

Skedaddle

JANUARY 28, 1861

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

REMINISCENCES OF FORTS SUMTER AND MOULTRIE IN 1860-'61

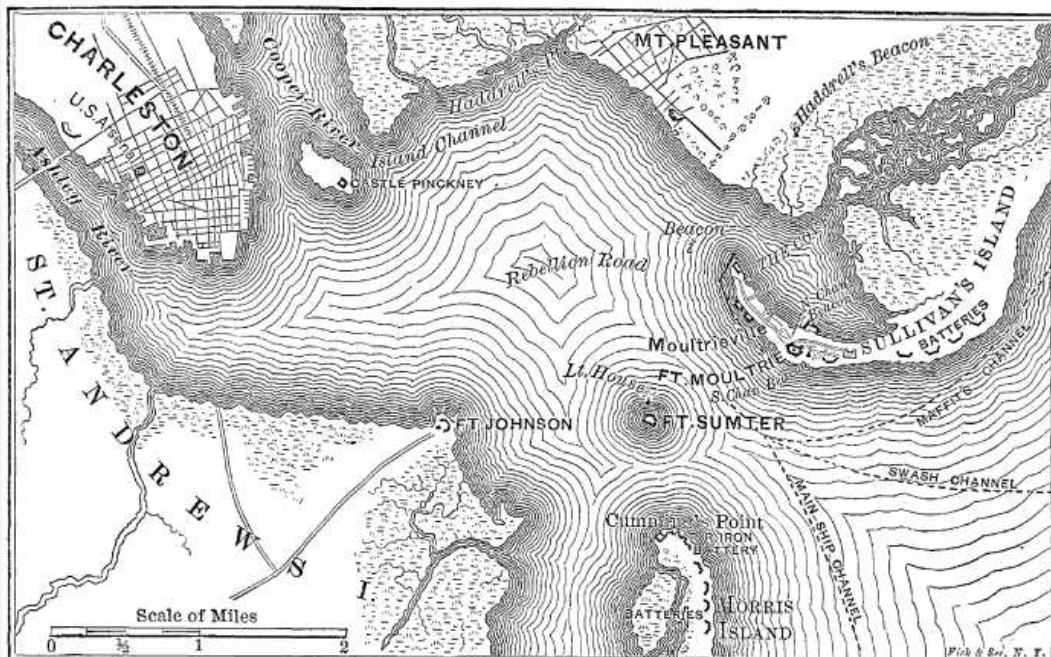
by Abner Doubleday

published 1876

(an excerpt)

Many unfavorable comments having been made, even in the Southern States, more particularly in Kentucky, in relation to Governor Pickens's treatment of us, he relaxed his severity, and on the 21st sent us over some fresh beef and vegetables; as if we would consent to be fed by the charity of South Carolina. Anderson showed

“The proposition to call a Convention in Virginia is opposed by all discreet men. The people of the State are opposed to Secession, or even to the consideration of the subject. This idea of a Convention is only a scheme of certain Richmond conspirators to get the representative power of the Commonwealth under their hands into a more compact and convenient form for manipulation.” —*Personal Recollections of the War—By a Virginian.*



a good deal of proper spirit on this occasion. He declined to receive the provisions, but notified the governor that, if we were not interfered with, we would purchase our own supplies in Charleston market. The governor consented to this; but nothing came of it. There seemed to be a combination among the market-men not to sell us any food. Indeed, this action of the governor made him very unpopular with the Rhett faction. Rhett rushed over to inform him that the people demanded that Fort Sumter should be taken without any further procrastination or delay. The governor made a very shrewd reply. He said, "Certainly, Mr. Rhett; I have no objection! I will furnish you with some men, and you can storm the work yourself." Rhett drew back and replied, "But, sir, I am not a military man!" "Nor I either," said the governor, "and therefore I take the advice of those that are!" After this, there was no further talk of an immediate assault. The action of the governor in this case almost gained him the reputation of a wit among the officers of his command.

