

Skedaddle

JANUARY 21, 1861

WEEKLY GLIMPSES FROM
NEWSPAPERS, JOURNALS AND
DIARIES, &C, OF THE TIME

CHARLESTON UNDER ARMS

(an excerpt)

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ON Saturday morning, January 19, 1861, the steamer *Columbia*, from New York, lay off the harbor of Charleston in full sight of Fort Sumter. It is a circumstance which perhaps would never have reached the knowledge of the magazine-reading world, nor have been of any importance to it, but for the attendant fact that I, the writer of this article, was on board the steamer. It takes two events to make a conse-

"We shall never attack Fort Sumter," said one gentleman. "Don't you see why? I have a son in the trenches, my next neighbor has one, everybody in the city has one. Well, we shan't let our boys fight; we can't bear to lose them. We don't want to risk our handsome, genteel, educated young fellows against a gang of Irishmen, Germans, British deserters, and New York roughs, not worth killing, and yet instructed to kill to the best advantage. We can't endure it, and we shan't do it."



Fort Sumter

Currier & Ives Print
(Library of Congress)

quence, as well as two parties to make a bargain.

We had arrived off the harbor about midnight, but had not entered, for lack of a beacon whereby to shape our course. Now we must wait until noon for the tide, standing off and on the while merely to keep up our fires. A pilot came under our quarter in his little schooner, and told us that the steamer *Nashville* had got out the day before with only a hard bumping. No other news had he; Fort Sumter had not been taken, nor assaulted; the independence of South Carolina had not been recognized; various desirable events had not happened. In short, the political world had remained during our voyage in that chaotic *status quo* so loved by President Buchanan. At twelve we stood for the bar, sounding our way with extreme caution. Without accident we passed over the treacherous bottom, although in places it could not have been more than eighteen inches below our keel. The shores closed in on both sides as we passed onward. To the south was the long, low, gray Morris Island, with its extinguished lighthouse, its tuft or two of pines, its few dwellings, and its invisible batteries. To the north was the long, low, gray Sullivan's Island, a repetition of the other, with the distinctions of higher sand-rolls, a village, a regular fort, and palmettos. We passed the huge brown Moultrie House, in summer a gay resort, at present a barrack; passed the hundred scattered cottages of the island, mostly untenanted now, and looking among the sand-drifts as if they had been washed ashore at random; passed the low walls of Fort Moultrie, once visibly yellow, but now almost hidden by the new *glacis*, and surmounted by piles of barrels and bags of sand, with here and there palmetto stockades as a casing for the improvised embrasures; passed its black guns, its solidly built, but rusty barracks, and its weather-worn palmetto flag waving from a temporary flag-staff. On the opposite side of the harbor was Fort Johnstone, a low point, exhibiting a barrack, a few houses, and a sand redoubt, with three forty-two pounders. And here, in the midst of all things, apparent master of all things, at the entrance of the harbor proper, and nearly equidistant from either shore, though nearest the southern, frowned Fort Sumter, a huge and lofty and solid mass of brickwork with stone embrasures, all rising from a foundation of ragged granite boulders washed by the tides. The port-holes were closed; a dozen or so of monstrous cannon peeped from the summit; two or three sentinels paced slowly along the parapet; the stars and stripes blew out from the lofty flag-staff. The plan of Fort Sumter may be briefly described as five-sided, with each angle just so much truncated as to give room for one embrasure in every story. Its whole air is massive, commanding, and formidable.

My first conversation in Charleston on Secession was with an estimable friend, Northern-born, but drawing breath of Southern air ever since he attained the age of manhood. After the first salutation, he sat down, his hands on his knees, gazing on the floor, and shaking his head soberly, if not sadly.

"You have found us in a pretty fix,—in a pretty fix!"

"But what are you going to do? Are you really going out? *You* are not a politician, and will tell me the honest facts."

"Yes, we are going out,—there is no doubt of it. I have not been a seceder, — I have even been called one of the disaffected; but I am obliged to admit that secession is the will of the community. Perhaps you at the North don't believe that we are honest in our professions and actions. We are so. The Carolinians really mean to go out of the Union, and don't mean to come back. They say that they *are* out, and they believe it. And now, what are you going to do with us? What is the feeling at the North?"

"The Union must and shall be preserved, at all hazards. That famous declaration expresses the present Northern popular sentiment. When I left, people were growing martial; they were joining military companies; they wanted to fight; they were angry."

"So I supposed. That agrees with what I hear by letter. Well, I am very sorry for it. Our

people here will not retreat; they will accept a war, first. If you preserve the Union, it must be by conquest. I suppose you can do it, if you try hard enough. The North is a great deal stronger than the South; it can desolate it, —crush it. But I hope it won't be done. I wish you would speak a good word for us, when you go back. You can destroy us, I suppose. But don't you think it would be inhuman? Don't you think it would be impolitic? Do you think it would result in sufficient good to counterbalance the evident and certain evil?"

"Why, people reason in this way. They say, that, even if we allow the final independence of the seceding States, we must make it clear that there is no such thing as the right of secession, but only that of revolution or rebellion. We must fix a price for going out of the Union, which shall be so high that henceforward no State will ever be willing to pay it. We must kill, once for all, the doctrine of peaceable secession, which is nothing else than national disintegration and ruin. Lieutenant-Governor Morton of Indiana declares in substance that England never spent blood and money to wiser purpose than when she laid down fifty thousand lives and one hundred millions of pounds to prevent her thirteen disaffected colonies from having their own way. No English colony since has been willing to face the tremendous issue thus offered it. Just so it is the interest, it is the sole safety of the Federal Government, to try to hold in the Cotton States by force, and, if they go out, to oblige them to pay an enormous price for the privilege. Revolution is a troublesome luxury, and ought to be made expensive. That is the way people talk at the North and at Washington. They reason thus, you see, because they believe that this is not a league, but a nation."

