Palmetto Guard on the spot, and assigned the honor of firing the first gun from the battery. "All honor!" enthusiastically exclaims a journalist of the day at Charleston, "to the chivalric Virginian; may he live many years to wear the fadeless wreath that honor placed upon his brow on our glorious Friday." He had not to live many months to witness some of the first fruits of this glorious action, in the dismemberment of his native State and the occupation and devastation of that proud portion of the earth by hostile armies, which the echoes of his iron battery had called to face each other.

The armed vessels and transports which had arrived for the relief of Fort Sumter were the steam sloop-of-war Pawnee, ten guns, the Revenue Cutter Harriet Lane, five guns, and the steam transport ship Baltic carrying about a hundred troops. The Pawnee sailed from Washington on the 6th of April; the others from New York between that day and the 9th,—all with sealed orders. The expedition was placed under the direction of Captain C. V. Fox of the

United States Navy, who had been in council with the Government and had advised its preparation. The destination was Charleston, and the orders were to send in provisions to the fort, if unopposed, by the launches; but if opposition were made, the armed vessels and troops should follow and accomplish the object as best they could. The Harriet Lane was the first to arrive early on Thursday evening, and her coming doubtless influenced the onset of the assailants, which had been fairly commenced before her consort the Pawnee with the Baltic made their appearance. At noon they had approached the mouth of the harbor, and were witnessing the bombardment at a distance of about five miles from Fort Sumter. The necessity of aid was evident, while the original plan had been thwarted by the commencement of the action. It was expected, however, that the attempt at introducing supplies should be made early Saturday morning, when the boats should advance protected as far as possible by the fire of the war-vessels. So well was the harbor guarded that it could not, with any prospect of safety, be made at night, when, in the darkness, the Pawnee and Harriet Lane could render no assistance. The next morning the project with the resources at hand, which were quite too scanty for the occasion, did not seem more feasible, and the three vessels, now reinforced by the United States steamer Pocahontas, were compelled quietly to wait and receive the anticipated news of the surrender of Fort Sumter, while the channel batteries along the shore would have welcomed them an easy prey to their tender embraces. Indeed, it was then and for some time after quite a matter of vaunting, that the ships had been de-



fied and insulted and yet taken no part in the conflict. Even Jefferson Davis in his Presidency of the new confederacy had his allusion to "the prudent conduct of the officers who commanded the fleet." All the part, indeed, they were enabled to bear in the proceedings was, to receive and console the exhausted defenders, and pay due honors to the torn flag of their country.

One of the most extraordinary circumstances of this whole affair as it was considered at the time, was the alleged bloodless nature of the conflict. The only living creature killed at the batteries is said to have been a fine horse belonging to General Donnovant, which he had hitched behind Fort Moultrie. That such deadly instruments as were employed could be discharged for so long a time without interruption, by practiced hands on both sides and with so considerable material injury, wounding the air with shattering explosions, upturning the earth, dismounting guns and spreading conflagration, and that no one of the assailants or defenders should be hurt, was one of those phenomena which seemed to discredit or throw ridicule on the giant preparation for destruction of modern warfare. Yet this was apparently the case. It was so asserted in the Southern bulletins at the moment, the statement is authoritatively given in General Beauregard's official despatch, where the fact is attributed to the skill of his engineers, and the authority of the statement has been confirmed by subsequent experience. General Beauregard, however, pronounced the fact extraordinary. He speaks of "the unprecedented example of taking such an important work without having to report the loss of a single life and but four slightly wounded." Governor

Pickens stated publicly, at Charleston, that "not a single human being had been sacrificed in this cause, so much identified with the liberty and the independence of our country," and saw in the circumstance "the finger of Providence." To be sure, almost in the same sentence, he pronounced "before the civilized world" that the independence of his town's people was "baptized in blood," but that might be taken as a figure of speech, and something under the circumstances should be allowed to the occasion. The President of the Confederacy, however, Jefferson Davis, himself, at a calmer moment, at the end of the month, in his Message to the Provisional Congress at Montgomery renews the statement. "Fortunately," says he, "not a single life was lost on our side." With such asseverations on the part of those who certainly had the best opportunities of gaining correct information on the subject, there would appear little room for doubt. There were people, notwithstanding, who thought the thing incredible on the ground merely of its improbability.

