THE WATCHMAN.

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FOR SALE.

The undersigned being desirous of abandoning the Printing business, offers for sale his interest in the Democratic Watchman.—The establishment is a paying one having about 1,000 subscribers and a fair share of Job Work and Advertising. Any person wishing to embark in the Business, would not find a more pleasant location.

S. S. SEELY.

An Eventful Week

The present week has been one of stirring events, which will form an important theme for the future historian. The news crowds so heavily upon us that we have no room for editorial comments, even had we the inclination to make them, at this terrible crisis, when the heart of every true lover of his country is appalled at the prospect of the dark domestic tragedy that now seems inevitable. The correspondence with the South Carolina Commissioners, and the President's special message to Congress, completely vindicate his position. For once, his assailants are silent. They dare not praise him, but the miserable pretexts upon which they founded their jeers and denunciations, have utterly failed them. The official records now disclosed, prove that in the exercise of his humane forbearance toward the people of South Carolina, who are rushing madly to their own destruction he has done no act, and made no pledges, inconsistent with his sworn duty to maintain the rightful authority of the Federal Government, and enforce the laws of the land.

The intelligence we have from Charleston of the attack upon the U. S. Steamer *Star of the West*, by the forces of the secessionists, seems to preclude all hope of a peaceful adjustment of the sectional feud. The first blow has been struck, and nothing short of Divine interposition, can now avert the horrors of civil war. The bloody drama opens.

Mr. Seward's Speech.

Mr. Seward, the oracle of the Black Republican party, has spoken. As the acknowledged premier of the incoming administration, this speech has been most anxiously looked for, and has been the subject of much speculation because it was to be expected that it would foreshadow the policy of Mr. Lincoln and the party which elected him. In that party there is a strong body that claims a certain degree of conservatism, and are, consequently, to a greater or less extent, the advocates of compromise. This speech of Mr. Seward has demolished their last hope, and will, if anything can do so, convince the men who, in the late contest, were induced to lend their aid to his election upon the argument that his course would be conservative, that they have been deceived, and that the Abolition element of the party is in the ascendancy, and will remain so.

This speech is remarkable as being a calm, dispassionate and philosophical disquisition on the effects of disunion upon the safety of the American people. In this respect it presents nothing beyond that which the public press has long since presented to the people, nothing beyond that which the National Democratic press pointed out before the Presidential election, as the result of "the triumphs of Republicanism."

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSIONERS.—South Carolina has exactly copied Massachusetts in sending Commissioners to Washington to treat with the President and Congress. The Governor of Massachusetts, upon the proceedings of the Hartford Convention in 1814 appointed three Commissioners to proceed to Washington and negotiate with the President and Congress for the formation of a New England Confederacy. The Commissioners were Harrison G. Otis, Thomas H. Perkins, and William Sullivan, but they were met at Washington with the news of peace.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA POSTMASTERS.—Alfred Huger, Postmaster of Charleston, has written a letter to the Postmaster General, in reply to the circular sent to the several Postmasters of South Carolina, by Mr. Holt, that he will continue in the service of the United States, and will perform his duties and render his accounts faithfully to the department at Washington. Other postmasters in South Carolina have responded in the same way.

While in the Shoemaker shop of Mr. Edward Graham, the other day, our attention was directed to a side of Spanish Sole Leather tanned at the Unionville Tannery by Mr. W. H. Rosensteel, that is, in our judgment, the best specimen of good tanning that we have seen for many days. Mr. Graham, a competent judge, pronounces it a very superior article. We learn that it is only a fair sample of the leather furnished by that establishment.

BACKBONE NORTH.—Such is the phrase employed by Lincoln newspapers to designate the obstinate refusal of the Republican party to listen to Southern appeals for justice. They boast of their ill timed and criminal obstinacy, and call it courage—backbone. Let them persist in it, and they will ultimately find that if their backs do not bend they will be broken.

General Scott is the largest man in the American service. He is six feet six inches tall, and weighs two hundred and sixty pounds. He is seventy four years old, yet his health is good, and his whole system is apparently vigorous—much of which is owing, doubtless, to his very temperate habits.

A Magnificent Trick.

The Evening Journal, Bell Everett, says.—The "gallant Anderson" is now the cry of "Abolitionists," who, having brought the Union to the fearful brink of dissolution, start in affright, and call upon Anderson to save them. They were implored, before the election, to stop this war upon fifteen States; we besought them not to strike down the Union; and now, they make Major Anderson's simple act of self preservation and precaution an occasion to clamor and shout for that union which they have disturbed.—Major Anderson, like a discreet man, went from a *weak* fort to a *stronger* one. This the Abolitionists call "wonderful heroism," and are shouting praise and glorification, which the Major understands and despises. He is not an Abolitionist, but scorns the whole brood, as enemies of the Union, open or disguised. His wife, in New York, refused to receive the calls of the "Abolitionists" on New Year's day, seeing through the nefarious purposes of those who pretended to glorify her husband for what Major Anderson himself says, was but a simple act of duty. The object of the "Abolitionists" is seen through. They must seek some other means of saving their party from the growing indignation of the people.