"And our people believe that the States are independent and have a right to recede from the Confederation without asking its leave. With few exceptions, all agree on that; it is honest, common public opinion. The South Carolinians sincerely think that they are exercising a right, and you may depend that they will not be reasoned nor frightened out of it; and if the North tries coercion, there will be war. I don't say this defiantly, but sadly, and merely because I want you to know the truth. War is abhorrent to my feelings,—especially a war with our own brethren; and then we are so poorly prepared for it!"

Such was the substance of several conversations. The reader may rely, I think, on the justness of my friend's opinions, founded as they are on his honesty of intellect, his moderation, and his opportunities for studying his fellow-citizens. All told me the same story, but generally with more passion, sometimes with defiance; defiance toward the Government, I mean, and not toward me personally; for the better classes of Charleston are eminently courteous. South Carolina had seceded forever, defying all the hazards; she would accept nothing but independence or destruction; she did not desire any supposable compromise; she had altogether done with the Union. Yet her desire was not for war; it was simply and solely for escape. She would forget all her wrongs and insults, she would seek no revenge for the injurious past, provided she were allowed to depart without a conflict. Nearly every man with whom I talked began the conversation by asking if the North meant coercion, and closed it by deprecating hostilities and affirming the universal wish for *peaceable* secession. In case of compulsion, however, the State would accept the gage of battle; her sister communities of the South would side with her, the moment they saw her blood flow; Northern commerce would be devoured by privateers of all nations under the Southern flag; Northern manufactures would perish for lack of Southern raw material and Southern consumers; Northern banks would suspend, and Northern finances go into universal insolvency; the Southern ports would be opened forcibly by England and France, who must have cotton; the South would flourish in the struggle, and the North decay.

"But why do you venture on this doubtful future?" I asked of one gentleman. "What is South Carolina's grievance? The Personal-Liberty Bills?"

"Yes,—they constitute a grievance. And yet not much of one. Some of us even — the men

of the 'Mercury' school, I mean— do not complain of the Union because of those bills. They say that it is the Fugitive-Slave Law itself which is unconstitutional; that the rendition of run-aways is a State affair, in which the Federal Government has no concern; that Massachusetts, and other States, were quite right in nullifying an illegal and aggressive statute. Besides, South Carolina has lost very few slaves."

"Is it the Territorial Question which forces you to quit us?"

"Not in its practical issues. The South needs no more territory; has not negroes to colonize it. The doctrine of 'No more Slave States' is an insult to us, but hardly an injury. The flow of population has settled that matter. You have won all the Territories, not even excepting New Mexico, where slavery exists nominally, but is sure to die out under the hostile influences of unpropitious soil and climate. The Territorial Question has become a mere abstraction. We no longer talk of it."

"Then your great grievance is the election of Lincoln?"

"Yes."

"And the grievance is all the greater because he was elected according to all the forms of law?"

"Yes."

"If he had been got into the Presidency by trickery, by manifest cheating, your grievance would have been less complete?"

"Yes."

"Is Lincoln considered here to be a bad or dangerous man?"

"Not personally. I understand that he is a man of excellent private character, and I have nothing to say against him as a ruler, inasmuch as he has never been tried. Mr. Lincoln is simply a sign to us that we are in danger, and must provide for our own safety."

"You secede, then, solely because you think his election proves that the mass of the Northern people is adverse to you and your interests?"

"Yes."

"So Mr. Wigfall of Texas hit the nail on the head, when he said substantially that the South cannot be at peace with the North until the latter concedes that slavery is right?"

"Well, — I admit it; that is precisely it."

I desire the reader to note the loyal frankness, the unshrinking honesty of these avowals, so characteristic of the South Carolina morale. Whenever the native of that State does an act or holds an opinion, it is his nature to confess it and avow the motives thereof, without quibbling or hesitation. It is a persuaded, self-poised community, strikingly like its negative pole on the Slavery Question, Massachusetts. All those Charlestonians whom I talked with I found open-hearted in their secession, and patient of my openheartedness as an advocate of the Union, although often astonished, I suspect, that any creature capable of drawing a conclusion from two premises should think so differently from themselves.

January 15, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The Cabinet had a meeting yesterday, and decided not to send any reinforcements to Major Anderson at present. The instructions to the Major have not yet been completed.

Messrs. Hayne and Guardin, messengers from the Governor of South Carolina, and Lieut. Hall, bearer of despatches from Major Anderson, arrived at Washington yesterday. The latter immediately sought an interview with the President, but the object of his mission had not been

made public. Nothing had officially transpired respecting the mission of the gentlemen from South Carolina, but it was believed to have reference to measures for the prevention of hostilities.

There is but little news of importance from Charleston. The South Carolina Legislature has declared that any attempt by the federal government to reinforce Fort Sumter will be regarded as an act of open hostility and a declaration of war. The Legislature has approved of the attack upon the *Star of the West*, and decided to support the Governor in all measures of defence. Military companies were arriving at Charleston from all parts of the State. Governor Pickens has telegraphed to the President of the Bank of the Republic, of this city, that no vessel will be disturbed or prevented from entering the harbor of Charleston, unless bearing hostile troops or munitions of war for Fort Sumter.

A telegraphic despatch received by Messrs. Spofford, Tileston & Co., dated Charleston, January 13, states that it was blowing a gale from the northeast, with a heavy sea on the bar, and that the steamship *Marion* was detained, but would sail when the weather moderates.

THE REVOLUTION—ARKANSAS

The news of the refusal of the Arkansas Senate to pass a Convention bill produces a profound impression in secession as well as Union circles tonight. Senator Rust's previous letters prepared him somewhat for this action, which is here attributed to the Pacific Railroad bill now before Congress, the road as proposed passing through Arkansas. It is the opinion, however, of well informed Southern gentlemen that Arkansas cannot possibly stand against the overwhelming secession sentiment prevailing in Mississippi and Louisiana.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON - THE EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The news from Washington last evening will strike every one with astonishment and regret, if not with alarm. It was expected, after the return of the *Star of the West*, that the settlement of the question which is now breaking up this republic would assume a less belligerent character, giving the conservatives of the country some hope of a peaceful solution of the trouble.