The London *Times* in a jocular article on the subject treated the affair as if the combatants were hardly in earnest, or as if it was all a shadowy, unsubstantial scene of mimic warfare, theatrically contrived for the amusement of the world. "Nature, or something that stands in its stead," said that eminent journal, "is still strong in the Americans. They fight 'willing but with unwilling minds,' they lift the hand to strike, they wing the instrument of death, but a mysterious power averts the stroke, or blunts the edge, or deadens the blow. Are they in earnest, or are they playing at war, or

\* Speech of Governor Pickens, Charleston, April 13, 1861.



dreaming that they strike and still strike not? It sounds more like a dangerous game than a sad reality. Seven batteries breached and bombarded Fort Sumter for forty hours, burnt down its barracks, blew up several magazines, threw shells into it innumerable, and did a vast show of destruction. The fort replied with like spirit. At length it surrendered, the garrison marched out prisoners of war, and it was then found that not a man was killed, or an officer wounded on either side. Many a 'difficulty' at a bar has cost more bloodshed. Was this a preconcerted feat of conjuring? Were the rival Presidents saluting one another in harmless fire-works to amuse the groundlings? The whole affair is utterly inexplicable. It sounds like the battles when the coat of mail had come to its perfection, and when the only casualty after a day's hard fighting, was a case of suffocation and a few bruises. Odin's heroes as they renew their daily warfare are really wounded, though their wounds are quickly healed. This is sparring with boxing gloves—not the loaded coëstus of modern warfare. It is a mere spectacle. The population and even the ladies of Charleston poured forth to see the sight. Ten thousand soldiers lined the works, watching the sport and contributing their share. Our own cockneys have seen as much, and done as much at Cremorne, or the Surrey Gardens, not more unscathed, and, let us hope, in not more pacific mood. But perhaps, this is only the interchange of courtesies which in olden times preceded real war. The result is utterly different from all we are accustomed to hear of the Americans. There "a word or a blow" has been the rule. In this case, the blow when it does at last come, falls like

snow and lights as gently as thistle down."

Others, at home, were supported in their incredulity by various stories, which, arising from different quarters found more or less acceptance with the newspapers and the people. One of these was the tale of "a Massachusetts gentleman, well known," says the *New Haven Chronicle*, "to several of our citizens as a person of unquestioned veracity," who, having escaped from Fort Moultrie, where he had been impressed in the Confederate service, reported, with perfect willingness to clinch the same by a solemn oath, that "from six to seven hundred men were killed in that fort during the engagement." A New York "flour merchant," also impressed into the rebel service, gave a lusty account of the death dealing missives of Fort Sumter. The very first shot which entered Fort Moultrie he reported "killed thirty-three men instantly, and wounded many more." Such an alarming result was, of course, not accomplished by the ball directly but by its multiplied energies, by means of the splinters of a gun-carriage which it first shattered. The tale was further circumstantially supported by the incident of burial, at the end of the engagement, of one hundred and sixty victims, transported in a sloop to the negro burial ground.

A mate of a schooner from Charleston likewise reported having seen "an aggregate of about two hundred coffins" taken on board the steamboat plying between the city and the batteries. This, however, pretended to be only circumstantial evidence of a somewhat shadowy character. The boxes might have been such as are used in the packing of mus-



kets, in general appearance, by the way, offering a painful anticipation of the ultimate resting place, which too many of those handling their contents prematurely get into. Still another attempted elucidation of this mystery, which gained considerable favor with northern journals, had also something of a marine flavor. It purported to come from "a rigger from New London" who had been on the Battery at Charleston during the first day of the fight. He heard the reports as they came in of "nobody killed," but with some incredulity, which was shared by his northern companions. In fact they determined, so far as they could, to investigate the matter for themselves. Accordingly watching the approach of the steamboats they witnessed the arrival of nearly one hundred dead bodies; and they saw more the next night.

Testimony like this, of course, was to be received with many grains of allowance. The newspaper stories throughout the whole of this war are, indeed, shockingly careless or inventive, and ill betide the future historian who trusts himself too hastily to their guidance. It is quite probable, on a review of the whole affair, that nobody was killed, and the explanation of the fact is very simple. There were unusual opportunities for safety, and extraordinary means were employed to take advantage of them. The batteries were well protected, watchers were on the look-out for the fire of the few well-known guns of Sumter; sand bags, cotton bales and iron ramparts were judiciously employed, and "rat-holes," as burrowings in the sand for refuge were called, were well known to the defenders. General Beauregard attributes, as we have seen, the singular immunity to the great and faithful labors

of his engineers, and with this elucidation, for the present at least, we may let this curiosity of history rest.