The Alabama Convention has passed the Ordinance of Secession. The reason assigned for the secession of the State is the election of Lincoln and Hamlin "by a sectional party avowedly hostile to the domestic institutions and peace and security of the people of Alabama, following upon the heels of many and dangerous infractions of the Constitution of the United States by many of the States and people of the northern section of the Confederacy."

MR. COWAN, the United States Senator elect from this State, has never been in public life. He is a distinguished lawyer of Western Pennsylvania, and a gentleman of high literary and scientific attainments. He was a member of the old Whig party, and is classed as a moderate Republican. His election over that rank abolitionist Wilmot, indicates that the conservative sentiment predominates in the Legislature, notwithstanding it is so strongly Republican.

DISTANCE OF THE FORTS FROM CHARLESTON.—Fort Sumpter is three eighths miles from Charleston, one and one eighth miles from Fort Moultrie, three quarters of a mile to the nearest land, one and three eighths miles to Fort Johnson, and two and five eighths miles to Castle Pinckney.—The last named Fort is one mile from the town, and Fort Johnston is two and a quarter miles from the town. These measurements are correct, being taken from the latest surveys made by the United States coast survey.

At Rochester, N. Y., on Friday last, an abolition demonstration was forcibly prevented by the people, and a union meeting held in its stead. A flag bearing the inscription, "No compromise with Slavery," was not allowed to be suspended across Buffalo street. The authorities had to interfere, to prevent a general riot.

A dispatch from Norfolk, says, that the steamer Express, of Baltimore, steamed up to Fort Norfolk on Friday night, and took on board a quantity of ammunition. She steamed away at 8 o'clock Saturday morning. Rumor says she went to Fort Monroe.

Gen. Scott has made full preparations to quell or rather prevent any outbreak at Washington, he having stationed troops in different parts of the city, though the rumors that all the public buildings are closely guarded is greatly exaggerated.

A dispatch from St. Louis says that by order of Lieutenant General Scott, a detachment of United States troops yesterday took possession of the sub-treasury, post office and custom house at that city.

We direct the attention of our readers to the letter of our fellow townsman, IRA C. MITCHELL, Esq., which will be found on our first page. Mr. M. is an able writer, and anything from his pen is read with interest.

At Newark, N. J., on Friday evening, a Republican meeting adopted resolutions against compromise, and in favor of sustaining the Constitution and enforcing the laws.

In the Pennsylvania Senate Mr. Welsh's Resolutions proposing to repeal the obnoxious provisions of the act of 1847, and the penal code, were voted down; all the Republicans voting against them.

Advices from Galveston say that at the election on the 8th instant, the candidates favoring the organization of a southern confederacy obtained a majority.

Latest News.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The Republican Senators have refused by 7 majority to consider Mr. Crittenden's Resolutions. There is great excitement and disappointment over the fact.

It is reported that in Louisiana the Delegates to the Convention has resulted in a majority against secession.

The U. S. Sloop of War Macedonia, from Portsmouth, N. H., passed the Highland Light this morning, bound South, with sealed orders.

AYER'S AMERICAN ALMANAC has now arrived and is now ready for delivery, gratis, by J. Harris & Co., to all who call for it.—Our readers may be surprised to know that this little pamphlet which has become so much a favorite in our section has quite the largest circulation of any book in the world, except the Bible. It is printed in many languages and scattered through many nations as well as supplied to almost the entire population of our own vast domain. Every family should keep it, for it contains information which all are liable to require, when sickness overtakes them and which may prove invaluable from being at hand in season. If you take our advice, you will call and get an Ayer's Almanac, and when got, keep it.

The National Crisis.

CRUDITIES ON THE CONSTITUTION—THE DIFFICULTIES THAT SURROUND IT.

The subjoined article, from the Boston Post, is interesting for the historical facts it recalls, and the forcible manner in which it sets forth the duties and powers of the President, under the constitution, as applicable to the present threatening condition of the country:

Certain people at the North will insist that the United States government is a military despotism, and that President Buchanan has all the powers of the Shah of Persia to seize and imprison and hang men at his pleasure. Thus the Republican presses are demanding of the President that he shall seize the commissioners from South Carolina, and try them for treason. If you ask them what is treason, they can't tell, but they insist that the President ought to hang somebody, because Patton, in what he calls his "Life of Andrew Jackson," (compiled too much from street talk and newspaper slander) sets it down that Gen. Jackson proposed to hang Mr. Calhoun for nullification, which is false. No citizen can be punished or deprived of life or liberty in this country without due process of law.