It now appears that the authorities of South Carolina are determined upon bloodshed unless they can have possession of all the forts in the harbor of Charleston. Colonel Hayne, the Commissioner from that State, who has just arrived in Washington, made the demand yesterday upon the Executive of the United States for the immediate and absolute surrender of Fort Sumter to South Carolina or accept the alternative of an attack by the troops of that state upon that castle. We were not apprised, when our paper went to press this morning, what reply the President made to Colonel Hayne; but it was thought, from the position lately assumed by the government, that this extraordinary demand of South Carolina would not be complied with.

Our previously received intelligence from Charleston advised us of the determination of the authorities to take the fort at any sacrifice of life, and of arrangements which had been made to carry this determination into effect. The effort will no doubt be made, for its capture seems to be a point of honor with South Carolina; and it is the opinion of many military men that, with the reckless enthusiasm now prevailing in Charleston, the attack will be a successful one, although, if resisted, with immense loss of life.

We are thus on the eve of civil war. If the President refuses to withdraw Major Anderson it will become necessary to strengthen him with men and ships if an assault be made upon the castle. These reinforcements will create such intense feeling of hostility throughout the cotton States that we may consider civil war inaugurated with the report of the first gun from Fort Sumter. Four States are out of the Union and prepared for the worst. Georgia meets in Conven-

tion today, and will secede before the close of the week. Two or three State delegations have already withdrawn from Congress, and others are prepared to follow. In the face of these startling events, what is Congress doing to stay this alarming progress of revolution? What is the President elect doing to prevent the overthrow of the republic? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE UNITED STATES ARSENAL AT CHATTAHOOCHEE TAKEN BY STATE TROOPS

On last Saturday evening, Colonel W.J. Gunn, of the Seventh Regiment Florida Militia, received orders from Governor Perry to proceed at once to that the United States Arsenal at Chattahoochee, containing about 5300 pounds of powder, 10,000 pounds of lead, 120,000 musket cartridges, a 6 pounder, 57 muskets, cannon balls, cartridge boxes, &c. The Young Guard was ordered out on the errand. On arriving at the Arsenal, and being informed that they had reached the point of destination, and finding no men to resist their attack, they seemed to be not very agreeably disappointed. Sergeant Powell, who was in command of the Arsenal, appeared much mortified at having to surrender, but having only two or three men was unable to make any defence. In a spirited and patriotic address to Captain Jones and Company, he said that, had he their number of men, they would never have entered the gates of the Arsenal without first marching over his dead body. He was pained to see other than United States troops occupying it, but from want of force was unable to prevent it from falling into their hands. The stars and stripes were taken down, and the lone star flag hoisted in their stead.—**Florida paper.**

THE *STAR OF THE WEST* AFFAIR—STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN MCGOWAN.

New York, January 12, 1861.

M.G. ROBERTS, Esq;

SIR: After leaving the wharf on the 5th inst. at five o' p.m., we proceeded down the bay, where we hove to and took on board four officers and two hundred soldiers, with their arms, ammunitions, &c. and then proceeded to sea, crossing the bar at nine o' p.m. Nothing unusual took place during the passage, which was a pleasant one for the season of the year.

We arrived off Charleston bar at 1:30 a.m. the 9th instant, but could find no guiding marks for the bar, as the lights were all out. We proceeded with caution, running very slow, and sounding until about 4 a.m. being then in four and a half fathoms of water, when we discovered a light through the haze, which at that time crossed the horizon. Concluding that the light was on Fort Sumter, after getting the bearings of it, we steered to the S. W. for the main ship channel, when we hove to await daylight, our lights having all been put out since 12 o' to avoid being seen.

As the day began to break, (we) discovered a steamer just in shore of us, which, as soon as she saw us, burned one blue light and two red lights, as signals, and shortly after steamed over the bar and into the ship channel. The soldiers were now all put below and no one allowed on the deck except our own crew. As soon as there was light enough to see, we crossed the bar and proceeded on up the channel (the outer bar buoy having been taken away). The steamer ahead of us sending off rockets and burning lights until after broad daylight continuing on her course up, near two miles ahead of us.

When we arrived about two miles from Fort Moultrie - Fort Sumter being about the same distance - a masked battery on Morris's Island, where there was a red Palmetto flag flying, opened fire upon us - distance about five eighths of a mile. We had the American flag flying at our flag staff at the time, and, soon after the first shot, hoisted a large American ensign at the fore. We continued on under the fire of the battery for over ten minutes - several of the shots going clean over us.

One passed just clear of the pilot house. Another passed between the smoke stack and

walking beams of the engine.

Another struck the ship just abaft the fore-rigging, and stove in the planking, and another came within an ace of carrying away the rudder.

At the same time, there was a movement of two steamers from near Fort Moultrie - one of them towing a schooner - (I presume an armed schooner) with the intention of cutting us off.

Our position now became rather critical; as we had to approach Fort Moultrie to within three fourths of a mile before we could keep away for Fort Sumter. A steamer approaching us with an armed schooner in tow, and the battery, on the island firing at us all the time - and having no cannon to defend ourselves from the attack of the vessels, we concluded that to avoid certain capture or destruction we would endeavor to get to sea. Consequently we wore round and steamed down the channel, the battery firing upon us until their shot fell short. As it was now strong ebb-tide, and the water having fallen some three feet, we proceeded with caution, and crossed the bar safely at 8:50 a. m. and continued on our course for this port, were we arrived this morning after a boisterous passage.