Lieutenant Hall being absent on diplomatic duty, and Dr. Crawford being temporarily, and Lieutenant Talbot permanently on the sick-list, the rest of us were utterly worn out with the labor that devolved upon us. Guard duty was especially severe, as increased vigilance became necessary, in consequence of certain threatening preparations made by the enemy. The leaders in Charleston soon saw that the joint mission of Hall and Hayne could not possibly result in any thing decisive; but as every day added to their strength and resources, they did not choose to recall their commissioner. They left him to continue his arguments in relation to the "right of eminent domain," while they prepared for war. In the hope that some day they might take us by surprise, they had the guard-boats, which still patrolled the harbor, painted black, and all the lights and fires carefully screened from view. They probably intended to choose a dark night to drop down noiselessly with the tide, and take advantage of a sleepy sentinel, or some other favorable circumstance, to land a party on the rocks at the base of the wall, and seize the main entrance, or make their way in through one of the embrasures.

On the 24th, New York City, speaking through its mayor, Fernando Wood, seemed to offer the right hand of fellowship to the Secessionists. Certain arms which had been purchased by Georgia, to be used against the General Government, were detained in New York, and Ex-Senator Toombs telegraphed to Wood for an explanation. The latter characterized the detention as an outrage for which he was not responsible, and for which he would inflict summary punishment, if he had the power.

Lieutenant Meade returned faithfully on the 25th, but brought no news of importance.

On the 26th, Anderson applied for the code of naval signals, so that if a fleet at any time should cross the bar, he might communicate with it at a distance.

January 22, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

EXTRAORDINARY COMMERCIAL EFFECTS OF THE REVOLUTION UPON NEW YORK.

The political revolution now going forward at the South is resulting in a commercial revolution different in its effects from any that has ever preceded it. By the action of the secession States the usual channels of trade have been choked up in the Southern seaboard, and the result is that the commerce is directed to the city of New York from the interior by the railroads, which are now doing a thriving business.

The harvest never was so abundant, and the prosperity of the country never rose to so high a pitch, during the last year. The demand for its breadstuffs in Europe is unusually great. Money is pouring into New York from abroad. Ten millions of dollars have arrived within a very short time, and capital is daily accumulating here in an unprecedented manner. It cannot long remain

inactive when there are products in the interior for sale. Those who want to sell will find purchaser in New York, and trade will become unusually brisk.

Thus, though there may be very little personal communication between the citizens of the seceding States and the North, there will be a flourishing commercial intercourse, and its great centre will be the city of New York. The revolutionary condition of the South is driving the trade to this market, while it is impoverishing the southern ports in the same proportion. From this cause, and from the extraordinary abundance of the crops in the West, and the extraordinary demand for them in England, a great commercial revival is taking place here, and an amount of business will soon be done which will astonish those who imagined that, by their insane proceedings, they were inflicting a deadly blow upon the commerce of New York....

The News.

The excitement occasioned by the anticipated attack of the Florida troops upon Fort Pickens, at Pensacola, has subsided. It is now stated that Major Chase, the commander of the State forces, has telegraphed to Southern members of congress that he will not attack the fort, or obstruct the passage of vessels going and out of the port, unless the fort opens fire upon him. All that the secessionists desire now is that the status quo shall be observed strictly during the brief interval that the present administration remains in office.

Last evening, in consequence of information received at the Brooklyn Navy Yard of the intention of a mob from New York to make an attack on the North Carolina and the yard, one hundred marines were placed under arms to give them a warm reception should they make the attack. The police force was augmented, and posted where they could act in case of emergency, and the Fifth brigade of militia, under the command of Brigadier General Crooker, assembled at the Henry street armory and the arsenal to support the marines, if necessary. No attack was made, however.

The Post Office at Pensacola was abolished yesterday, the mail service discontinued, and the post masters throughout the country directed by the Post Office Department to send all letters addressed to Pensacola to the Dead Letter Office. This course is a consequence of the interception of the mails by the Florida authorities.

COCK FIGHTING IN THE CITY.