Massachusetts contrived the Hartford convention in the war of 1814, to set up a northern confederation, and South Carolina has got up a secession convention to precipitate the slaveholding States into a southern confederation.

Massachusetts, in 1814, sent two ambassadors of the Hartford convention to Washington to demand of President Madison the separation of New England from the Union, in carrying on the war. William Sullivan and Harrison Gray Otis, were the commissioners. Mr. Madison did not propose to hang them. But, as Mr. John Quincy Adams says of the peace of Ghent, the news of which came while the commissioners were at Washington, "the interposition of a kind Providence averted the most deplorable of catastrophes" the establishment of a Northern confederacy.

South Carolina now follows the example of Massachusetts by sending her commissioners to President Buchanan, and President Buchanan is abused by Massachusetts in particular, because he won't hang them for treason without judge or jury!

Now let us inquire what treason is, and what the Constitution says about seizing and hanging people in this country. The Constitution of the United States says: "Treason against the United States shall consist *only* in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

This last applies only to aiding a foreign enemy and giving them comfort, as the Hartford convention did in 1814.

The United States not being at war, treason now can consist only in levying war upon the United States, and the Constitution says there must be some overt act proved by two witnesses. And what is levying war is thus defined by the Supreme Court in the United States vs. Aaron Burr: "To levy war is to raise, create, make or carry on war. War can be levied only by the employment of actual force—troops must be embodied, men must be openly raised." &c. And the purpose must be to make war on the United States. Thus to march in arms with a force marshalled and arrayed, committing acts of violence and devastation in order to compel the resignation of a public officer, or to render ineffective an act of Congress is high treason," says Chief Justice Marshall.

That was the nature of the offence which Theodore Parker, Wendell Phillips, and their associates were charged with when they incited the mob in Faneuil Hall to go to the court house to rescue Burns the fugitive slave, in which unlawful enterprise Batchelder one of the marshal's deputies was murdered. And here again South Carolina is only following this example of Massachusetts in the attack upon the forts, if she has really used military force to take them.—That is treason in the men who committed and incited the act unless South Carolina has a right to secede from the Union. But it is not treason in the State for a State cannot commit treason. It is only treason in the individuals who commit the overt act. And if it be treason or misdemeanor, where is the authority of the President to seize or hang anybody as the Republicans are insisting he ought to do and charge him with being a traitor for not doing it? The constitution is very plain on this point. It reads thus:

"The trial of all crimes shall be by jury, and such trial shall be held in the *State* where the said crime shall have been committed."

"No person shall be held to answer for a crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, nor deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

And "the accused shall enjoy the right to a public trial by an impartial jury of the *State* where the crime has been committed." These are the limitations of that despotism which certain people so inconsiderately claim now a days for the President.

If any citizen or body of men in South Carolina have levied war against the United States they cannot be arraigned or tried for it anywhere but in South Carolina. There must first be an indictment found by a grand jury in South Carolina. There must be a district attorney to prepare and attest the indictment. There must be a court to receive it and arraign the prisoner, and a jury to try him.

This last was the protection which Parker and Philips and their associates found when they were indicted for what they called "free speech," in connection with the murder of Batchelder, and the obstruction of the laws of the United States for the rendition of fugitive slaves. The President could not seize them, nor could they be tried any where but in Massachusetts; and though there were all the officers of law here and a grand jury indicted them, they escaped a trial and got off upon a very small technicality, which was, that the commissioner who issued his warrant of arrest had signed it only commissioner, without saying what commissioner; and the court held that the indictment, however drawn, could not supply this deficiency, because it could not go beyond the description in the warrant.

Just so President Buchanan has no power to seize or arraign or try anybody in Washington or anywhere else. If there have been acts of treason, they have been committed only in South Carolina. The parties charged must be tried in that State by a jury of the State. There is no United States marshal to arrest them, no district attorney to indict them, no grand jury to find a bill, no court to arraign and no jury to try them.—How then are the steps to be taken which the constitution demands in every case of alleged crime? And if there were all the officers of the court and juries, everybody knows that a court in South Carolina would hold that the right of secession absolved the party accused from his liability to the laws of the United States, and no jury would convict.