A steamer from Charleston followed us for about three hours, watching our movements. In justice to the officers and crew of each department of the ship, I must add that their behavior while under the fire of the battery reflected great credit on them. Mr. Brewer, the New York pilot, was of very great assistance to me, in helping to pilot the ship over Charleston Bar, and up and down the channel.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant, J. McGOWAN, Captain.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

by Horatio Nelson Taft

TUESDAY 15

Slippery, misty, foggy day. Good skating for the boys this morning in the street. A general impression seems to prevail that that [sic] the troubles of the Country are going to be healed some way, nobody can tell how. But there is a determination manifestly abroad that this Government shall not be broken up and that it will be defended and maintained at all hazards and all costs. This determination on the part of the Administration and the whole United North seems to be felt by all. No particular news today. Spent the evening at Home reading first. Presidents Levee this Season, take little interest in them now.

January 16, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM—ITS VALUE IN REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

Since the secession movement has gained head the telegraph has been charged with giving it impetus by the circulation of false and exciting rumors. Those who make such accusations neither take the trouble of weighing the facts nor of contrasting the advantages of the present rapid mode of transmitting intelligence with that of the old mail system. In the first place the telegraph, as an instrument of communication, is no more responsible for the character of the news flashed over its wires than the Post Office is responsible for the contents of the letters forwarded through it. It has not and never can exercise any power of censorship, for the simple reason that it would lose the confidence of the public the moment that it attempted to do so and would forfeit its character as a purely commercial enterprise.

But it remains to be proved that the telegraph is not in every way as reliable in its confidential aspects as it is in point of rapidity. We contend that it is. There are infinitely less induce-

ments to fabricate news by its instrumentality than under the old mail system. because its contradiction by the same means can be so immediately arrived at. No stock exchange operation can be successfully carried out by its aid, because people are always on their guard against a surprise, and lose no time in verifying the information sent.

As regards the unreliability of the political reports and rumors transmitted by telegraph in connection with the South, there is no real ground of complaint. Very little news of this kind has been forwarded or received which had not some foundation in fact. With the public mind in such a state of feverish anxiety, and such a rapid instrument of communication at their command, it is not of course to be expected that newspaper correspondents will always wait for the full developments of events. It generally happens, however, that when the intelligence they send is contradicted by interested parties, it is borne out by later news. The telegraph correspondents employed by newspapers are not infallible; but it is due to them to say that, generally speaking, they are correctly informed.

The way false rumors get circulation is less by their instrumentality than by that of outsiders. Parties in Washington and other centres of intelligence pick up rumors in bar rooms and other public places, which, without troubling themselves to investigate, they telegraph forthwith to their friends in the different cities. These rumors occasionally find their way into the newspapers, though journals having reliable correspondents of their own are rarely taken off their guard by them. Were there no telegraph in existence the parties sending them, having the mail to wait for, would probably have time to verify their accuracy before forwarding them. Having the telegraph at their command, they despatch them in the heat and excitement of the moment, without reflecting on the possibility of their being erroneous. It is in this way that most of the acts of Mr. Buchanan in connection with the revolutionary movements in the South have been misrepresented. If any one has a right to complain of the abuse made of the telegraph it is unquestionably the President.

Against these slight drawbacks, however, we have to weigh the advantages derived from this triumph of modern science. Just imagine the excitement of the public mind at the North if the report that the Star of the West had been sunk by the batteries of Fort Moultrie had remained many hours uncontradicted. And should the present Congress return to its senses and resolve to restore peace to our unhappy country, how important will it be for it to find at its command a means of transmitting this happy intelligence to the remotest points of the Union with the least possible delay, and of thus abridging the anxiety and suspense that weigh upon the public mind. The Post Office could not do this within a month, whilst the telegraph will effect it at this side of the Rocky Mountains within a few hours, and as far as San Francisco within a fortnight. Let the ignorant and unreflecting abuse the telegraph as they will, it is one of the most important contributions that modern science has made to human progress.

THE NEWS.

Our Washington despatches reveal the object of the mission of Colonel Hayne, the envoy of South Carolina to Washington. It is to demand of the federal government the surrender of Fort Sumter. The South Carolina authorities notified Major Anderson of their determination to capture the fort if it was not given up, and the Major in reply stated that he had no alternative but to defend it. He, however, agreed to refer the subject for decision to his superiors. It is stated that the president will not yield to the proposition of Colonel Hayne. There appears to be no doubt that if the fort is not surrendered the South Carolinians will attack it.

An enthusiastic demonstration of the working men of New York City against coercing the Southern States was held in Broome street last night. The attendance was very large, and the sentiments expressed and resolutions passed were of the most decided character. The meeting was addressed by several well known gentlemen.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

FOSTERING ABSURD IDEAS.

The Northern papers, just at present, are filled with an amazing quantity of trash. Even those whose antecedents would lead one to suppose that they contained some fair amount of discrimination and common sense, seem now groping about like children in the dark, with gaping mouths, uttering unutterably silly comments, speculations, assertions, threats and propositions. Among other follies we hear it proposed, as a wise and pacific measure, that our ports should be blockaded by an attempt to collect our revenues, but not, in any way, to molest us. Could anything be more preposterous!?

The State of South Carolina is now an independent Republic, or she is not. South Carolina claims and asserts that she is independent, and that she will maintain it. This being the fact, to attempt to collect her revenues is simply war. It is a hostile blockade. It is an armed invasion of her waters. It is war, and nothing but open war. Neither Yankee peddlers nor Federal politicians, nor military braggadocio, nor Cabinet machinations, can make it any thing else but war. The time has passed for this childplay, hairsplitting, and word quibbling. Facts must be faced. An outraged and long oppressed people must be faced. War or peace must be faced, and must be faced promptly. The people of South Carolina are an independent people, or they are not. Any act committed by any other power against their independence is war. Why need men waste words in quibbling and twaddle? If men or Cabinets mean war they shall have it, by its right name, and in its full significance. But let them not deceive themselves, or others, by the vain supposition that they are playing push pins with idiots or children; or that it is all a game of shuffling politicians, where treachery and trickery are to decide the result.

