

# Skedaddle

JANUARY 14, 1861

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

## FOUR YEARS UNDER FIRE AT CHARLESTON

by W.F.G. Peck

(an excerpt)

Originally published in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*,  
August 1865

The first overt act of hostility which followed the passage of the ordinance of secession was the firing upon the *Star of the West*. It is true that, previous to this, Major Anderson had been compelled through threats of violence to evacuate Fort Moultrie, and that it had been taken pos-

### Judge Pettigrew:

Walking along the streets of Columbia when the secession furor was at its height, and being accosted by a stranger with the inquiry "Where the insane asylum" was to be found? his reply was, "My friend, look around you; the whole State is one vast insane asylum."



session of by the South Carolina Militia; but no gun had yet been fired, no act had been committed which might be regarded as a direct and open defiance of the United States Government. This was reserved for the following 9th of January. The resident in the lower part of the city, looking out of his window that morning, at first saw nothing particularly noticeable in the bright blue bay which lay stretched out before him, flanked by the low, shelving shores of Sullivan's and Morris islands, and embracing the grim, gray walls of Sumter. Soon, however, the top-masts of a vessel were seen to rise slowly above the horizon. As it approached every eye was strained to catch its form, and every ear opened to hear the reception which its arrival might evoke. Soon a white puff of smoke was seen arising over the gray sands of Morris Island, and the ear caught the faint report of a gun. Another, and then another, till the farsighted of us could see the balls ricocheting over the waves in the direction from which the steamer was approaching. Had it kept on its course Sumter, whose ramparts were now glistening with bayonets, and whose shotted guns were protruding from every port, might have made the attempt to protect her, and there would have been enacted, though doubtless with greater honor to the United States Government, the combat which occurred three months later. But the *Star of the West* turned its prow and sped back to the open sea whence it came.

Entire article on-line at [http://www.pddoc.com/skedaddle/articles/four\\_years\\_under\\_fire\\_at\\_charleston.htm](http://www.pddoc.com/skedaddle/articles/four_years_under_fire_at_charleston.htm)

**January 8, 1861**

**NEW YORK HERALD**

**SECRET MOVEMENTS OF UNITED STATES TROOPS.**

The rumors which prevailed in this city on Sunday last that there was in the wind's about Governor's Island, were the cause of great excitement and public concern. The report, which it now appears was not altogether unfounded, was to the effect that a considerable body of federal troops had been quietly removed from the island garrison to some unknown point. The peculiar situation of affairs in South Carolina, of course, very naturally pointed to that region of country as the destination of the troops. The embarkation and transfer of the soldiers, it is said, were effected during Saturday night last with as little noise as possible. The steamer *Star of the West*, which arrived at this port from Havana on Monday last, was, as far as we have learned, the capacious vessel selected for the conveyance of the military and warlike stores which were to be sent south. According to the usual practice and in accordance with public advertisement, this steamer should have left New York for Havana and New Orleans yesterday, or this morning; but instead of this, she suddenly disappeared from the harbor at a time when no one expected her departure. The fact is that private arrangements are said to have been made for the charter of the vessel, and the preliminary management had been conducted with so much skill and prudence that nothing was known to the public until the steamer was far away on her trip. It was not long, however, before a ubiquitous reporter got upon the scent. All the secrecy and mystery of the Governor's Island folks were useless to blind his clear vision. But as all communication with the island was positively interdicted, it was next to impossible to obtain anything like reliable information. That the troops had been embarked during Saturday night, and that the steamer had slipped her cables and put to sea early on Sunday morning, there was scarcely any doubt at all expressed. There were wakeful watchers enough between the Battery and Hamilton avenue to observe the stealthy midnight movement of blue coated soldiery, but the only difficulty was to ascertain their destination. Some people thought that they were sent to Washington, others that they were intended to garrison and protect unoccupied federal forts, but the majority were very clearly of opinion that Fort Sumter and Major Anderson had something to do with the movement.

## THE STAUNTON SPECTATOR

Staunton, Virginia

### WESTERN VIRGINIA

A correspondent of the Alexandria Gazette, writing from the county of *Marion*, under date of December the 22nd says:

Western Virginia is becoming aroused on the great question of disunion. Groaning under a burden of unequal taxation, the people are wide awake to their interest. The forum of the Legislature at Richmond this winter will present an interesting scene for demanding and conceding rights, long withheld, to the west, and long cherished by our eastern brethren in their enjoyment. The west is uncompromisingly in favor of the Union, not merely for the sake of the Union, but for the sacred and inestimable rights it guarantees to the people.

"If a State Convention is called, the first question to be settled is the basis of representation. The west will accept of nothing but the white basis as now represented in the lower House.

"The Convention, when called, must have power to amend the Constitution of the State, at least in that part which exempts a large portion of the slave property from taxation.

"If delegates are to be appointed to a Southern Convention, those delegates must be appointed by districts, arranged on the basis of the white population of the State.

"The obvious justice of these demands must commend them to the approval of all just thinking men. If our eastern brethren withhold these rights from the west at this juncture it will take one hundred thousand bayonets from a Southern Confederacy to force western Virginia into a union with the Cotton States. We want all these questions settled before we join co-partners with South Carolina."

### DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

TUESDAY 8

The weather has been moderate today M[ercury]. 44 -- Streets muddy, and the crossings bad. Statements that troops have been sent to reinforce Maj Anderson at Fort Sumpter created much excitement, a collision is expected. It is reported tonight that the Sec'y of Interior Mr Thompson has resigned, and also that a collision has occurred at Charleston. U. S. troops have been ordered to this City to defend it if necessary. Genl Scott is here and will remain until after 4th March. 100 guns were fired today in remembrance of the Battle of New Orleans. I was at the "National" this evening, called with wife at Mr Fenwick's on I St.

**January 9, 1861**

**NEW YORK HERALD**

### THE NEWS.

The news from Washington is highly important. Mr. Thompson yesterday resigned his post as Secretary of the Interior. The despatch of reinforcements to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter by the *Star of the West* from New York is the cause of this step on the part of Mr. Thompson. It would seem that these reinforcements were sent forward without authority from the President. In fact, it is stated that the President directed the Secretary of War on Saturday to telegraph the commander of the *Star of the West* to land the troops at Norfolk or Fort Monroe, but the despatch did not reach New York until after the departure of the steamer for Fort Sumter.

The official confirmation of the report of the reinforcement of Major Anderson created

intense excitement at the capital and the secessionists there immediately telegraphed to Charleston to sink the steamer if possible before she lands her troops. The act is regarded by the Southerners as a declaration of hostilities, and news of the inauguration of a blood civil war is looked for at any moment.