It would be the same in Massachusetts, if under the personal liberty bill, a fugitive from labor should be taken before a jury to be tried. No Massachusetts jury could be found to agree that he was a fugitive slave. Thus it is obvious that Massachusetts and South Carolina stand in the same category of disunion and secession, so long as these laws remain on her statute book, and so long as her people resist and refuse to execute the laws of the United States within her borders.

But it is said, suppose the Judge and all the United States officers have resigned in South Carolina, why don't President Buchanan supply the vacancies? But what then? He could find no one in South Carolina to accept the offices, and the law requires that they shall be appointed in the district. Even if he sent Northern men there they would not be allowed to act, and if they were resisted, then it comes back to just where we started from; those who resisted must be indicted and tried by a court and jury in the State.

If men of sense would look at the facts and law, and read the Constitution, they would see the practical difficulties in the way of the summary with which they require the President to deal with existing difficulties. He can only move the constitutional machinery of government in executing the laws. If the machinery is all broken up in a State, he cannot invade a State, or send an army there, to enforce martial law, unless the Governor or Legislature call upon him to suppress the insurrection or domestic violence. He can send troops to the forts, and if the commissioners of South Carolina require him to order troops to one or another fort, they assume what does not belong to them. The President, as commander-in-chief, is to judge for himself of the expediency; and on this point he should insist, and yield to no threats from South Carolina, or any body, if they are made. It is this question of expediency as to reinforcing the forts at Charleston which the President has gravely considered.

If Major Anderson has solved the difficulty without bloodshed, so much the better. Of what avail would United States troops have been there if sent, as they must have been, when their presence would have brought on a bloody conflict? If any were sent in such a crisis, an army should have been sent sufficient to conquer South Carolina added as she would be, the moment blood was shed, by the sympathizing States. That would have been civil war. The President did not bring on this "irrepressible conflict," and will endeavor to avoid staining his hands with the blood of his fellow citizens in a fratricidal war. It is his purpose (and he will prove the true patriot and Christian if he succeeds in doing it) to leave his high office without a drop of blood having been needlessly shed in this awfully impending "battle of the States."

Mr. Lincoln will then take the responsibility, and he has four years in which to carry out his policy. If he means peace and union he will recommend concession and compromise, and a restoration of the fraternal relations of all the States, and endeavor to shed no blood to madden the whole country.

In the meantime, Mr. Buchanan must bear all the unreasoning assaults made upon him, until reason shall resume her sway and justify the only peace policy that could save a civil war, if indeed policy can do it. But really it is not so small a thing as some people think to sacrifice millions of lives in the attempt of one section of the country to conquer another section of the country and preserve the Union, as they call it, by bathing it in seas of blood and carnage. Let us pause a little while, study the Constitution, and reflect.

The Star of the West.

The New York Evening Post of last night contains a full journal of the events connected with the recent trip of the "Star of the West" to Charleston by one who was on board. We give it below. It will be found intensely interesting.

ON BOARD THE STAR OF THE WEST,
Saturday January 5th 1861.

The steamship Star of the West sailed from the foot of Warren street New York, this afternoon, at about 5 o'clock, under command of Captain McDowall, an experienced officer who for many years was in the United States revenue service.

The vessel cleared for New Orleans and Havana but this was only a cautionary measure as the real object of the expedition was to convey provisions and troops to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter. The plan of the movement seems to be to convey these troops and stores as they would be conveyed in time of profound peace, except that it is intended to go in early in the morning, if possible, without the knowledge of the South Carolinians. In accordance with this plan, the greatest precautions possible have been employed to keep the movement wholy secret.

The vessel left her wharf before dark, as it was thought her sailing would attract less attention, and be less liable to create suspicion by following such a course. It was as much as to say, we have nothing to conceal. We sailed out leisurely, until dark, when we came almost to a dead stop, and finally off the Robin's Reef lighthouse she was allowed to drift; and here we waited the arrival of two hundred troops from Governor's Island. They did not come quite as soon as was expected. The delay, however, was only temporary, and at five minutes before seven o'clock we detected the approach of the steamship Lockwood. At seven o'clock precisely that boat was alongside our vessel. The night was clear and beautiful, though moonless, and I watched the approach of the Lockwood from the upper deck. She displayed no lights, and I could see no one, as the men had been purposely kept out of sight. But as the boat came near the deck suddenly became alive with soldiers.

The transfer of the men and baggage from the Lockwood to the Star of the West commenced immediately, and was conducted with as much expedition and silence as possible. I placed myself at the head of the gangway, and although our lights were dim, I could see the soldiers distinctly as they came up, in their gray overcoats and dark caps. Officers and privates were as fine looking fellows as one could wish to see.—I learn, however, that about one hundred and fifty of the men are recruits.