Yesterday afternoon, the vicinity of Luff, in Harlem lane, presented an animated spectacle. Dozens of carriages were driven up, well dressed gentlemen sprang out and passed into the bar-room, where some two or three hundred equally respectable in appearance were collected. Among the party there were several members of the common council, a prominent government official, several Wall street financiers and numbers of well known local politicians. John Morrissey, Dad Cunningham and others of that class made up a small party of the muscular fraternity. Of these, however, there were but few. The reason of this promiscuous gathering was the announcement that a choice lot of New York and Troy fowls were to contend for a purse of \$3,000 - Morrissey backing one side, and, it was said, a member of the city government the other.

The tickets of admission to the pit were \$3, and though considered a high price every seat was occupied, nearly \$900 being received for entrances alone. Morrissey, during some unavoidable delay in preparing the fowls, came into the pit and announced that his lot were affected by sickness and that in consequence \$2,600 he had bet outside was withdrawn, but the fight would go on as thirty eight out of the forty two entered were found to be in good condition. Then there was more delay, and why could not be imagined, until Captain Porter, of the Twelfth ward police, came into the pit and announced that there would be no fight that afternoon.

The disappointment of the fancy can better be imagined than described, but nevertheless, no ill feeling was manifested towards the captain, who was said to have simply obeyed orders from the police headquarters. This match has caused more excitement in sporting circles than any other of a similar character which has been made in years past. A sporting man present estimated that the persons at Luffy's yesterday were interested in the result to the extent of at least \$20,000.

The question may be fairly asked; was this match the cause of an adjournment of the board of Aldermen last evening because of the absence of a quorum?

CHARLESTON MERCURY

FREE TRANSPORTATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

We learn that the Northeastern Railroad Company has generously offered to transport, free of charge, the troops which have arrived from Darlington, Marion and Williamsburg. They have also offered to transport negroes intended for the service of the State. The following regulations of detail have been adopted:

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
NORTHEASTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
CHARLESTON, January 16, 1861.

The Northeastern Railroad Company have consented to convey to and from Charleston, free of charge, the Darlington Guards, the Marion Volunteers, and the Kingstree Company, subject to the following regulations, which will be strictly observed, on and after this date:

Any member of either the above named companies, or others, conveyed over the road, having a furlough, will be required to pay his full fare, going and returning, under said furlough.

Any member having a discharge from service from the Captain of his Company, and who will show the same at the Railroad Ticket Office, and have it countersigned by the Agent, will be passed over the Road, free of charge.

All negroes, intended for the service of the State, with their owner, or one white person to superintend them, will be passed to and from Charleston, free of charge, provided such owner or white person first obtains permission from the Company's Superintendent, otherwise he will pay the usual fares to the city, which amount will be refunded by this company, upon presentation of the Quarter Master General's certificate, upon being shown to the Company Ticket Agent, will secure their return free of charge.

In all cases, where these regulations, are not complied with, the Conductors of the Trains will collect the full fares of the Company.

S. S. SOLOMONS, Eng. and Sup. Northeastern Railroad.

MARYLAND MOVING.

Large secession meetings have been held in all the counties of Maryland and the people have taken the Convention question into their own hands. Committees of leading citizens have been appointed to make arrangements for an election to take place throughout the State on the fourth of February, for delegates to a State convention to assemble at Annapolis on the third Monday of February. The obstinacy of the Black Republican Governor HICKS, in refusing to call the Legislature, will, it is said, rather accelerate than retard the secession movement in the State.

FEDERAL TROOPS IN VIRGINIA.

The Federal Troops, it appears, though not permitted to pass through Virginia, on their way

South, are yet suffered to take possession of Virginia herself. If not designed for convenient transit to the South, why are they now sent to Virginia? If the Virginians persuade themselves that these troops are sent to her fortresses, at this juncture, for no purpose under heaven, they are philosophers of a school that recognizes none of the teachings of history. The fortresses of Virginia are manned by the Federal Troops to overawe Virginia; to keep down all patriotic sentiment....

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1861.

The fact there exists an extensive conspiracy to break up the Government, one of long standing, is growing more apparent every day. The Secession of Virginia and Maryland is a part of the program and the securing of this City accomplishes the desired end. Nothing but concessions on the part of the north will prevent the secession of those States. If no compromise is made, then nothing but a large force will ensure the Inauguration of Mr Lincoln on the 4th March. The next month must settle a great question for this country.