The brother of Major Anderson arrived in Washington from Fort Sumter yesterday, having been sent thither by the President to ascertain the state of affairs. He reports that Major Anderson has ample supplies, and is confident of being able to hold the fort against any force. He makes no requisition for reinforcements, leaving that matter to his superiors.

The government has chartered the steamer *Joseph Whitney*, at Boston, to convey troops and munitions of war to the forts on the Florida coast. She will sail on Saturday next.

Our Washington despatches state that news has reached there that the Mississippi State Convention yesterday adopted an ordinance providing for immediate secession from the Union. Our reports from Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, confirm this news, and state that the Committee on the Ordinance of Secession had adopted the ordinance unanimously, and that it will be adopted by the convention today.

The Florida State Convention on Monday adopted a resolution, by a vote of 62 to 5, declaring the right of States to withdraw from the Union, and that the existing causes are such as to compel Florida to proceed to exercise that right. It is reported that the Governor of Florida has taken possession of the forts and other federal property in that State.

A committee of the Virginia Legislature have prepared a bill providing for holding a State Convention. The election of delegates will be held on the 7th of February, and the convention will meet on the 18th of that month. Our correspondent at Richmond is of opinion that Virginia will secede from the Union about the 20th of February. In order to meet contingencies growing out of secession, the Legislature have before them a resolution appropriating ten millions of dollars in defence of the State.

One of the most important measures of the south, in connection with the secession movement, is developed in our Washington telegraphic correspondence. The State of Georgia has appointed a Commissioner to proceed, abroad, to obtain from foreign Powers the recognition of the seceding States as governments de facto. He will also be charged with the duty of negotiating a basis of credit and exchange, by which the cotton crop can be hypothecated in Europe and moved for joint account. But the most important duty of the Commissioner will be in regard to the question of revenue. If the federal government shall make arrangements to collect the revenue off Southern seaports, it is arranged that the cotton State will pronounce for free trade and direct taxation. They will proceed to raise the revenue for the South by direct taxation, giving notice to foreign governments that Southern ports are open to the importation of their merchandise free of duty, and that the imposition of duties by the United States government is unlawful and unauthorized. The question would, therefore, become a foreign one, and England and France will be left to decide between a Northern alliance and free trade with the South.

#### **INTERESTING FROM CHARLESTON.**

We have learned, from information gathered from gentlemen recently arrived from the city of Charleston, some few later details relative to that part of South Carolina, which we believe will be interesting to most of our readers. People belonging to the city and State of New York, and in fact to the North generally, are not aware—or if they are, are not willing to admit the fact to their own minds let alone to others—that much are the preparations being made in the South as would preclude all chance of coercing the revolting States.

#### **THE DEFENCES OF THE HARBOR.**

Such measures have been adopted to prevent all vessels of an offensive character entering

the harbor of Charleston that even those belonging to that city cannot get out without aid. All the buoys have been removed, and some, if not all of the beacons taken down. All lights are extinguished at night, except that upon fort Sumter, which, for the purpose of navigation, might as well be a hundred miles off, and the lightship has been withdrawn. From Cummin's Point to the lighthouse, a distance of several miles, sandbank batteries have been erected and well manned, and vessels laden with paving stones and other heavy substances are placed at important points to sink, so that any vessels of an opposing character that might presume to prowl in would be stopped. If the *Star of the West* attempts to carry her living cargo to the help of Fort Sumter she will be at once sunk by the South Carolina troops stationed along the entrance of the harbor, as a determination exists among them not to allow of reinforcements arriving at that fort. Pilots have been firmly charged not to pilot vessels-of-war into the harbor, but no restrictions are placed upon vessels of commerce and trade. When the steamship Columbia was ready for sea, although she belonged to the city of Charleston, so completely had all marks of the channel been obliterated that it cost the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars to get her clear of the harbor. It was estimated that the value of the vessel and cargo, which consisted of cotton, rice, domestic produce, &c., was not less than \$440,000, and yet this large amount was (held) up for some time, rather than allow chances for the vessels of the enemy to make their way up to the fort or the city.

## CHARLESTON MERCURY

### AFFAIRS AT THE FORTS.

Up to one o' last night, when our reporter left the vicinity of Fort Sumter and Morris's Island, all was quiet in our harbor. The guard boats were actively plying up and down the entrance, overhauling every unknown craft. The rumors that the *Star of the West* would make her appearance in our waters, kept the sentinels on the *qui vive*, and the cry of 'All's well!' could be heard echoing over the waters from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter. At the latter post it is evident that the greatest vigilance is kept, and not even the smallest boat can approach the walls without the gruff hailing of the sentinels on the ramparts. In a former article upon the defences of Fort Sumter, we noticed the fact that the second tier of casemates had been walled up. We observed yesterday that the masonry closing two of these casemates, pointing towards Fort Moultrie, has been removed, the guns for those casemates being completely mounted.

No steamer has made her appearance up to the hour of our going to press. We shall take care to keep our citizens advised, through our bulletins, of her approach, if she should come.



## DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

WEDNESDAY 9

Mr Thompson has resigned and another day has passed in the greatest anxiety of all classes to hear from Charleston, but there is no news from there today. The City is arming for self-protection and some Companies of U S troops are expected tomorrow. Fires and Burglaries occur every night. I sleep with a loaded revolver within reach. Was an hour at Willards tonight. Everything quiet but men look anxious. Met Mr Butterfield M.C. and a number of other gentlemen, all looking for news.

**January 10, 1861****NEW YORK HERALD****IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.**

CHARLESTON, Jan. 9, 1861.

The *Star of the West*, in endeavoring to enter our harbor about daylight this morning, was opened upon by the garrison on Morris Island, and also by Fort Moultrie. The steamer put about and went to sea.

I have not been able to learn whether the steamer or any person on board was injured. The belief is that no injury was sustained by either the boat or those on board. Fort Sumter did not respond.

Lieut. Hall, of Fort Sumter, came over to the city about eleven o' with a flag of truce. He repaired to the quarters of the Governor, followed by a crowd of citizens. He was in secret communication with the Governor and Council for two hours. At two o' he was sent in a carriage with the Governor's aids to the wharf, and returned to Fort Sumter. The object of his mission is not known. It is supposed that it related to the firing on the *Star of the West*.

The people are intensely excited.

There were no demonstrations against Lieut. Hall. There is a great curiosity to know what Lieut. Hall came for.

Our citizens were drawn in crowds to our wharves early this morning, in consequence of frequent reports of cannon from seaward. Some twelve or fifteen reports were heard, many of them proceeded from the works on Morris Island.

**THE LATEST REPORT.**

Lieutenant Hall closed his interview with the Governor and Council about two o'. The facts have not transpired. We learn from high authority that they are of a most threatening character.