Such secrecy had been observed in starting on the expedition that the officers in command were wholly ignorant of their destination until a few hours previous to their departure. After they were informed of it they were not permitted to leave the island until they set foot upon the Lockwood. All the communication, in fact, between the island and the city was cut off. One of them showed me an order issued but a few days since, directing him to proceed to California, and he had been home and made all the preparations for his journey. Now his baggage is in New England, and he is on the Star of the West, bound for Fort Sumter.

But shall we get to Fort Sumter? That is the question which has been freely discussed this evening. Here we are, with two hundred soldiers, good men and true it may be, led by experienced officers, with plenty of muskets and amunition. But what of that should they open fire upon us from the batteries of Fort Moultrie, or should send a vessel or two outside to capture us? What would our muskets avail against a twelve pounder? A hole in our machinery, and we are probably at the mercy of the Palmetto chivalry. We have, of course, absolutely no means of resistance out of musket range, but must run in under a full head of steam if possible. There is a small brass on our deck, but we have no balls for it, and the captain says if a ball were to be fired from it it would kick clean over, and be more likely to kill the man who should stand behind it than the enemy.

Our principal hope is in the ignorance of the Charlestonians; and if they get no whisper of our plan, we hope to slip in to Fort Sumter without opposition or hindrance, on Wednesday morning next at daybreak.—But the belief is prevalent here that the Charlestonians are not ignorant of our movement. There was rumors on the deck, in fact, before we started, that our destination was Charleston, and that we were to convey troops from Governor's Island. It is not to be presumed that no good friend of the Palmetto State will immediately telegraph this rumor to Charleston; nor is it to be presumed that, with such an intimation, the authorities there will not be on the look out for the Star of the West.

But if they do hear of our approach—if they do actually learn, beyond doubt, that we have reinforcements and provisions for Major Anderson, and are actually under weigh, will they resist our passage to Fort Sumter either by opening fire upon us from Fort Moultrie, or by sending one or more vessels out to capture us? If echo echo the sentiment of every man on this vessel who has expressed an opinion on the subject in my hearing, I shall answer 'Yes.' The belief here seems to be unanimous that if our object is known we shall be fired upon.

Sunday January 6.

We have had a most delightful day; the water is smooth as a lake, and this evening we caught the warm breezes of the South.

You will easily guess that the chief subject of our conversation has been our chance of getting into Fort Sumter; and the more the subject is discussed the more probable it seems that we shall have to take our chances against the South Carolina batteries. There are several steamers in her service which can be sent out to disable us.—Then, will the lights be burning in the lighthouse and will the buoys be unmolested?

Is it not probable, it is asked, that the Government has ordered the Brooklyn to Charleston, and that we shall find her there to cover our entrance in case of an attack? The theory has been freely discussed, but as we have no means of knowing any thing about it you will hardly need to be informed that we have arrived at no satisfactory conclusion.

If we are attacked will Fort Sumter protect us? It is said it can silence the guns of Moultrie in a few hours, and if it shall do so, we can be off until the job is accomplished, and then perform our work. We fully expect the protection of Fort Sumter. The captain has an immense American flag twenty feet by forty feet, and has been instructed to raise this at the masthead the moment the first shot is fired. There is already an ordinary United States flag aft, and raising this large one forward can hardly fail to inform Major Anderson that we consider ourselves under his protection.

At a few minutes past eleven o'clock this evening we met the steamer Columbia from Charleston, bound for New York. Captain Berry, who is a zealous secessionist let off nine rockets, but our captain did not respond. We display but few lights, and the soldiers are not permitted to remain on deck while a vessel is in sight.

We took an experienced pilot from New York, as a Charleston pilot was not to be thought of; but he is not familiar with the Charleston harbor, and this adds much to the embarrassment of our captain.

Monday, January 7.

We made Cape Hatteras at ten o'clock this morning.

We had a decided "sensation" on board to-day. One of the officers was reading aloud from Saturday's evening edition of one of the New York morning papers, when he stumbled upon a paragraph announcing that there was reason to believe that the steamship Star of the West would sail that afternoon with troops and provisions for Fort Sumter. Of course there is no longer any doubt but the chivalric Palmetto soldiers will be after us, and that we shall have to run their guns or be sunk. Our captain who has seen much service, assures that it is a very unpleasant business to be shot at a great while, without any chance to shoot back. In confirmation of this opinion he relates how a vessel which he was once on was fired into from a Mexican battery for about half an hour before the ship had any opportunity of returning the compliment.—He says it was very unpleasant. I am not a military man, but the assertion appears quite reasonable to me.

Tuesday January 8.