Charleston had hailed the bombardment with the greatest animation and joy. The house-tops of the city, commanding a view of the forts in the harbor, were covered with eager spectators of the conflict; the wharves were thickly crowded; while "on no gala occasion," in the language of a local journalist, "have we ever seen so large a number of ladies on our Battery, as graced the breezy walk on this eventful morning."\* Governor Pickens surveyed the scene with a telescope from a convenient house in the town, where General Beauregard also had his headquarters and directed the operations of the day. Nor was this enthusiasm confined to the crowded masses of citizens who might be supposed to be carried away by the contagious excitement of the hour. Their time of thought and reflection, perhaps of repentance, might come hereafter; but a calm looker-on might surely have expected from the lips of the Executive officer of the State words of milder import than those which fell from the lips of Governor Pickens, when he addressed a number of the people from the balcony of the Charleston Hotel on the evening of that day of surrender, so pregnant with the fate of America. Alluding to the deliberate preparation for this attack which the State had made, he said in words, sad and now ominous enough, "When the proper time had come, when I knew we were prepared, there was not a moment that I was not ready to strike the blow for my State and the independence of my country, let it lead to what it might, even if it led to blood and ruin. Thank God

\* *Charleston Courier*, April 13, 1861.



the day is come ; thank God the war is open and we will conquer or perish. They have vauntingly arrayed their twenty millions of men against us ; they have exultingly also arrayed their navy, and they have called us but a handful of men, a weak and isolated State, full of pride and what they call chivalry, and with the hated institution of slavery, as they supposed a source of weakness, too, but which in fact is a source of strength in war, and they have defied us. But we have rallied, . . . we have met them and we have conquered. We have defeated their twenty millions, and we have made the proud flag of the Stars and Stripes, that never was lowered before to any nation on this earth, we have lowered it in humility before the Palmetto and the Confederate flags, and we have compelled them to raise by their side the white flags, and ask for an honorable surrender." Again he returns with shameful emphasis to this theme :—" We have humbled the flag of the United States. I can here say to you, it is the first time in the history of this country that the Stars and Stripes have been humbled. It has triumphed for seventy years, but, to-day, on the thirteenth day of April, it has been humbled, and humbled before the glorious little State of South Carolina." The speech was received on the spot with " vociferous applause," but thinking men at a distance stood aghast at this insulting demoniac recklessness and foolhardiness. Well might they ask, is this the spirit which is to control the solemn interests of a vast and serious nation, intent on its mission of civilization in the world and tenacious of law and order that it might religiously accomplish it? That the time for such consideration had fully come was sufficiently brought home

to the nation by the public declaration of Mr. L. Pope Walker, the Secretary of War of the Confederate States, at Montgomery. Addressing the citizens of that recent capital the day on which the attack on Sumter was begun, he said, " No man can tell where the war this day commenced will end ; but I will prophesy that the flag which now flaunts the breeze here will float over the dome of the old Capitol at Washington before the first of May. Let them try Southern chivalry and test the extent of Southern resources, and it may float eventually over Faneuil Hall itself."

Nor were the politicians, accustomed by their profession to inflammatory harangues, left unsupported in their frantic rejoicings by voices of grave authority and generally of more reserved, if not more prudent, councils. A portion of the clergy at least, for we hear of none protesting, shared the enthusiasm of the hour and offered up their thanksgivings, as if rebellion to the State had been a duty to God. " The glorious issue of the bombardment," we read in a pamphlet published at Charleston in honor of the event, somewhat curiously entitled *The Battle of Fort Sumter and First Victory of the Southern Troops*, " was duly commemorated in several of our Churches on the Sunday following the surrender. The incidents in ' old St. Philip's ' we witnessed were deeply touching. The heart of the worshippers in that sacred fane, consecrated by the precious historic memories which made the glory of the ' first temple ' on this site, had been poured out in devout thanksgiving to the Giver of Victory, when a venerable old man, leaning on his staff, was led by the Rector to the sacred desk. It was the Bishop of the Diocese, wholly blind and



physically feeble, yet with the eyes of faith discerning the light of Heaven and rejoicing therein. In his exhortation, he said, that not only a patriotic but a personal interest in the great event of the past week had brought him to the city, and made him here abide until the battle had been fought. Your boys were there and mine were there, and it was right that they should be there. Still the heart had inly bled; the strong man, as well as the tender woman had quivered under the influences of natural affection, for we were not children, we knew what we were doing, and had counted the cost, and had weighed in our very souls the warfare upon which we were going. And how very marvellous had been God's doings! How unparalleled his agency. All our children had passed through the fire unhurt! 'Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name, oh Lord, be the glory!' We forbear to follow the good Bishop through the affecting application which he made of this wonderful Providence of God, but cannot pass over the strong testimony which he bore to his firm persuasion, strengthened by travel through every section of our State in the discharge of pastoral duty, that the grand movement in which our people were now engaged, was begun by them in the deepest conviction of duty to God, and after laying their case before God—and God had most signally blessed our dependence on Him. At the Cathedral of St. John and St. Finbar, Bishop Lynch alluded in happy terms to the events of the previous two days, and a *Te Deum* was chaunted in thanksgiving for the bloodless victory."\*