**The News.**

The *Star of the West* arrived at Charleston yesterday forenoon, and the South Carolina troops at Morris Island and Fort Moultrie opened fire upon her. The steamer immediately put to sea. An officer from Fort Sumter, under a flag of truce, had an interview with the Governor and Council of South Carolina during the day, but the subject of the meeting had not transpired.

The Mississippi State Convention yesterday adopted the secession ordinance. Mississippi is therefore now out of the Union.

The acceptance of the post of Secretary of State by Mr. Seward in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet is announced.

## CHARLESTON MERCURY

**THE WAR BEGUN. ENGAGEMENT AT FORT MORRIS.  
ATTEMPTED REINFORCEMENT OF FORT SUMTER.****The *Star of the West* is Fired Into and Driven Back.**

The Citadel Cadets Fire the First Shotted Gun—The United States Flag Hauled Down—Three of the Shots Take Effect—The Steamer Puts to Sea with a Tender—What Major Anderson is going to do about it, etc., etc., etc.

The first gun of the new struggle for independence (if struggle there is to be) has been fired, and Federal power has received its first repulse.

About seven o' yesterday morning, our citizens were startled by the firing of heavy guns in the direction of Sullivan and Morris Islands. It was at once surmised that the steamship *Star of the West*, which has been reported by the special telegraphic correspondents of the MERCURY as having left New York with reinforcements and stores for Major ANDERSON, has attempted to pass the battery on Morris Island. Our reporters were immediately despatched to the entrance of the harbor, and after visiting all the fortifications now occupied by our troops, the following facts were elicited:

**PARTICULARS OF THE AFFAIR.**

Yesterday morning, the sentries on Morris's Island reported a steamship standing in the ship channel. The long roll was immediately beat, and all the troops were promptly under arms, Lieutenant Colonel J.L. BRANCH, of the Regiment of Rifles commanding. These comprised the Vigilant Rifles, Capt. TUPPER (90 men); the German Riflemen, Capt. SMALL (90 men); the Zouave Cadets, Lieut. CHICHESTER (45 men); and a detachment of 40 from the Citadel Cadet Corps. The last named body were at once marched to the battery, commanding the ship channel, which, at this point, passes within from one half to three quarters of a mile of the beach. At 7 o', when the *Star of the West* had reached a point within range of the guns, Major STEVENS fired a shot across her bows, as a signal for her to heave to. After waiting three or four minutes, no diminution in the speed or change in the course of the steamer could be noticed. A moment after, the United States flag was run up at her foremast. The *Star of the West* continuing thus defiantly to pursue her course towards Fort Sumter, the order was given to the men at the Morris Island guns to open fire. Five rounds were accordingly discharged in quick succession. Two of these are reported to have taken effect, one forward and the other abaft the wheel. At the sixth discharge the *Star of the West* rounded to and steered outward towards the bar. At the same time, the ensign which she displayed immediately after the warning gun, was lowered. Three more shots were fired from Fort Morris and three from Fort Moultrie, one of these latter, it is thought, took effect.

A gentleman on the Island reports that after the *Star of the West* had cleared the bar and proceeded a considerable distance beyond, a steam propeller, of about 350 tons burthen, joined her, apparently as a tender, and they steamed off together in an E.N.E. direction.

Thus terminated the first attempt of the Federal Government to reinforce the great stronghold of coercion in our harbor. The approach of the *Star of the West* to Fort Sumter, taken in connection with the facts that her clearance was for New Orleans, and that her troops were smuggled aboard outside the harbor of New York, proves clearly enough that the President has chosen the coercive policy, and that his officials will not hesitate to promote its success.

**THE NEGOTIATIONS.**

About ten o', a boat bearing a white flag came from Fort Sumter towards the city. On its arrival at the wharf it was found to contain Lieut. HALL, of the garrison of Fort Sumter, with despatches for the Governor of the State. The presence of this officer in the city, owing to the events of the morning, gave rise to considerable excitement, and speculation was rife as to the

object of his visit. During his interview with the Governor the public curiosity rose to the highest pitch, but it was two o' before the purport of his communication was made public. When the people learned that Major ANDERSON had sent to inquire whether the firing at Morris's Island was sanctioned by the Governor, that the Governor had replied in the affirmative, and that Major ANDERSON had thereupon signified his intention of cutting off all communication by water between the city and our forts, the expressions of indignation were deep and universal. The most active measures were immediately set on foot to strengthen the forces at the various points about the harbor, and people were everywhere discussing how the threatened affront and injury should be resented. On his return Lieut. HALL was escorted to his boat by Gen. SUBER and Lieut. GIBBES.

Thus matters stood until half past 6 o', when the white flag was again seen coming from Fort Sumter. This time the communication of Major ANDERSON, brought by Lieut. TALBOT, was of a less menacing character. It briefly stated that he designed deferring for the present the course indicated in his note of the morning, until the arrival from Washington of the instructions he might receive from his Government, and asked safe conduct for his bearer of despatches. The highly interesting correspondence between Major ANDERSON and Gov. PICKENS will be found in full in another part of today's paper, among the proceedings of the House of Representatives.

#### **THE NINTH OF JANUARY, 1861.**

Great Events crowd rapidly one upon another. Three short weeks ago, and the greatest event of the century upon the Western Hemisphere was transacted in Charleston. The Union of the States of North America, was dissolved by the action of the State of South Carolina. It appears to be a decree of history that upon all great revolutions or changes of the Government of a people, the red seal of blood must be set. Yesterday, the 9th of January, will be memorable to history. Powder has been burnt over the decree of our State, timber has been crushed, perhaps blood spilled. South Carolina will maintain her liberties and her independence whilst there is single shot in her lockers. Blind infatuation is driving our enemies forward, and stroke by stroke the liberties of the South are being welded and cemented together.

The expulsion of the steamer *Star of the West* from the Charleston harbor, yesterday morning was the opening of the hall of the Revolution. We are proud that our harbor has been so honored. We are more proud that the State of South Carolina, so long, so bitterly, so contemptuously reviled and scoffed at, above all others, should this proudly have thrown back the scoff of her enemies. Entrenched upon her soil, she has spoken from the mouth of her cannon, and not from the mouths of scurrilous demagogues, fanatics and scribblers. Condemned, the sanctity of her waters violated with the hostile purpose of reinforcing enemies in our harbor, she has not hesitated to strike the first blow, full in the face of her insulter. Let the United States Government bear, or return at their good will, the blow still tingling about her ears — the fruit of her own bandit temerity. We would not exchange or recall that blow for millions! It has wiped out a half century of scorn and outrage. Again South Carolina may be proud of her historic fame and ancestry, without a blush upon her cheek for her own present honor. The haughty echo of her cannon has ere this reverberated from Maine to Texas, through every hamlet of the North, and down along the great waters of the Southwest. The decree has gone forth. Upon every acre of the peaceful soil of the South armed men will spring up, as the sound breaks upon their ears; and it will be found that every word of our insolent foes has indeed been a dragontooth sown for their destruction. And though grisly and traitorous ruffians may cry on the dogs of war, and treacherous politicians may lend their aid in deceptions, South Carolina will stand under her own Palmetto tree, unterrified by the snarling growls or assaults of the one, undeceived or de-



tered by the wily machinations of the other. And if that red seal of blood be still lacking to the parchment of our liberties, and blood they want - blood they shall have - and blood enough to stamp it all in red. For, by the God of our Fathers, the soil of South Carolina SHALL BE FREE!

### DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1861.

The weather is a little colder tonight, just freezing. Exciting news from Charleston. The Steamer "Star of the West" with troops to reinforce Maj Anderson was fired into yesterday and she turned off to Sea. Maj Anderson threatened the City with Bombs if she was again molested. We hear that she is in the Harbor landing her troops and stores at Fort Sumpter. It has been rumored this afternoon that the Gov of Virginia had ordered two Regiments to Harpers Ferry to take possession of the U S Arsenal &c, and that their passage through this City will be resisted by the Govt. I have not been well today, and have not been out of the house since dinner.

## January 11, 1861

### NEW YORK HERALD

#### THE REVOLUTION

(after the firing upon the *Star of the West*)...Lieut. Hall had an interview with Governor Pickens and was afterward escorted to his boat and re-embarked for Fort Sumter. The communication from Major Anderson is as follows:

#### MAJOR ANDERSON TO GOV. PICKENS

To His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

SIR - Two of your batteries fired this morning on an unarmed vessel bearing the flag of my government. As I have not been notified that war has been declared by South Carolina against the United States, I cannot but think this a hostile act, committed without your sanction or authority. Under that hope I refrain from opening fire on your batteries. I have the honor, therefore, respectfully to ask whether the abovementioned act—one which I believe without parallel in the history of our country or any other civilized government—was committed in obedience to your instructions and notify you, if it is not disclaimed, that I regard it as an act of war, and I shall not after reasonable time for the return of my messenger, permit any vessel to pass within the range of the guns of my fort.

In order to save, as far as it is in my power, the shedding of blood, I beg you will take due notification of my decision for the good of all concerned. Hoping, however, your answer may justify a further continuance of forbearance on my part, I remain, respectfully,

ROBERT ANDERSON.

#### RESPONSE OF GOVERNOR PICKENS.

Governor Pickens, after stating the position of South Carolina to the United States, says that any attempt to send United States troops into Charleston harbor to reinforce the forts would be regarded as an act of hostility; and in conclusion adds that any attempt to reinforce the troops at Fort Sumter, or to retake and resume possession of the forts within the waters of South Carolina, which Major Anderson abandoned after spiking the cannon and doing other damages, cannot be regarded by the authorities of the State as indicative of any other purpose than the coercion of the State by the armed

force of the government.

Special agents, therefore, have been off the bar to warn approaching vessels, armed and unarmed, having troops to reinforce Fort Sumter aboard, not to enter the harbor. Special orders have been given the commanders at the forts not to fire on such vessels until a shot across their bows should warn them of the prohibition of the State. Under these circumstances the *Star of the West*, it is understood, this morning attempted to enter the harbor with troops, after having been notified she could not enter, and consequently she was fired into. The act is perfectly justified by me.

In regard to your threat about vessels in the harbor, it is only necessary for me to say you must be the judge of your responsibility. Your position in the harbor has been tolerated by the authorities of the State, and while the act of which you complain is in perfect consistency with the rights and duties of the State, it is not perceived how far the conduct you propose to adopt can find a parallel in the history of any country, or be reconciled with any other purpose than that of your government imposing on the State the condition of a conquered province.

F. W. PICKENS.

SECOND COMMUNICATION FROM MAJOR ANDERSON.  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR PICKENS: -

SIR - I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of our communication, and say that, under the circumstances, I have deemed it proper to refer the whole matter to my government, and intend deferring the course, I indicated in my note this morning until the arrival from Washington of such instructions as I may receive.

I have the honor also to express the hope that no obstructions will be place in the way, and that you will do me the favor of giving every facility for the departure and return of the bearer, Lieutenant T. Talbot, who is directed to make the journey.

ROBERT ANDERSON.

Governor Pickens immediately granted the permission desired, and directed Lieutenant Talbot to have every facility and courtesy extended to him as bearer of despatches to the United States government, both in going and returning.

Lieutenant T. Talbot left Charleston late last night with despatches from Major Anderson to the President of the United States.

Lieut. Talbot goes to Washington for further instructions from the President. A party of gentlemen entertained him at the Charleston Hotel previous to his departure.

**The News.**

Our intelligence from Charleston, published yesterday, relative to the arrival of the steamer *Star of the West* in the harbor of Charleston, and her retreat when fired upon by the State batteries, is fully confirmed by later advises. The particulars of the affair are detailed in another column. The *Star of the West* was intercepted by a steamer in the service of South Carolina, but she gave not attention to her. The batteries were then signaled, and shots were fired across the bows of the *Star of the West* to bring her to; but she still proceeded on her course, until she was fired upon, and two or three shots struck her, when she put about and went to sea, and has not since been heard of. Major Anderson, during the forenoon of Wednesday, despatched Lieutenant Hall with a flag of truce to Charleston, where he delivered a communication from the Major to Governor Pickens, wherein he recapitulates the facts concerning the *Star of the West* and requests to know if the action of the State troops is authorized, and says that if such action is not dis-

claimed by the South Carolina authorities he will prevent the passage of all vessels to the city of Charleston. Governor Pickens replied that the reinforcement of the fort was regarded as an act of hostility to South Carolina, and that he approved of the attack upon the *Star of the West*. After some deliberation Major Anderson concluded to refer the subject to the federal authorities at Washington, and Lieutenant Talbott was sent to the capital with despatches.

The latest accounts from Charleston state that the city was in a furor of excitement in anticipation of the arrival of the sloop of war *Brooklyn*. The forts and batteries in possession of the State troops were actively preparing to beat her off. She will most assuredly be attacked should she venture within reach of their guns. It is stated that major Anderson will not hesitate to open the batteries of Fort Sumter should the *Brooklyn* be attacked.

The authorities of South Carolina have taken possession of the steamer *Marion* for the service of the State.

From Louisiana we learn that all the State troops at New Orleans were under arms on Wednesday night, and that yesterday detachments left the city to seize the United States Arsenal at Baton Rouge, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, on the river below the city, and Fort Pike, on lake Ponchartrain. New regiments of troops were being organized, and the greatest excitement everywhere prevailed. During last summer the fortifications on the Mississippi river were put in thorough repair and armed with first class guns, and a full supply of ammunition put into their magazines. Between the Balize and the mouth of the Mississippi there are three or four of these works, which render the passage by the river impracticable to an enemy. There was a rumor in New Orleans that the United States steam gunboat *Crusader* was on her way up the river, but it was probably without foundation, as she was to leave Mobile bay on the 3d. inst. for her station off the coast of Cuba.