We made Cape Fear about 8 o'clock this morning. We have moved slowly, as the captain's instructions are to cross the bar early in the morning and run to Fort Sumter at daybreak and we wish to approach the harbor by night. This afternoon we stopped about seven miles from the bar for three hours or more, and had some fishing. The day has been delightful, and our success in enticing unsuspecting bass was quite satisfactory.

Toward night we put on steam, anxious for the result of to morrow morning's experiment. In the "Recollections of a Zouave," I have read that on the morning of a battle the bravest soldier, while nothing would tempt him to be elsewhere, seriously wishes himself eighteen hours older, and I doubt not that is now the prevailing sentiment on board the Star of the West. At any rate, we wish ourselves safely within the walls of Fort Sumter where all hands say we are bound to be in a few hours, unless we are in the bottom of Charleston harbor, or prisoners of war. Every arrangement within the power of those in charge has been made to secure the success of the enterprise, and anxious interest increases every hour. Every light has been extinguished; even our state rooms are in utter darkness, and in the cabin we have only one lantern, by the dim light of which one of the officers has this evening been reading the Adventures of Captain Simon Suggs, for the entertainment of his companions.

The provisions have been brought up from below, and placed in the cabin and on deck. If Moultrie disables us, the captain is determined to run the vessel aground as near Fort Sumter as possible; then the boats which are all in readiness, will be instantly lowered, and the men conveyed to Fort Sumter as rapidly as possible. It is hoped also, that by bringing the provisions up, much of them may be conveyed to Major Anderson. We have six boats, capable of holding ninety men. They have all been overhauled since we left New York, and are in perfect order. Arrangements have been made for steering the boat from the lower deck, in case the wheel house should be shot away. Men will be stationed below with mattrasses to fill up shot holes. In short everything has been done to secure the accomplishment of our mission.

Wednesday, January 9.

I awoke at three o'clock this morning, and went immediately to the upper deck, where I found the captain, mate, pilot, and two military officers. I learned that we had arrived in the vicinity of the Charleston bar about midnight; that all the coast lights had been extinguished and thus far it had been impossible to find the main channel. It is evident by these indications that the hospitable South Carolinians do not wish they we should go in without a salute.

A light was seen off the coast, but we could not make out what it was. A little after three o'clock we discovered the light on Fort sumter, and with those exceptions everything was dark. It was, of course, impossible to get over the bar without the lighthouse, and so we awaited the break of day.

I have never seen a finer morning than the one which dawned upon us. The sky was clear, and the moon, a faint crescent of silver, had just arisen, and the low coast looked like a dense forest of evergreen.—The spires of Charleston became visible in the approaching daylight, and on the walls of Sumter we described the American flag floating in the breeze.

Now, about 6 o'clock, we see the lighthouse; and now, too, we discover that the mysterious light just mentioned was that of a steamer at our right. Now the situation of the channel is ascertained, and we are under weigh; and now the steamer at our right is burning red and blue lights; and now she sends up rockets. There is no mistaking her movement, she is giving the alarm signal to Fort Moultrie.

On we go; the soldiers are below with loaded muskets, and the officers are ready to give the word if there is anything to do. Now it is broad daylight and we are making directly into the guns of Fort Moultrie, whose black walls are distinctly visible.—The little steamer at our right is burning a signal light aft, and is making all possible headway up the harbor. Now we discover a red Palmetto flag at our left on Moris Island, at a little village called Cummings' Point, and apparently but little more than a mile from Fort Sumter.

"Is it possible that those fellows have got a battery off here?" asks one.

"No," answers another; "there is no battery there."

But there is. It is now quarter past seven, and we are about two miles from Fort Sumter and Moultrie, which are equal distance from us, and, suddenly, whizz! comes a *ricochet* shot from Morris Island. It plunges into the water, and skips along, but falls far short of our steamer. The line was forward of our bow, and was, of course an invitation to stop. But we are not ready to accept the proffered hospitality, and the captain pays no attention to it, except to run up the stars and stripes at the masthead—the garrison flag mentioned before. A moment of anxious suspense, and bang! goes a heavy cannon from the same masked battery. The shot falls short of us a hundred yards or more and bounds clean over our vessel aft, nearly on a line with the head of a sailor, but luckily a little above it.

On we go, and—whizz!—again goes the smaller gun first fired and another *ricochet* shot skips along the water and falls short of us.

"Booh!" exclaimed the captain; "you must give us bigger guns than that, boys, or you cannot hurt us."