The insolent assumptions of the Northern people may laugh to scorn alike our rights and our power to maintain them. We shall not pause to define the one or to protect the other. The time has long since passed for the former course; the future must decide the latter point. We are privately of opinion that we know what are our rights, and publicly we intend to enforce them. Those who attempt to violate them will make war upon us, and will be met with war.

A truce, then, to folly. And, whether as foes or not, let the Northern people speak and act like men, and not as quibbling braggarts.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1861.

Another wet misty day. Splashy sidewalks and muddy crossings. Letter from Frank today through Chas dated Fort Kearney, N.T., attached to the U.S. Army acting as comdt clerk, well & healthy. The "Secession fever" seems to me to be rather subsiding. The "Secession" Clerks in the Census Bureau were notified today that they could resign, otherwise they would be dismissed. The same thing should be done in all the Departments of the Govt. Went to the Assemblys church tonight to hear Mr. Collins Lecture on Japan, but the Lecture was on So. America. It was not uninteresting. There was also a Lecture at the "Smithsonian" on the Polarization of light, but it is too far off and the walking was too bad for wife.

January 17, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The news from Washington this morning is of the highest importance. Col. Hayne, the Commissioner from South Carolina, was informed by the President on Tuesday that any com-

munication he had to make must be made in writing. Col. Hayne thereupon withdrew, in order to prepare his propositions, but up to last evening had not sent his communication to the Executive. It is known, however, that Col. Hayne's mission is to demand the prompt and unconditional surrender of Fort Sumter to the South Carolina authorities; and it is also known that the President will unequivocally and emphatically refuse to comply. Furthermore, it is known that the President has despatched orders to Major Anderson to act entirely on the defensive, but to defend Fort Sumter against any attack to the last extremity. Colonel Hayne asserts that if the fort is not given up oceans of blood will flow. That the South Carolinians will attempt to capture is beyond question. Their chances of success may be judged of upon perusal of a description of the fortification and its means of defence, given in another part of today's paper.

We have reports of a terrible state of affairs on the Mississippi river. It is stated that the Mississippi secessionists have planted cannon at various points along the banks of the river, that one steamboat has been denied passage, while others have been overhauled, and that several respectable persons have been compelled to return to the places from whence they started. Although these reports are partially verified by a member of Congress, yet we must have them confirmed before placing implicit faith in them.

The public will doubtless be surprised to learn that Major General Sandford has tendered the whole of the First Division of New York militia to Governor Morgan, and that the offer has been accepted provisionally. Nevertheless, such is the fact, as the correspondence between these officials, which we publish in another column, will show.

The Georgia State Convention met at Milledgeville yesterday, and organized by choosing George W. Crawford chairman, and A. R. Lamar secretary. A committee was appointed to wait on the South Carolina and Alabama Commissioners, and request them to communicate with the Convention. The Convention then adjourned.

THE REVOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1861.

The President adheres to his position in regard to the forts in Charleston harbor, and emphatically refuses to surrender Fort Sumter, and will so inform Col. Hayne, the special Commissioner from South Carolina, who came here to demand its unconditional surrender.

Lieut. Talbot, one of Major Anderson's commissioners, leaves this afternoon, with special instructions to Major Anderson. The exact nature of these instructions is not known, but enough is known to state positively that he is to maintain his present status, and defend the fort in every emergency.

The President informed Col. Hayne, in his interview yesterday, that any communication he had to make must be made in writing. Col. Hayne has therefore been engaged today in preparing a letter to the President, setting forth the complaints of his people, and their demands respecting Fort Sumter. I stated yesterday pretty fully what those demands were. Up to eight o'clock this evening the President had not received the letter. When it is received the President will answer it promptly and unequivocally.

As I have repeatedly said, the President has taken his position in regard to the affairs in Charleston, and has deliberately made up his mind as to the course he intends to pursue, and under the circumstances will he surrender Fort Sumter to the authorities of South Carolina. Unless the surrender is made, Col. Hayne says oceans of blood will be spilt.

The instructions to Major Anderson were completed today. Quite a number of Southern men have called upon the President to know what the nature of the instructions were, and to urge upon the President to prevent a collision between the federal and State authorities. The President required no urging to adopt such a policy. In no circumstance, will the government be

the aggressor. They will act strictly on the defensive. If, however, the authorities repeat their offences, as in the case of the Star of the West, there will be no alternative left but to open the batteries and silence them at whatever cost. His instructions are clear and explicit. There is no ambiguity in them.

Lieutenant Hall has left for New York. He will return on Friday.

RICHMOND ENQUIRER

COMPROMISE AND ULTIMATUM.

The Legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, have tendered men and money to the General Government, to coerce and subjugate Virginia, should the Convention of her sovereign people determine that secession is the only safety of the State. The action of these States, intended to be offensive and degrading, was deliberately and determinedly made at the very moment of intensest excitement, to show the authorities of Virginia that they condemn and despise the slave States, and are determined to degrade them into conquered provinces.

The unnecessary and wicked action of these States should open the eyes of the people of Virginia, to the purpose and disposition of the three largest Northern States. This tender of men and money to coerce and subjugate sovereign States, has increased the difficulties of adjustment, and should cause the manhood of Virginia to shrink from the debasement of offering any compromise, or even intimating the willingness to compromise with States that gratuitously offer Southern States another result. The Legislature of Virginia having called the people of the State together in Convention, are, as to all matters of compromise and ultimatum, *functus officio* - the people in Convention assembled, are the only power authorized to submit any ultimatum. The Legislature has no power, and will be treated with contempt by the Republicans - which will only aggravate and intensify the feeling in Virginia. We have no idea that the Convention of Virginia will ever agree to any compromise that has not been previously adopted by the Northern States in an authoritative and binding manner. Virginia will never tie herself to a Northern Confederacy, which may be rejected by her Southern sisters. The North must first adopt such amendments as they are willing to abide by, and these being submitted to all the Southern States must be agreed to by all of them. Virginia will patch up no compromise and agree to no amendments as long as the Northern States, by such action as that taken by New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, deny the fundamental principle of consent of the governed to the government upon which this Union was formed. The sovereignty of the States, the rights of the States and the remedies of the States, have been assailed and denied, and all must be admitted and provide for in any amendments the Virginia can agree to.