There is reason to believe that the authorities of Florida and Texas have by this time taken possession of the fortifications on their coasts.

From North Carolina we have intelligence of the seizure of Forts Johnson and Caswell, on the night of the 8th inst. by the State troops.

An important movement has been set on foot in the Virginia Legislature, with a view to the prevention of civil war. The House of Delegates yesterday adopted a resolution asking the President of the United States and the authorities of each of the Southern States, to the end that peace may be preserved, that the status quo of all movements tending to occasion collision, and concerning the forts and arsenals of the nation, shall be strictly maintained for the present, except to repel actual aggression.

From Alabama and Florida the reports are that these States will secede today.

#### CHARLESTON MERCURY

##### OUR WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

THE WAR NEWS IN THE FEDERAL CITY.—THE *BROOKLYN* AND *HARRIET LANE* COMING TO CHARLESTON.—POLITICAL FACTS AND RUMORS. etc., etc., etc.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

WASHINGTON, December 10 - 4 p.m. - President BUCHANAN and Gen. SCOTT have both expressed their gratification, this morning, at the narrow escape of the *Star of the West* on the morning of the 9th from the batteries on Morris Island.

The general understanding is, that the *Brooklyn* will immediately go in search of the *Star of the West*, and will bring her into Norfolk, and that reinforcements will then be sent to Charleston under ample naval protection.

A large number of the Southern members still in Congress, called, in a body, on President BUCHANAN yesterday (Wednesday), and earnestly protested against sending any reinforce-

ments, or any vessels of any kind to the South, unless the determined policy of the Administration was to provoke bloody and disastrous civil war.

Gen SCOTT has gained entire control over the policy of the Administration. President BUCHANAN affects great surprise at the idea that the batteries in Charleston harbor should have opened fire upon the *Star of the West* yesterday morning.

The Constitution newspaper, of this morning published a letter from Vice President BRECKINRIDGE to the Governor of Kentucky, urging union among the Southern States as the only hope of escape from civil war.

### SECOND DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, January 10.—A telegraphic despatch from Charleston was received at the Navy Department, and was spoken of by Secretary TOUCEY in the Senate Chamber today. It was to the effect, that the *Star of the West* had anchored safely, and was discharging at Fort Sumter. The news elated the Republicans, but the Southern men would not believe it. Subsequent despatches turned the tables. The Republicans and the Administration were much mortified and disappointed at the result. A despatch from Hon. L.M. KEITT gave the particulars of the firing on the steamer, and satisfied the Southern men that the news of the safe arrival of the steamer was bogus...

A letter was included from ANDERSON in explanation, showing that he had orders to make the best defence, and concludes with saying that he intends to defend the District, and that the Union must be preserved.

### NORTH CAROLINA TAKES HER FORTS.

WILMINGTON, JANUARY 10.

The people here, in consequence of a despatch received from the Hon. W.S. ASHE, at Washington, directed to some of the Minute Men, and stating that the revenue cutter *Forward*, with fifty men and eight guns, under the command of Lieut. NONES, had left Wilmington, Del., for Fort Caswell, proceeded spontaneously in big boats to the mouth of Cape Fear river and took possession of the two forts, placing a strong force in each. They will resist the the last extremity any attempt to land Federal troops.

### DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

FRIDAY 11

Yesterdays Telegraphic news was incorrect as to Maj Anderson. The "Intelligencer" this morning publishes a letter from an ex-Congressman from the south exposing the treasonable proceedings at their Secret meetings of the Senators from the Cotton States now here. Yulee (brother of the Senator from Fla) in my room today said they were acting from patriotic motives. I denounced them as conspirators and traitors. Y "looked daggers" but was silent. Whitaker (from S.C.) looked blank. He is our 2nd assistant and is emphatically a "literary know nothing." No particular news today. Treason is rife in the City, and we know not what a day may bring forth. A pretty cold day. M. about 20.

January 12, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

### THE NEWS.

Mr. Thomas yesterday resigned the post of Secretary of the Treasury, and the nomination of General Dix, Postmaster of New York, for the vacancy was sent to the Senate by the President, and confirmed without the usual reference. No nominations have yet been made for the War and Interior Departments. The resignation of Mr. Thomas and the appointment of General

Dix have been brought about, it is said, by the subscribers to the government loan, who declined lending their funds to an administration of which avowed secessionists formed a part.

Florida and Alabama have seceded from the Union. An ordinance of secession was passed by the Florida Convention on Thursday, with but seven negative votes. The Alabama Convention adopted a secession ordinance yesterday. Four States have now bolted from the Union, as follows:

South Carolina Dec. 20.

Florida Jan. 10.

Mississippi Jan. 9.

Alabama Jan. 11.

Our dispatches from Washington announce an abatement of the excitement, in consequence of pacific news from Charleston. The authorities have relinquished possession of the steamer *Marion*, and she will resume her place in the line between Charleston and New York.

All the United States forts and arsenals in Louisiana were seized by the forces of the State yesterday. There was no opposition except at Baton Rouge, where Major Haskins, in command of two companies of soldiers, refused at first to surrender. Six companies of State troops were displayed, and after a conference between the Major and the Governor the former gave up the arsenal.

A dispatch from St. Louis states that yesterday morning, by order of General Scott, the federal troops took possession of the Sub-Treasury, Custom House and Post Office Building of that city.

The Legislature of North Carolina reassembled on Monday last, the 7th instant, after an interval of two weeks, during which the members have had time for reflection. The result of that reflection is that the first business taken up was the bill appropriating \$300,000 for arming the State, and there is a general desire to make the appropriation at least one million. The bill has already passed the Senate. The peculiar attitude and harsh language of the republican party and leaders have operated with such wonderful rapidity on the feelings of the people that in the short space of fourteen days a complete change of sentiment has been effected among the hitherto conservative portion, and the State is now taking a position from which she will, perhaps, not recede. The Crittenden resolutions are popular in the State, but the belief grows stronger every day that it is folly to expect anything from a party who deny plain constitutional rights, and offer nothing at this tremendous crisis but coercion instead of justice and compromise..

The overland express, with San Francisco dates to the afternoon of the 29th ult., arrived at Fort Kearney at noon yesterday. The general news is unimportant. The weather was fine, but business remained very dull. The steamer of the 2st inst. would take about a million and a half in treasure. The Southern secession movement caused much discussion. It is said that the remark of Senator Latham, that California will remain with the Union of the North and West, is a correct representation of the opinion of a vast majority of the people.