On we go, without heeding the compliments of our Charleston friends. Another moment and bang! again goes the heavy gun. The ball now strikes our ship in the fore chains, about two feet above the water. A seaman was holding the lead to take the soundings, and the ball struck directly under his feet. It is not surprising that, under the circumstances, Jack was strongly inclined to take to his heels, and begins to scramble up with might and main, when the captain assures him that there is no danger, one ball having struck so near him: on the principle, I suppose, that lightning never strikes twice in the same place. Jack, reassured, patiently takes his place and drops the lead again.

The ball, fortunately was too far spent to go through the side of our vessel although it left an honorable scar.

The battery continues to play upon us, and another ball comes clean over us near the wheel house. We are not yet within range of the guns of Fort Moultrie, and yonder is a cutter in tow of a steamboat, preparing to open fire upon us. A moment longer and we shall be in range of these three batteries. The gunners on Morris Island are growing confident; if they get the right range they will send a shot through our side, scattering death and destruction. Moultrie, directly in front, will bring her heavy guns to bear and will drive their deadly missiles into our low, while the cutter will open on our right.

Why does not Major Anderson open fire upon that battery and save us? We look in vain for help; the American flag flies from Fort Sumter, and the American flag at our bow and stern is fired upon; yet there is not the slightest recognition of our presence from the fort to which we look for protection. The unexpected battery on Morris Island has cut off all hope of escape by running the vessel around near Sumter and taking to the boats. Is it possible that Fort Sumter has been taken by the South Carolinians? If it has not, why does not Major Anderson show that he will protect us, or at least recognise us in some way? To go within range of the guns of Fort Moultrie is to expose vessel, men and stores, to almost instant destruction, or capture by the enemy.

"Helm out of port!" shouts the captain, and the Star of the West turned about without any great loss of time, as you may well imagine. We turn without accident and steam away, with the stars and stripes still floating, and the battery still playing upon us by way of a parting salute.

As we steam away the steamer near Moultrie having the hostile cutter in tow steams away into Swash channel, evidently with the intention of cutting off our retreat, but she soon abandons the chase, and we sail out, without a man killed or wounded, with our stores unharmed and proceed unmolested, probably on our homeward journey.

After the brief, but exciting experience of the morning, I am prepared, without hesitation, to concur with the captain in the opinion that it is very unpleasant to be fired at with hard cannon balls, without any chance to fire back. I wish to say, however, that no one on board displayed any symptoms of fear. Captain McDowall and the pilot, Mr. Brewer, were probably special marks for the Morris Island battery, having a good shot through the wheelhouse would have been most disastrous. The soldiers, although two thirds of them are recruits, appeared to be quite indifferent to the music, while the officers agreed that it was scandalous that they could not fight back.

The military men on board highly complimented the South Carolinians on their shooting, in this first attempt. They say it was well done; that all which was needed was a little better range, which they probably could have obtained in a few minutes. Their line was perfect; and the opinion is expressed that some one had charge of the guns who understood his business.

"It was very good sport for them," remarked one of our officers, "to shoot at us, and there was nothing to trouble them.—They had it all their own way. But when Uncle Sam gets a man-of-war in the channel, throwing shells into that sand hill, they will learn the difference."

Two guns were employed; the smaller, it is believed, a twelve pounder, and the larger a thirty-two pounder. This, however, is only conjecture. Whatever their size, they were well manned. They were fired rapidly, and with a will.

One of the officers hazarded a joke soon after we left Charleston harbor. "The people of Charleston," he remarked, "pride themselves upon their hospitality; but it exceeds my expectations. They gave us several *balls* before we landed."

It is believed that, if the South Carolinians had not made a mistake, we should have partaken of their hospitality, whatever it may be, as prisoners. If the battery on Morris Island had waited ten minutes longer before firing, we should have been completely at their mercy. It was only necessary for them to wait until we were within range of the guns of Fort Moultrie and escape would have been impossible. So that, had it not been for this new and unexpected battery on Morris Island, and the premature firing, we should inevitably have fallen into the hands of the enemy, if we had escaped shooting and drowning.

Although we had a surgeon on board, he had no instruments or medical stores.

It is believed that the cutter which was in tow of the steamboat was the William Aiken, which was treacherously surrendered to the South Carolinians by its commander.

FORT SUMTER.

Any one who is familiar with the Charleston harbor cannot fail to appreciate the importance of Fort Sumter. From the deck of our vessel it had the appearance of a new red brick building. It completely commands the channel, Fort Moultrie and Morris Island. Our officers, however, are in doubt whether it commands the masked battery on that island which fired on us. The battery is, apparently, simply an earth work, constructed among sand hills. The port holes of Fort Sumter overlooking Morris Island were closed, and it is possible that the guns on that side of the fortress have not been mounted.

THE RETURN VOYAGE.