She will compromise into the Constitution no precedent which may, at some future day, arise in judgment against her people, or some other State. The tender of men and money to coerce and subjugate sovereign States, is consolidation and federalism more odious than alien and sedition laws, because directed not only against individual liberty, but is subversive of the sovereignty of the States.

Virginia cannot, and will not, agree to any such compromise as the Crittenden amendment, because it is not one that, of itself and by its own self action, protects and guaranties the Southern States in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights.

Charleston Mercury

Southern Politicians.

If there is any one thing more than another disheartening and disgusting, in the present juncture of affairs, it is the course of Southern politicians at Washington. In the past, their weak vacillations, their vain submissions, their short sighted selfishness, have reduced us to our present condition. Not the politicians or the people of the North have so far bound us, crippled us,

plundered us. The politicians of the South have done the work. They were the guardians of our Southern rights in Congress, and the trust reposed in them they have abused - some from weakness - some from blindness - some through treachery. Verily it is pitiable. But the past is past. And were the same causes of Southern weakness and defeat buried with that past, it would be well for us all now: - and we should have no disposition at this tie to recall these bitter facts, however fruitful they have been of present ills.

But, miserable to witness, they still exist - are still at work, marring and undermining our interest, and all our future prospects. Southern Senators, upon the floor of Congress, demean themselves by pitiable lamentations and lacrymose appeals to haughty, contemptuous, and openly threatening enemies - Republicans - Yankees.

It is

- not enough that they openly scout the Constitution
- not enough that they deny our territorial rights
- not enough that they rob us at their will
- not enough that they declare their intention to crush our own State institutions, industry and social organization
- not enough that they laugh us to scorn
- not enough still that they seize the sword, and in open Senate proclaim that with the sword they will subdue us to their will;

but Southern Senators, representing directly sovereign States, must fall to begging, kneeling, like very mendicants, for Yankee charity. If patriotism is buried in ambition and honor banished in terror, is there no pride left to stay meekness and stop their tongues? Is supplication, evasion, concession, submission, to be the eternal attitude and programme of Southern politicians? Yet, to look at Washington at this moment, it would seem so. From first to last, in this great Southern movement for independence, the Southern politicians have been but stumbling blocks in the way of Southern advancement. Vain schemes of compromise upon compromise, they have labored, concocted and offered to their scoffing enemies. And still they cling to their skirts and whine and weep. Away with their counsels and compromises! The people of the Southern States must look to themselves and not to their leaders in the rear rank.

For ourselves, we look to the Abolitionists for the deliverance of the South.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

THURSDAY 17

There has been no startling News today, but the right of Secession is contested by all northern men who with the president consider it Revolution. I have not hesitated to call it Treason. I was at Willards this evening. People generally are less excited than they were a week ago, and since the Cabinet has been purged of Secessionists and the President has taken a stand for the Union and the Constitution we all feel much better. It is now thought that "secession" will be at a discount soon even in the South. Became acquainted with Mr Fitman (Sigma), Mr Cluskey &c.

January 18, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

Our despatches from Washington state that Col. Hayne, the South Carolina Commissioner, after conference with the secessionists at the capital, has considerably modified his proposals to the government. He no longer demands the unconditional surrender of Fort Sumter to the authorities of South Carolina, but suggests that it be given up to them in order to prevent a collision and a useless effusion of blood.

We have no news of startling import from Charleston today. Governor Pickens has recommended the legislature of South Carolina to increase the army of that State, so as to be prepared for enemies from any quarter, and also provide for fortifications and a seacoast police.

It would seem that the Alabama secessionists are not altogether harmonious. It is reported that they have telegraphed to their delegation in Congress not to resign their places just yet, as the delegates to the State Convention from North Alabama hesitate to sign the ordinance of secession.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

GEORGIA APPOINTS COMMISSIONER TO EUROPE

The Commissioner who has been appointed by the State of Georgia to proceed to Europe, for the purpose of making commercial arrangements with European Governments for direct commerce with the Southern States, and with Savannah, especially, is now in correspondence with diplomatic individuals here, and gathering all necessary information to facilitate his objects. One of his main objects is to procure the establishment of a line of freight, passenger and mail steamers, between the ports of Antwerp and Savannah. Though Georgia has not yet formally seceded, she is evidently acting in view of its speedy accomplishment. Charleston Courier, 15th.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

FRIDAY 18

The discussions in Congress are now very pointed and interesting. An attack upon Fort Sumter is expected since the Prest flatly refuses to Treat with Col Hayne the last Comr from S.C. for its peaceable surrender. If the attack is made it will be no holiday job for the "fireeaters." The weather today has been wet & foggy, nearly cold enough to freeze. Got letter from Julia. She is expecting to come if she has a good opportunity but seems to adapt herself to circumstances with much facility and will not complain if she stays there during the vacation. She seems contented & happy.

January 19, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The steamship Asia, from Liverpool 5th and Queenstown 6th inst., arrived at Quarantine last evening, but owing to the quantity of ice in the bay she did not come up.

Our accounts from South Carolina are rather more pacific than usual, owing, as it is said, to the pressure excited at Washington by the secessionists there. Colonel Hayne has not yet presented his propositions to the President. He awaits further instructions from his government. Governor Pickens has concluded to allow Major Anderson to obtain such supplies as he may require from Charleston, and his mail communications are again open.

The steamship Marion, Captain Adkins arrived yesterday morning from Charleston, had on board, as passengers, three laborers from fort Sumter and twenty three free colored persons. As to the condition of the parties in fort Sumter, we learn that they are in good spirits, number seventy five men rank and file, and twenty five laborers, have plenty of provisions and water, and a scarcity only of fresh provisions, which, however, they are now at liberty to procure from Charleston as formerly.