It was some consolation to the country to know that shortly after the attack

upon Sumter, Fort Pickens was reinforced by a portion of the fleet which, it had been supposed, was destined for Charleston Harbor. That fort had been preserved for the nation by an act of gallant patriotism which ranks with the devotion of Anderson in his occupation of Sumter. On the 12th of January, when a band of lawless insurgents, led by Captain V. M. Randolph of the United States Navy, a citizen of Alabama, with the plea of a commission from the Governor of Florida, presented themselves at the Pensacola Navy Yard, and, by the connivance of the officers in command, Lieutenant E. Farrand and Lieutenant F. B. Renshaw, by whose order "the flag was hauled down amid the jeers and shouts of a drunken rabble,"\* received its unconditional surrender, Lieutenant Adam J. Slemmer, a young officer of artillery, stationed with his company in temporary charge of the adjacent Fort McRae, spurning the treason of his associates, hastily proceeded with his command to occupy Fort Pickens, on Santa Rosa Island, facing the harbor. There, strengthening himself with a body of marines from the United States steamer Wyandotte at the station, some of the soldiers from Fort Barrancas and a few men from the Navy Yard, more scrupulous than their officers in refusing the disgraceful terms of surrender, he set the enemy at defiance till the Fort was reinforced and properly garrisoned by the Government.

Lieutenant Slemmer, to whom the country was indebted for this brilliant service of rescuing one of its most valuable defences from armed treason, was a native of Pennsylvania, about thirty-two

\* The Battle of Fort Sumter, &c., Charleston, 1861.

\* Report of a Select Committee to the Senate and House of Representatives. February 21, 1861.



years of age. He was a graduate of West Point of the class of 1850, and had since that time served with distinction in various important positions in California, on the Coast Survey, as an instructor at the Military Academy, and in command in the harbor at Pensacola. In the attentions subsequently paid to the defenders of Sumter, the aid which he had rendered the cause at Pickens was not forgotten. The New York Chamber of Commerce, representing one of the most important interests of the nation, gracefully coupled the services of the two garrisons in the presentation to officers and men of a series of medals prepared in honor of both events. The first class Sumter medal bore on its obverse a medallion portrait of General Anderson and on the reverse "the Genius or Guardian Spirit of America arising from Fort Sumter. Wounded by the insult to the country's honor, she seizes the starry symbol of the nation and, with the flaming torch of war, calls aloud for loyal men to protect it," with the inscription, "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors

the defender of Fort Sumter—the patriot, the hero and the man." A similar medal presented the portrait of Major Slemmer—such was his rank at the time of presentation—with an emblematic device on the reverse, of "Cerberus, or the monster of war chained to Fort Pickens." By this design, the artist, Mr. Charles Muller, tells us he "endeavored to typify the forbearance of the Government and its service; a virtue strikingly shown during the defence of Fort Pickens. The initial letters U. S. on the collar of the monster indicate his owner. Amid the taunts and insults of the foe, the three-headed monster is kept chained to the fort. Impatient of restraint, yet faithful to his trust, in his captivity he can but exhibit his fierceness, impatience and defiant courage on himself. With one head he gnaws his paw, significant of the traitors in our camp; with another he glares defiantly at the foe, and with the other he sounds the charge." The inscription was, "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors valor, forbearance and fidelity Fort Pickens, 1861."

## CHAPTER VIII.

### PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION.

THE blow was now struck which gave to the North a cause, and to the Government a policy. Treason expressed in resolutions might be tolerated; conventions might meet and pass their ordinances:—they were so much harmless breath and waste paper. The resignation of officers, the pillage of property, the waste of credit, repudiation of debts, the occupation of forts and arsenals, might be

borne with from the spoiled child of the Republic with the hope that its wanton or misguided malice expended, it would, under the influence of kind solicitations, return to better counsels. There were threats and defiance, fierce enough and disastrous enough, if persisted in, but in spite of the most obvious dangers, it was difficult to bring the nation to believe in their reality. It was still more difficult



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