January 23, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

All danger of an immediate collision of the federal and State forces at Forts Sumter and Pickens is at an end. It is understood that peace shall be preserved until the 4th of March. Whether the armistice will continue after that date no one can predict.

The House Navy and Army committees are, it is reported, engaged in the preparation of bills placing both arms of the public service on a war footing. The enrollment of volunteers will be recommended, and also the construction of a number of light draft steamers for coast service.

THE POOR OF NEW YORK IN THE CRISIS.

The official reports of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction show that they have now under their charge, 8,777 persons as inmates of the city institutions, an increase of 465 over 1860, and of 850 over 1859 – corresponding periods. Statistics as to the condition of the outdoor poor are still more suggestive. Our reporters have ascertained that the distress among the laboring classes in this city is unprecedented. As many as twenty eight thousand persons, able and willing to work, are now idle. The superintendent of Outdoor Poor has received no less than ten thousand applications for coal during the last two or three weeks. The same official receives daily applications from mechanics who wish to be committed to the Workhouse. Beyond this there is of course an immense amount of suffering which is concealed through false pride and shame. Would it not be well for our republican friends, bank presidents and so on, who voted for Lincoln, to devise some plan for the alleviation of the misery which the political excitement consequent upon his election has caused in the Northern cities? In the South we find the negroes sleek, fat, comfortable and devoted to their masters. In the North the white slaves are walking about the streets with the alternatives of pauperism, starvation or crime. The contrast is not a very pleasant one for us, but it is absurd to deny that such is the state of things.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN VIRGINIA

Our Richmond Correspondence.

RICHMOND, January 19, 1861.

The True State of Affairs in Virginia - What will Save the State for the South - Northern Efforts to Sow Discord in the Old Dominion, etc., etc.

As affairs are fast approaching a crisis, I give you the true state of things in Virginia. Parties are nearly equally divided in this State, the secessionists still being in a small majority; but owing to an imbecile Legislature, not elected with reference to present complications, and consequently misrepresenting our people through ignorance, and the Republicans at Washington and traitors in our midst working upon and holding out deceptive hopes of adjustment to this weak body of Virginia Representatives, sentiment is changing with us, and I apprehend the triumph of the submissionists. The only thing that can save us, and unite the whole South, is the capture of Fort Sumter before the end of this month. This will bring all Virginia to arms, and the Border States will follow her. You have no idea of the efforts of imposture made now on our people. Northern ingenuity is exhausting itself upon this State, knowing it is the citadel of Southern union. South Carolina, by acting at once, can cause a united South. Delay on her part will certainly divide us. Therefore, as much as I deplore bloodshed, I must advise prompt action. The question now is, resistance or submission. Richmond is all right, and will elect secession candidates to the convention. The election takes place on the 4th of February, so no time is to be lost by you.

January

FAVORABLE SIGNS.

We are very happy, says the Washington Star, to have it in our power to say that the Government here has become satisfied that all danger of hostile collision between its forces and those engaged in the secession movement is rapidly disappearing. The revolutionary authorities of South Carolina have entirely changed their policy, and are now arriving to prevent and avoid the collision in Charleston harbor they were evidently striving to precipitate up to very recently. It is believed that this change of their tactics is the result of the growing desire of the people of South Carolina for a settlement of the difficulties without the permanent destruction of the Union; and that it means that the revolutionary authorities of that State are acting under the advice of leading sympathizers with their cause in other States (such as FITZPATRICK, of Alabama, who has never had any part in the movement; MASON, who represents a border State; DAVIS, who expects to reconstruct the Union; and CLAY, who comes from North Alabama, the lowest toned place in the Cotton States).

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

WEDNESDAY 23

United States troops are quietly being brought here and are now quartered in different parts of the City. The President is undoubtedly informed of all the movements of the Traitors, and preparations are being made for the reception of any such visitors. The conspiracy has its ramifications through all the departments without a doubt. Men receiving pay from the Govt (as Clerks &c) but ready to turn against it at a moments warning. I can hardly hope that that [sic] all will be well six weeks hence. Heaven grant that it may be. Was at Willards an hour tonight.