CURIOUS FEATURES OF THE SECESSION MOVEMENT.

Among some of the curious features of the secession movement is the agreement on the part of South Carolina to continue to use the postal service of the federal government for its own special accommodation, while that State is seizing the Post Office, forts, arsenals and Custom House, the property of that government. Mississippi, too, it appears from her secession ordinance, is going to avail herself of the Post office privileges of the country from which she declares herself cut off. For several days past we have been receiving our remittances from South Carolina, and the other seceded States, in postage stamps. The ordinary mode of remitting by draft having become so difficult of late, our neighboring States are using the stamps of the national government as a medium. The mail of one day recently brought us nearly a hundred dollars worth of postage stamps. The secessionists have in fact converted our office into an extensive picture gallery of the patriots of the early days of the republic, containing multitudinous duplicates of the heads of Franklin and Washington.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

PURCHASE OF SLAVES

Suggestions have been made at Washington looking to the introduction of a proposition into Congress to buy out all the slaves in Maryland, Delaware, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana, in order to settle the slavery and secession question in the country north of the Potomac and west of the Mississippi River, in a peaceful manner. It is thought \$100,000,000 would complete the work and carry this compromise in favor of freedom through Congress and be a wiser expenditure than the same sum appropriated to put down secession in those quarters by military means. This proposition is more favorably regarded than the suggested compromises looking to the future impossible abrogation of slavery anywhere.

ARRIVAL OF LIEUT. TALBOT.

This gentleman arrived in the city last night, by the six o' train on the Northeastern Railroad, and is stopping at the Charleston Hotel. He will leave for Fort Sumter at an early hour this morning. The tenor of his instructions for Major ANDERSON has not transpired, but we have good reason to suppose that they are of the general character foreshadowed in the MERCURY's special despatches - that is to say, to hold Fort Sumter at all hazards, if he can.

NEWS FROM FORT SUMTER.—LETTER FROM CAPTAIN A. DOUBLEDAY

(From the Auburn Union.)

General Segoine has kindly permitted us to publish the following letter received by him on Saturday last, from Captain Abner Doubleday, who is with Major Anderson at Fort Sumter. It speaks for itself:

FORT SUMTER, S.C., Jan. 6, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: It is a matter of great satisfaction to me to see that our movements here have been approved by my former townsmen, and that the heart of New York still beats warm and true for the Union. We have been so long surrounded with trimmers and traitors, that I began to fear the love of the national flag was dying out in our country. You cannot imagine the annoyance of the South Carolinians on finding themselves forestalled in the possession of this important work. At Fort Moultrie everything had been repaired for a desperate stand; but we could have done little against the powerful batteries of this fort, which would have been turned against us in addition to an army of at least 10,000 men, who would have assailed us on the land

side. Our own lives were of little consequence, but our defeat would have involved the loss of this harbor to the United States, a loss that would have been irreparable. The State still continues her aggressive actions. The Charlestonians are surrounding us with batteries on every point of land in the vicinity, and are arming them with guns from forts they have seized. This is done with the hope of preventing any vessel from coming to our assistance and also with a view to force us ultimately to surrender from a lack of supplies. In this I think they will be disappointed, for there is no such word as surrender in Major Anderson's composition. The war garrison of this fort is six hundred men. We have about seventy; but should they attack us, I hope the country at large will have no reason to find fault with our defence.

One of our boats and some of our men have been captured. The lights in the harbor have been out, the buoys taken up, all communication has been cut off with us except such as the governor chooses to authorize, and yet we hesitate to fire upon them. Major Anderson still hopes that wiser counsels may prevail amongst them, and that something may occur to prevent the impending strife. May God grant it, but if war must come, let the people rise in their might, and maintain the integrity of the Union. That cause will carry the hearts of thousands with it, even in the slave States themselves. I shall probably not soon have an opportunity to send another letter to any person North. I must close abruptly, as the gentleman is about leaving who will take this.

Yours very truly, A. DOUBLEDAY, Capt. U. S. A.

Major General J. SEGOINE

(Roast beef, turkey, ham and champagne every day for Captain DOUBLEDAY. For Capt. FOSTER, of Vermont, also. We do the honors of war magnificently at Charleston, do we not?)

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1861.

This has been a warm and pleasant day, but the streets and crossings very muddy. No particular news is afloat but all classes are looking towards Charleston with much anxiety, as an attack is expected on Ft Sumpter. I went with the boys after office hours to the Navy Yard to see the new war Steamer Pensacola. We got permission to go on board and the boys were much interested. She is here for her Engines, &c, which were built at this yard. She is expected to exceed any vessel in the Navy in speed. Her Engines could not be excelled. Was at the Hotels in evening. Saw old Comodore Stewart at "National."

January 20, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

CONDITION OF THE BORDER SLAVE STATES.

It is not to be disguised that the warlike preparations are now being made in the North have produced a very bad feeling in the border Slave States. In Maryland there is a sharp contest going on between the Union party and the secessionists - the latter desiring that a State Convention shall be called as a preliminary to the seizure of Washington by a coup d etat. The same feeling is manifested in Virginia, where the party in favor of Governor Wise plan to prevent the inauguration of Lincoln is daily increasing in strength. The Governors of Kentucky and Virginia, both Union men, have declared solemnly that the passage of troops, intended to coerce the seceding States, across the border will not be permitted. And yet, in spite of all this, the republican leaders are arming their followers. This is worse than folly. It is absolute suicide.