Skating was resumed on the Central Park yesterday, with nearly all its former vigor. A large number of ladies were present, who threw off their former reserve and skated on the larger pond instead of that set apart for their special use.

### CHARLESTON MERCURY

#### ALABAMA IS OUT OF THE UNION.

MONTGOMERY, January 11. - Alabama sends greeting to South Carolina: The Convention of her people today adopted the Ordinance of Secession from the Federal Union....

#### SECOND DESPATCH.

MONTGOMERY, January 11. - 9 p.m. - The city is illuminated from the capital to the river. Numerous buildings are magnificently lighted. When the Ordinance was passed, at half

past two this afternoon, the bells were rung, salutes fired, and the community was all ablaze with enthusiasm. The streets at this hour are full. An immense crowd is assembled in front of Montgomery Hall. Hon. J.L.M. CURRY has just concluded. MATHEWS, of Mississippi, is now speaking. There is a perfect ovation among the people.

#### DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SATURDAY 12

Mr Seward's Speech is the great event of the day. Did not hear it. The Senate Chamber was crowded by 9 o'clock. Got letter from Julia through Chas. Wrote her today. Hardly know how to get her Home, or (in fact) whether it is best for her to come here to Washington at this Crisis. Went round to the Hotels this evening. Gave Mr Hoard M.C. from N.Y. name of exmr in Pat office who got pay in advance and then "Seceded" (R. R. Rhodes of Mississippi). Pay Clerk Hugh McCormick, all unlawful. The indications now are that Virginia & Maryland will both "secede." Cold and windy today. Temperature about the same as yesterday.

### January 13, 1861

#### NEW YORK HERALD

##### THE NEWS

The sloop of war *Brooklyn* arrived off Charleston bay yesterday afternoon. She has not visited that port for a hostile purpose, but upon a mission of peace. Reports from Charleston state that the South Carolina authorities had communicated, under a flag of truce, with Major Anderson, but for what purpose had not transpired. Rumors were current that disaffection exists among the garrison, and that a surrender of Fort Sumter is contemplated. It is stated that there was good authority for believing that negotiations are going on with Washington for the surrender of the fort and a cessation of a warlike attitude. It is certain that Col. Hayne, on the part of South Carolina, and Lieut. Hall, on the part of Major Anderson, have left Charleston for Washington, respectively with proposals and to obtain instructions.

The proceedings of Congress yesterday will be read with unusual interest. The Senate Chamber and galleries and lobbies were occupied at an early hour by a dense throng of spectators, anxious to listen to the long expected speech of Mr. Seward upon the perilous condition of the country. The diplomatic corps were also in attendance. In due time Mr. Seward made his speech, which occupied some three hours in the delivery. A full report of it is given in today's paper, and in the editorial columns may be found an analysis of the orator effort, with such remarks as the occasion suggests....

In the house a resolution was offered calling for information respecting the reported occupation of the federal offices at St. Louis by United States troops, but the republicans refused to entertain it. A communication was received from the Mississippi delegation announcing the secession of that State from the Union and their withdrawal from Congress....

The steamer *Star of the West* returned to this port yesterday morning from her unsuccessful attempt to land United States troops at Fort Sumter. The official account of her reception by the South Carolina forces does not differ materially from that heretofore published. Seventeen shots were fired at the steamer, one of which took effect on her port bow, another on her starboard quarter, while a third passed between the smoke stack and the walking beam, but no damage was inflicted, save some splintering of woodwork. The gunnery practice of the assailants is described as having been surprisingly accurate.

A rumor was going the rounds of the city yesterday that five hundred government troops had been despatched South from Governor's Island, but we have reason to believe the whole

thing to be a hoax: at all events, some of the persons connected with the island deny it in the most emphatic manner, and declare that there is no foundation for it. There is an order to prevent all persons from visiting the island, so that perhaps such a thing may be on the tap's, but we feel confident that it has not yet taken place.

As we announced yesterday, the steamship *Marion*, which was taken possession of by the South Carolina authorities, has been surrendered to her owners, and is now on her way to this port, to resume her place in the line to which she belongs. An account of the seizure of the ship is given elsewhere in our columns.

The Central Park skating pond last evening was brilliantly illuminated, and many persons skated both by day and night. A large number of sleighing parties visited the Park during the day, causing quite a lively scene. In another column will be found some few remarks on the origin of skating, as well as on the recent improvements made in skates.

### **THE CRUISE OF THE *STAR OF THE WEST*.**

The steamer *Star of the West*, the focus of excitement for the last few days, arrived at this city at eight o' yesterday morning, and anchored off pier No. 29 North river.

The *Star of the West*, under command of Captain McGowan, left New York on Saturday night last, and at one o' Wednesday morning made Charleston bar. Capt. McGowan says that they laid off the bar until daylight when she proceeded to enter the harbor. When just off Morris Island the steamer was fired into by the battery from the island. Seventeen shots were fired. One shot took slight effect upon the port bow of the steamer, and a second hit her on the star-board quarter as she turned to leave the harbor. One ball passed between the smoke stack and the engine beam.

Finding it impossible to land troops, the captain, at nine A.M., returned to sea, the firing being still continued, but without further damage either to the vessel or those on board. While coming over the bar, going out, the steamer struck twice.

The *Star of the West* remained outside the bar all night (Wednesday), and during the night steamers were seen coming out of the harbor, and Captain McGowan supposed that these vessels — the guard boats of the harbor—were in pursuit of him. All the lights on the *Star of the West* were extinguished, and she was not discovered.

The same night the ship *Emily St. Pierre* was spoken by the steamer. The *St. Pierre* is owned in Charleston, and came from Liverpool to that port, but was refused admittance because she had the American flag flying. The captain of the *St. Pierre* had not anticipated any such difficulty, and lay at anchor off the harbor.

The *Star of the West* made the passage to New York without incident, arriving here as above mentioned. The United States troops will remain on board until orders are received from Washington.

The steamer lies at anchor at the foot of Chambers street, and will doubtless attract as much attention as did the Great Eastern.

### **THE SEIZURE OF THE STEAMER *MARION* AT CHARLESTON.— STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN WHITING.**

The report which was circulated in this city on Friday last that Captain Whiting, of the steamer *Marion*, had left his vessel at Norfolk, and his non-arrival at this port, led to considerable apprehension as to his safety among his friends.

In consequence of this, a party of gentlemen from the office of Messrs. Spofford, Tileston & Co., corner of Morris street and Broadway, left this city for Jersey City at twelve o' on Friday night, and having arrived there chartered an engine and passenger car to convey them to New

Brunswick. This action was taken in consequence of intelligence having been received to the effect that the captain of the steamer had stopped at that point to visit his wife who was unwell. Immediately on their arrival at New Brunswick the gentlemen proceeded to the captain's residence, and had a lengthy interview with him. After remaining there about two hours they left again for Jersey City, where they arrived early yesterday morning.