January 24, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

A sentry on Sullivan's Island, in the harbor of Charleston, fired into a boat from Fort Sumter on Monday night. The boat was manned by three men, and as they neared the beach they were ordered off; but failing to obey, the sentry fired upon them, whereupon they beat a retreat. It was believed that one man was wounded badly. While some persons supposed the men in the boat were deserters, others believed that they were a party bound upon the desperate expedition of spiking the guns of the secession battery.

The muskets seized on board the Savannah steamer Monticello on Tuesday still remain at the arsenal in Seventh avenue, and General superintendent Kennedy says that no claimant appeared yesterday with a view of recovering the same. The United States district Attorney was notified that a large quantity of powder and cartridges were shipped on board the Charleston steamer yesterday, but no steps were taken to prevent the departure of the alleged contraband goods to their destination.

The Second ward police yesterday, by direction of Superintendent Kennedy, seized twenty five cases, containing five hundred muskets, on board the schooner Caspian. These arms were intended for some point at the south, and were seized as contraband merchandise.

MISTAKEN VIEWS OF A SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

An opinion prevails among the republicans that in the event of the Southern States seceding and forming a separate confederacy, they would be unable to command influence or credit abroad. This is a mistake. A Southern confederacy would enjoy as much credit as might be required either in London, Paris or New York. The mere fact of its being the only great cotton producing country in the world, and so having the world dependent upon it, would insure this; and however great the repugnance of the English to the institution of slavery, it will be a long time before they leave off wearing shirts, because those useful articles happen to be manufactured from slave grown cotton. In order to enable the confederacy to raise an ample revenue it would be only necessary to impose an export duty of a cent per pound upon the staple product. Cotton consumers would have no alternative but to submit, and there is no doubt they would do so willingly. Moreover, the southern States are possessed of more mineral treasures than may be generally supposed. The mountains of the northern slave States abound in coal and iron more than the British islands ever did; and yet coal and iron made England what she is. Missouri is particularly rich in this respect. So is Georgia. Gold is found in sufficient quantities, here and there over the entire territory, to yield a large profit beyond the expenses of mining, and there are many other natural advantages which might be enumerated as belonging to this section of our country.

There is now gaining strength in Canada, and indeed throughout the whole of British North America, a strong revolutionary feeling in favor of a confederation of all the colonies; and should there really be an irrevocable split in the United States, there will be no slight probability of one or more of these forsaking the protection of England and joining the Northern confederacy. There is no natural boundary between Canada and Maine, and very little difference of opinion.

EXTRAORDINARY INCREASE OF NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION.

The circulation of the HERALD is now greater than that of all the other New York daily two cent journals put together, and enjoys the largest circulation of any daily paper in the world.

Within the past year it has increased over twenty thousand, and the demand is still greater than our present means of supply.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

A SIX GUN BATTERY UPON THE MISSISSIPPI FIRING INTO A CINCINNATI STEAMBOAT.

Our Vicksburg Correspondence.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Jan. 14, 1861. Guarding the 'Father of Waters.'- Suspended Steamboats brought to. - A Six Gun Battery upon the Mississippi Firing into a Cincinnati Steamboat. - The Resistance Feeling in the State, etc., etc.

A despatch was received here on Friday, from Memphis, to the effect that it was expected that General HARNEY, with a body of five hundred Federal troops, would soon come down the Mississippi on the steamboat Silver Wave, to recapture the Louisiana forts and arsenals. Instantly the whole city was astir. It did not take long for our people to determine that no troops should ever pass here on such an errand. A half a dozen twelve pounders were immediately brought out and planted upon the bluff commanding the river. A company of Minute Men, manned the battery, and a rigid watch was kept upon the stream, night and day. Every boat passing downward toward New Orleans was hailed and examined, and most of them took the necessary interruption in good part.