THE NEWS

The news from the South this morning has a decidedly warlike aspect. The authorities of Florida have decided to take possession of Fort Pickens, at Pensacola, peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must; and in order to carry out this design, the Floridians telegraphed to New Orleans for two thousand volunteers. The Mayor of New Orleans responded that the troops could be raised in 48 hours if Florida would equip them. The Governor of Florida sent word for them to be despatched immediately, and the needful supplies would be forthcoming. New Orleans was thereupon thrown into great excitement and meetings were called for the enrollment of volunteers. Three hundred men are on their way from Mississippi for Pensacola. If Fort Pickens is not surrendered a great carnage will ensue. Such is the prediction of our correspondent.

Col. Hayne, the Commissioner from South Carolina, yesterday sent to the President a communication containing the propositions of his State with reference to Fort Sumter. According to our information, while South Carolina does not recede from her demand for the surrender of the Fort, yet she is disposed, in view of the embarrassments of the administration, to postpone final action upon that point until after the 4th of March, when the responsibility involved in the question, including the preservation of peace or the inauguration of civil war will be cast upon the Lincoln administration. On the receipt of Col. Hayne's communication the President summoned his Cabinet, and they were in council on the subject until a late hour. The President will in due time communicate to Congress, and will inform the authorities of South Carolina that he has no power to entertain the propositions submitted to him on her behalf.

A detachment of United States marines left the Brooklyn Marine Barracks yesterday morning for Washington. They consist of the old guard of the United States ship St. Marys. The force of marines now concentrated at Washington amounts to nearly two hundred men, and can be augmented to twice that number in a few weeks. Lieutenant Sayre, late of the United States ship St. Marys, has been ordered to report for duty at Washington.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SUNDAY 20

Cooler today, and quite windy, but did not freeze till night. Did not go to church today. Took care of the house while the rest of the family went. Read the "Times" "Herald" and Partons last Vol of Jackson. There are so many villinous looking fellows roaming about the City, that that [sic] it seems necessary for some one to be on the watch all the time. Burglaries and incendiary fires occur every night. I sleep with a loaded "revolver" within reach every night. Took a walk with the boys round Lafayette Square this evening and did not go out again. The air was cool and bracing. It freezes tonight.

January 21, 1861**NEW YORK HERALD****SHIPMENT OF POWDER AND SHELL TO CHARLESTON.**

PETERSBURG, Va., Jan. 19, 1861.

One thousand kegs of powder and twenty thousand pounds of shot and shell from the Tregar Works, Richmond, left this morning, by special train by the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad, destined to Charleston, to the order of Governor Pickens.

THE REVOLUTION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 1861.

A volunteer company of planters, residing in Prince Georges county, Md. one of the largest and richest slaveholding counties in that State, a few days since tendered their services to Gov. Pickens, agreeing to pay their own expenses, and to contribute one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of sustaining South Carolina in her position.

The following letter just received in reply to his tender by the officer who made it, shows the condition of the South Carolina army: -

HEADQUARTERS, CHARLESTON, Jan. 17, 1861.

SIR - Yours of the 11th inst. has been received, and I am authorized to express to you our acknowledgements of your courtesy and patriotism. Just now, unfortunately, the South Carolina army, in all its departments, is so full and completely organized that no further aid is wanted. but let me assure you that if war comes and our ranks are decimated, we shall remember your offer, and unhesitatingly apply to you for assistance in the hour of trial. Most truly and respectfully,

PAUL H. HAYNE, Aid de Camp.

THE NEWS.

There was a rumor in Washington last night to the effect that fighting had commenced in Florida between the federal and State troops; but whether the rumor is well founded or not we are unable to learn. If any fighting has taken place it must have been at Fort Pickens. Advices from there by way of New Orleans represent that on Friday State troops were concentrating in the neighborhood of Pensacola from all parts of the State. The steamer Wyandot was lying at the entrance of the harbor, communicating with Fort Pickens, but was not allowed to enter the harbor. The families of the officers were on board the Wyandot.

The general tone of the advices from Washington which we publish this morning indicates a somewhat less belligerent aspect of affairs. It is stated that Governor Pickens, of South Carolina, has, yielding to the solicitations of his friends in Washington, addressed Col. Hayne, the South Carolina Commissioner, instructing him to change his policy. Col. Hayne will remain in Washington for some time. The letter which he transmitted to the President on Saturday is said to have been very temperate in tone. The attack on Fort Sumter is considered to be abandoned for the present. In the meantime, it is hoped some plan of conciliation may be adopted. The Virginia legislature propositions of adjustment, a synopsis of which will be found in our despatches, were much discussed in Washington political circles yesterday.

CHARLESTON MERCURY**HONOR TO GEORGIA.**

On Saturday last a salute was fired on the reception of the news of the secession of Georgia from the Federal Union, by Mr. C.H. SCHWECKE, a member of the German Artillery, and Mr. WILLIAM ROGERS. Both gentlemen assisted in the firing of this gun under the flag of the MERCURY office, on the secession of South Carolina. As it was first used on that occasion the gun was dubbed 'Secession.'

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

MONDAY 21

Mr Yulee was in my room today and asked me if I thought it best to "coerce" the seceding states. I told him that I thought it best to protect the public property. But says he that is coer-

cion in the opinion of the seceding States. I told him that it mattered little what the opinions of the Pirates and Freebooters were who now controled those states. The danger of a collision was imenent, but it soon passed off. I cannot restrain myself when talking with these fireeaters and Traitors. Weather delightful today, was down at the Hotels, bot a "Times," read an hour to wife.

THE SMALL PRINT

Skedaddle is a free e-journal primarily consisting of material written over 100 years ago about the American civil war, often by people who experienced the war or who were directly impacted by it. Material related to the conditions and circumstances that led to the war may also be included. *Skedaddle* may be printed and distributed in hard-copy, including unlimited copies, for non-profit, non-commercial purposes. *Skedaddle* may not be re-published electronically or on-line without permission.

For the most part, the content of *Skedaddle* will be short pieces that fit well within the journal's format. The pieces will include excerpts from newspaper articles and editorials, as well as occasional incidents, anecdotes, poetry, and other material that may become available. In some instances, the material may be an excerpt from a larger work.

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