The information supplied by Captain Whiting concerning the seizure of the *Marion* is very interesting. The steamer arrived outside of Charleston Harbor at about five o' in the morning, and approached the shore through a dense fog. When the mist began to clear away the port lighthouse became visible, but no buoys were seen, as many of these had been removed by the action of the State authorities within the last few weeks. The steamer *General Clinch*, with an armed force, was soon after seen coming down the channel, and on reaching the outer buoy she hove to. The officers of the *Marion* hereupon concluded that she had come out to guide their vessel safely into port. On nearing, however, the *General Clinch* ran alongside, and inquired what steamer was in the offing. The captain of the *Marion* had not met or spoken any steamer, and therefore could not supply the desired information. The question was very likely prompted by the supposition that the *Star of the West* was coming up. The captains of both vessels then entered into a conversation concerning the removal of the buoys, the destruction of the beacons, and other cognate matters. While this colloquy was in progress the *Marion* struck on the North Breaker Shoal. Captain Whiting immediately turned his attention to the safety of his ship. After making such dispositions as he thought necessary under the circumstances, he called upon the commander of the *General Clinch* to aid him in relieving the ship by taking a hawser and towing her off the shoal. The Captain, however, only replied by turning his vessel seaward, leaving the *Marion* hard aground in a dangerous position and with a rapidly falling tide. The *General Clinch* again came alongside of the *Marion*, in about an hour afterwards, when Captain Whiting asked her captain why he had not warned him of his danger and thus prevented the grounding of his vessel. Captain Relyea replied that the State authorities had placed a pilot on board, and that it was none of his business.

The *Marion* remained hard aground all day, but the weather was fortunately very calm. At three o' P.M. the steamer *Gordon* arrived, and under the superintendence of Captain Lockwood, her commander, the *Marion* was extricated from her perilous position and enabled to reach her dock safely and uninjured in about an hour afterwards. A requisition was then made upon the captain [ ] Charleston stockholders having been previously obtained. Strong assurances at the same time were given by Gov. Pickens that the owners should be amply reimbursed for any loss they might suffer, giving as a reason for his summary demands that the State had urgent need of the vessel, and that the welfare of the State justified the irregularity of the proceeding. The captain, under these circumstances, yielded up the *Marion* to the Charleston officials, but the Governor eventually reinstated the captain in possession of the vessel. The owners do not consider the affair in the light of a seizure, although neither the Charleston stockholders nor the company's agents in that port had any legal right to dispose of the *Marion* at any price. When Captain Whiting left the vessel was coaling, preparatory to a return to New York, and she is expected to arrive on Tuesday next.

From despatches received, Messrs. Spofford & Tileston judged it proper to detain the *Columbia* beyond her usual time of sailing. Their Charleston agents now assure them that the authorities will at present throw no obstacles in the way of usual trade, and the *Columbia* will therefore sail on Wednesday and the James Adger on Saturday—the company intending to despatch two vessels each week as usual.



**DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1861.

It has been a fine winter day. M. this morning stood at 12. Went to church with wife and boys. Heard a Mr Black of Covington K.Y. a near relative of Mr Sec'y Black. He has evidently mistaken his occupation. Wrote a letter this evening to Col. Paine and took it to the P.O. Walked fast down and back without stopping. It took 28 minutes exactly. Requested the Col. to stop in Elmira for Julia as he is coming to Washington. Wife has been reading "Partons Life of Jackson" aloud and it is now 11 o'clock and time to go to bed (rather later than common).

**January 14, 1861**

**NEW YORK HERALD****ICE IN THE RIVER.**

The effects of the nip of Saturday night were greatly apparent in the Hudson. Large fields of strong ice floated with the tide during the entire day and rendered the travelling in the ferry boats tedious and difficult. The greatest caution and care were necessarily introduced in the guidance of the barks' of the Hoboken ferry—notwithstanding which, however, several times during the day the passengers were greatly frightened with the idea that the hulk had been pushed away and that they occupied unenviable quarters on a field of ice.

**FROZEN TO DEATH IN JERSEY CITY.**

Coroner Gafney yesterday held an inquest on the body of Michael Hanlon, who was found frozen to death in Greene street. The deceased had been in the habit of wandering about the city mending old tin ware, and was generally of a loose and vagrant disposition. It is supposed that while in a state of intoxication he laid down, and was frozen in the manner mentioned.

**GEORGIA.****LARGE ARRIVAL OF POWDER AT SAVANNAH.**

The Savannah Republican of the 10th inst. says; —A schooner arrived here yesterday, from the North, with 200 barrels common powder, 75 kegs rifle powder, and a large quantity of musket powder, the property of the State....

**THE STAR OF THE WEST.**

The *Star of the West*, now surrounded with uncommon interest on account of her adventure in the harbor of Charleston, finally returned to her dock at the foot of Warren street yesterday morning, where large numbers wended their way during the day to see her. The gates on the upper end of the dock, however, were closed against all unauthorized applicants for admission, compelling those whose curiosity had brought them to the spot to content themselves with looking at her stern and starboard side.

**THE MARK OF THE CANNON BALL** is upon the port side, facing the dock, and was consequently visible only from within the forbidden enclosure. She bears no other traces of damage from the firing. The dent referred to is a little forward of the wheelhouse, under one of the portholes, and about three or four feet from the surface of the water. It is elliptically or egg shaped, showing that the ball struck the vessel obliquely, at an angle of about thirty or forty inches with the keel, and in a direction from the stern towards the bow. The impression of the ball, which must have been an eighteen-pounder, is about six inches wide at its broadest portion

and about nine or ten inches in length. The missile sank into the wood only to the depth of about half its own diameter, showing that its force was considerably spent on reaching the vessel.

**THE DEBARKATION OF THE TROOPS** was accomplished at half-past seven 'o yesterday morning. During the previous night the *Star of the West* was considerably inconvenienced by the large masses of ice floating in the river, and two anchors were wrenched away. She left her anchorage in the harbor—a position she had maintained since her arrival—and steamed into the slack water to avoid the floes of ice. She then passed down the bay to Robbin's Reef, and thence back to a point a little above Governor's Island, where, about three 'o yesterday morning, the steam tug came alongside to take off the soldiers; but the commanding officer, deeming it an unpropitious moment on account of the terrific frost, and Captain McGowan fearing accident from the masses of ice, the movement was postponed. Those on board the vessel describe the cold at this time as of unusual severity. The sides of the ship were covered with ice, while the whiskers of the officers on duty were congealed with their respiration. Such was the keen state of the atmosphere during Saturday afternoon that a stove had to be put up in the soldiers' quarters to make them any way tenantable or comfortable.