We crossed the Charleston bar, outward bound, about nine o'clock. There was then a consultation as to our future movements. The impossibility of entering the harbor and landing at Fort Sumter was sufficiently apparent. We had no instructions except to go to Fort Sumter, and it was decided that the only thing to be done was to put back to New York as soon as possible.

The weather was delightful. For three days—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—we had no fires, and felt no need of overcoats.

On Thursday afternoon however, we began to feel the northern climate. During the night we had a very heavy head sea. On Friday we had a smooth sea again and this (Saturday) morning we made Sandy Hook at day break.

We arrived off Warren street a little after eight o'clock, and anchored in the stream until Lieutenant Woods could report and receive orders relative to the disposition of the troops. Thus we concluded a sea voyage of nearly a week's duration; and although the Star of the West failed to fulfil the mission on which she was dispatched every one who was on board feels that everything was done, that could be done.

DISTANCE OF THE VESSEL FROM THE FORTS.

The Star of the West was about five eights of a mile from the battery on Morris Island. When she turned we were about a mile and a half from Fort Sumter, and the same distance from Moultrie. The Morris Island battery is apparently about a mile and a quarter from Fort Sumter. Had we not turned about we should have soon been within less than three fourths of a mile of Moultrie.

Since our return, it has been ascertained that two shots took effect on the steamer, one, as already stated, on her port bow and a second, as she was turning, on her starboard quarter. One shot passed between the smokestack and the engine beam.

It is not true as I learn has been stated in some of the morning papers, that the Star of the West struck her colors. We came out of Charleston with the stars and stripes still flying.

A. C. H.

THE PROMISED GOOD TIMES.—During the whole of the last Presidential canvass, the Black Republican newspapers and stump speakers assured the people that the election of Lincoln would be immediately followed by "good times and great prosperity." Democrats predicted just the reverse, and warned the people against voting for Lincoln, assuring them that his election would produce great distress, and might result in dissolution of the Union. Well the people trusted the Republicans, and behold the end!

Banks suspended!
Business prostrate!
Hundreds bankrupt!
Thousands starving!
Civil commotion at our doors!
And it may be years of War—of Tears of Blood!

The Florida Convention passed the Ordinance of secession on Thursday.

THE PECULIARITIES of the female constitution and the various trials to which the sex is subjected, demand an occasional course to stimulants. It is important, however, that these shall be of a harmless nature, and at the same time accomplish the desired end. Hostetter's Celebrated Stomach Bitters is the very article. Its effects in all cases of debility are almost magical. It restores the tone of the digestive organs, infuses fresh vitality into the whole system, and gives that cheerfulness to the temperament, which is most valuable of feminine attractions. The proprietors feel flattered from the fact that many of the most prominent medical gentlemen in the Union have bestowed encomiums upon the Bitters, the virtues of which they have frequently tested and acknowledged. There are numerous counterfeits offered for sale, all of which are destitute of merit, and positively injurious to the system.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

LETTERS of administration on the estate of Casper Peters, late of Union township, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same to present them duly authenticated for settlement.

LEWIS C. PETERS
JESSE PARSONS,
Administrators.

Jan. 17, 1860.

THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY
SIR JAMES CLARKE'S
CELEBRATED FEMALE PILLS.

Prepared from a prescription of Sir James Clarke, M. D., Physician Extraordinary to the Queen.

This invaluable medicine is unfailing in the cure of all those painful and dangerous diseases to which the female constitution is subject. It moderates all excess and removes all obstructions, and a speedy cure may be relied on.

TO MARRIED LADIES

it is peculiarly suited. It will, in a short time bring on the monthly ... with regularity.

Each bottle, price ONE DOLLAR, bears the Government Stamp of Great Britain. Beware of counterfeits.

CAUTION.

These pills should not be taken by females during the FIRST THREE MONTHS of Pregnancy, as they are sure to bring on Miscarriage, but at any other time they are safe.

In all cases of Nervous and Spinal Affections, Pain in the Back and Limbs, Fatigue on slight exertion, Palpitation of the Heart, Hysterics and Whites, these Pills will effect a cure when all other means have failed, and although a powerful remedy, do not contain iron, calomel, antimony, or anything hurtful to the constitution.

Full directions in the pamphlet around each package, which should be carefully preserved.

Sole Agent for the United States and Canada,
JOB MOSES,
(Late I. C. Baldwin & Co.)
Rochester, N. Y.

N. B.—$1.00 and 6 postage stamps enclosed to any authorized Agent will insure a bottle, containing 50 Pills, by return mail.

For sale by F. P. GREEN,
July 5-'59. Agent for Bellefonte.