This matters wore along until 10 o' yesterday morning, when the steamer J. O. Taylor, of Cincinnati, made her appearance, downward bound. As she paid no attention to the hailing, a blank cartridge was fired at her to give her a hint that she must stop. This, too, being disregarded the shotted guns were brought to bear upon her. This had the desired effect. She speedily rounded to, and after submitting to the proper investigation was permitted to pass on. This watch, so necessary at a time like the present when old SCOTT is at his tricks, will be resolutely maintained, and the coercionists, if they mean to subjugate the South, must take some other route than the Mississippi.

Since this State has been out of the Union all party lines have been obliterated, and the people are daily growing more united and determined for resistance. Hundreds of our young men are eager to help to fight the battles of your State if she should need their services.

SOUTHERN SYMPATHY.

It is indeed a goodly sight to see the spirit with which the people of the South are hastening to offer substantial aid towards the defence of Charleston. Almost daily our columns contain acknowledgments of liberal and unsolicited contributions in money from citizens of our sister States. Not content with this, scores of gallant Southerners, from beyond our borders, are coming into our city to vie with the sons of the Palmetto Republic for the post of peril.

We learn that F. POPHAM, Esq., a member of the last Virginia Legislature, is now doing duty as a private in the ranks of the Carolina Light Infantry.

Yesterday Messrs. J. M. SABLETT and THOMAS ANDERSON, both of Yazoo city, Mississippi, arrived to tender their services to sustain our cause. They report that they left large numbers in their immediate neighborhood who are ready to come the moment they are needed.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

THURSDAY 24

There was a little snow last night and this morning it rained and the streets were in an awful condition. I did not go to the office until 10 o'clock. No news stirring. Was down at the "National" this evening. It seems to be filling up, as do all the Hotels. People seem less excited

than they did, but await the events of the next month with much solicitude, but confidence is in a great measure restored and the Govt is expected to go on as usual. The Presidents Peace policy is generally approved of as best for the time being.

January 25, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, backed by seven hundred State troops, yesterday morning demanded the surrender of the United States Arsenal at Augusta. At noon the demand was complied with. The federal troops saluted their flag and retired. The arsenal, at the time of the surrender, was occupied by a company of United States soldiers, who had, it is reported, been sent to Augusta at the solicitation of the citizens, who desired to protect the property from apprehended attack by a mob.

The Louisiana State convention met on Wednesday, and after organizing, adopted a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee which reported an ordinance of secession yesterday. Entire unanimity prevailed throughout the proceedings. The Legislature of Louisiana has endorsed the action of the Governor with reference to the capture of the fortifications.

Our Washington despatches state that news had reached there that the Legislature of Kentucky had decided against calling a State Convention. This is considered as equivalent to a declaration against secession.

Ex-President Tyler, the Virginia Commissioner appointed to wait upon the President and urge the avoidance of a collision with the secessionists, had an interview with Mr. Buchanan yesterday. It is believed that the only danger of a collision rests with the secessionists themselves. If they remain peaceable there will be no trouble.

Captain Doubleday, writing from Fort Sumter on the 20th inst., denies the report put in circulation by Charleston papers that disaffection exists among the garrison. He represents the troop as in cheerful spirits, and prepared to defend the fort to the last. He also states that mortars have been placed by the South Carolinians on the land nearest the fort, and that two steamers watched the fort all night on the 19th inst.

Just previous to the sailing of the steamship Montgomery for Savannah yesterday afternoon, a posse of the steamboat squad of police went on board for the purpose of examining the freight put on board by Adam's Express Company. Capt. Berry notified them he was just ready to leave, and to prove the act to them ordered the fasts to be cut (having been previously singled), at the same time starting the engine ahead, when, to avoid a trip to sea, the police hastily scrambled ashore and the steamer shot out into the North river amid the cheers of the crowd assembled on the dock, who gave three cheers for Capt. Berry and three more for Capt. Fletcher.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE PENSACOLA FORTS.

(From the Mobile Advertiser.)