After leaving Governor's Island the *Star of the West* steamed for the slack water off the Jersey shore, and passed through it until she reached a point opposite Bergen Heights, where she anchored. The steam tug here came alongside once more, and the troops were disembarked about half-past seven o'. The steam tug then put off and landed the soldiers at their old quarters, Fort Columbus, on Governor's Island. The *Star of the West* immediately after raised her anchor and steamed to her dock foot of Warren street, which she reached about eight o'.

**HER APPEARANCE YESTERDAY** presented nothing unusual to the spectator, looking from the wharf, save the American ensign floating at her stern. On board, however, were plentiful evidences of her recent occupation by troops and of her warlike destination. Upon the main deck piled up against the sides of the wheelhouse, were some twenty or thirty cases of muskets, marked with the words 'Major T. R. Holmes, Fort Columbus, N. Y. Harbor.' These were the arms of the soldiers who were sent to reinforce Fort Sumter. Occupying various positions on the same deck and in the hold were some hundred or more barrels of pork and other stores for the provisioning of the troops, and a quantity of supplies for the garrison at Fort Sumter. A number of boxes of cartridges were also stored away.

The quarters of the troops were in the forward cabin or steerage. An inspection of this locality at once exhibited the recent presence of military men. The floor was littered with old straps and other military paraphernalia, bearing the letters 'U.S.,' while the remnants of their meals were strewn around, forcibly reminding one of the soldier's life in camp and field. The number of berths originally in the steerage had not been sufficient to accommodate the detachment, and mattresses had been spread in the forward part of the cabin to supply the deficiency in the sleeping arrangements.

#### **THE SCENE ON BOARD DURING THE FIRING FROM THE FORT.**

The particulars of the attack upon the *Star of the West* have been stated in an official manner by Captain McGowan. A few further details in regard to the affair possess a great deal of interest. The first shot fired passed across the bow of the vessel and struck the water about a ship's length ahead. The American ensign at the fore peak was then unfurled, and the vessel continued on amid the fire of the battery; but receiving no answer by signal from Fort Sumter in response to the hoisting of the American flag, and a couple of vessels coming down the harbor at the same time, apparently with a hostile intention, her head was turned for sea once more.

During all this trying time, with the guns of the battery continually pouring out their deadly missiles, the most admirable order was preserved on board. The soldiers were sent below, and

no one allowed to remain on deck except the officers and crew. The captain and first officers were at the pilot house, while the second mate was ready on the forward deck to get the relieving tackle to work in the event of any of the balls striking the wheel and preventing control over the vessel's movements. That there was good need of this precaution is shown by the close proximity of a ball that passed over the wheelhouse. The shots fired at the vessel during the first part of the attack struck short of her, but, glancing up from the water, ricocheted over the vessel, and were plainly visible during their flight in this second direction.

### CHARLESTON MERCURY

#### Florida Takes her Forts.

PENSACOLA, January 12. - Fort Barancas, and the Pensacola Navy Yard, were taken possession of, at half past one o' today, by the Alabama and Florida troops. The Federal troops had already deserted the post after spiking the guns, and have occupied Fort Pickens. A ship with provisions is at Fort Pickens.

Capt. SHEPHERD intends running a small steamer with men, under the guns and attack the Fort. The Georgia troops, perhaps, will be necessary. Gov. BROWN, of Georgia, has telegraphed Capt. COLQUITT, who is in attendance at the Convention, to be ready with his company. He may be needed very soon. Maj. CHASE is in command of the Florida and Alabama troops.

#### From Louisiana.

THE FORTS OCCUPIED BY THE STATE TROOPS—THE PELICAN FLAG FLOATING OVER THEM—SECESSION CERTAIN, ETC.

All the troops in New Orleans were under arms last night, by order of Governor Moore. Five companies embarked this morning at two o' to seize the Arsenal at Baton Rouge. The Orleans Battalion Artillery and four companies embarked at eleven for Forts Jackson and St. Philip, forty miles below, on the Mississippi, commanding the approach of New Orleans. The wharf was crowded with citizens, who vociferously, cheered the departure of the steamer. Three companies left this afternoon on a steamer to seize Fort Pike, on Lake Pontchartrain. New regiments of troops are being organized. A rumor prevails that the war steamer *Crusader* is coming up the river, and the highest excitement prevails. Texas and Florida will also seize their fortifications. The troops in Tennessee and Mississippi are arming.

### DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

MONDAY 14

Something of a snowstorm today. Tonight is more like rain freezing as it falls. The walks are a glade of ice. There appears to be a more hopeful feeling abroad today in reference to the affairs of the country. The Govt is getting into the hands of Union men. The Cabinet is now composed entirely of that class. Genl Dix taking the place of Thomas. His first assistant (Clayton) has also resigned to save himself from being turned out. It is rumored today that all "seceders" are to be turned out if they do not resign their posts in the different Depts. Spent the evening next door, Mr Bartletts, clerk in State Dept.

## 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.

Material from *Skedaddle* comes from the public domain. During and after the civil war, there was a significant number of works published that included material related to the war, and, of course, in many instances the entire works were devoted to the topic. Nineteenth century material included in *Skedaddle* is from the public domain and thus, initially, free of copyright. However, once material is included and published in *Skedaddle*, it becomes a part of a compilation, which is protected under U. S. and international copyright laws. Much of the material used in *Skedaddle* is edited for space and content considerations. If material for an article is edited, that portion that is edited becomes new work protected under copyright laws.

*Skedaddle* is neither pro-North or pro-South. However, the material published in *Skedaddle*, in many instances, will be slanted one way or another as a result of the nineteenth century author's or subject's views and experiences. While the editor will try to maintain a balance between the two sides, there is simply a lot more material available from the side of the victors.

*Skedaddle* is not intentionally "politically correct." Articles, stories, and poems in our e-journal originated over 100 years ago. The views expressed and the language used will, in most instances, be included as published in the original text. When pieces are edited for space considerations, the text will not be intentionally altered to conform with twenty-first century sensitivities.

### Distribution Rights

We want our publication to be readily available in printed form for use, reading and reference. To facilitate this, we freely grant **print** re-distribution rights, subject only to the following limited restrictions

- Copies are not to be sold for profit
- Copies are not to be used for any commercial purpose
- Copies are to be printed as is, without modification
- Copies of the text only version of the e-journal sent by e-mail to subscribers may be forwarded and shared without restriction, but may not be published on any website, except in an archive such as that maintained by RootsWeb for its mailing lists.

### Reserved Rights

All other rights are retained by the copyright owner. Except for e-mail forwarding and sharing, **electronic republication** of either format of any issue of the e-journal **requires written permission** of the copyright owner.