Popular interest in warlike movements now centres nearer at home than when Charleston was the only point from which radiated the war excitements of the day. The immense interest of at least three States - Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida - is now becoming alive to the importance of occupying the forts within the borders of the latter commonwealth. We see repeated at Pensacola the manoeuvre of Anderson at Moultrie. There are three forts at Pensacola, a Navy Yard, and a redoubt. Commander Armstrong has abandoned the Navy Yard and Fort Barancus,

removing munitions, and spiking guns, and transferring his forces, amounting in the aggregate to between two and three hundred men, from the main land to Santa Rosa Island, has prepared to make good his position within the immensely strong fortifications of Fort Pickens. Whether he has abandoned Fort McCree, also, we are not advised, but we doubt if he has. This fortress is a powerful and castle-like masonry erection, built on a low sand pit of the main land, and appearing to rise out of the water. It is further seaward than Fort Pickens, of which it is the vis a vis across the channel, and a vessel entering must needs run the gauntlet of its guns before approaching the latter, which, however, of itself effectually closes the harbor against the admission of an enemy of even very heavy force.

Fort Pickens is designed to mount no less than two hundred and twelve guns, and under the protection of its immense batteries the ships of an enemy could make good their harbor in the Bay of Pensacola, or if they did not care to run the risk from shore batteries, which could not be in very dangerous range, they could land forces and supplies on the fort to the eastward of Santa Rosa Island, which is some forty miles long, and thus throw in reinforcements and rendezvous even an army at the fort without interruption, unless of a force intrenched on the Island itself, in the rear of the fort - which, however, is almost if not quite as defensible from rear as front. If we are to have war, the seizure of this stronghold is, of course, of the first importance, for unless it is occupied by us, it will secure to the enemy a base of operations along our whole gulf coast, and keep open a road right in the heart of the South, which cannot be obstructed by any fixed fortifications. Once within the gates of the harbor, and an army could be disembarked at any point on the wide bay which it might select. It could run up beyond the Escambia river and land many hours ahead of any opposing force which might be at Pensacola; beside placing a wide river between it and the latter - or even two rivers, the Escambia and Blackwater - by going far enough up. Hence, with a start of at least forty-eight hours, it could march into Interior Alabama. An enemy holding Fort Pickens could rendezvous a naval force there and keep up a blockade of all the ports of the Gulf unless we could meet it on the sea.

KEEP BACK THE COTTON.

Let the patriots and planters of the South keep back their cotton. In March Europe will need supplies. If our ports are blockaded, Europe will find a way to open them. We can live - our Southern people - for we only send a surplus crop to market. The Cotton States have only need to agree, in confederation, and as an independent power, demand the recognition of Europe. Texas alone, was gladly acknowledged as such, and Great Britain, through her diplomats, tried her best to keep her from entering the United States Confederacy. With all the Cotton States united, we can bind the world to pledges of recognition, and even alliance. We can declare our ports free to the trade of all the world, New England excepted; discriminate between Southern and Northern bottoms; issue letters of marque and reprisal, and play such a game with our blockading gentry as will cure them very soon of their warlike passions. Only be firm, trust no business politicians, and let the COLT'S and the cannon be ready.

THE BLOCKADE OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

(From the Memphis Avalanche, January 17.)

Just above Vicksburg, by direction of Governor Pettus, a battery has been erected, and every boat from North of Mason & Dixon's line is compelled to round to, and give an account of themselves. The Imperial, from this port, passed there during the night, and was forced to land at the behest of a twelve pound shot fired across her bows. Of course she was all right, and went on. The new Republic is going to work in earnest.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1861.

The weather has been moderate today without rain, or sunshine. Political excitement appears to be subsiding in a measure. The conservative feeling in the border States is now relied upon to save the Union, or Civil War. Many prominent men are here now from different sections of the U.S. Kentucky has refused to call a convention as required by the secessionists. It is a good omen for the future. I was down at the "National" and at "Willards" tonight, could learn no news of importance. The condition of the country is still the absorbing topic of conversation.

January 26, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

Our Washington correspondent announces that the government has despatched reinforcements to Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, and Fort Pickens, at Pensacola, and this report is somewhat confirmed by the departure of the steam sloop-of-war Brooklyn from Norfolk on Thursday, bound South, with sealed orders, having on board two companies of soldiers from Fort Monroe. The preparations of the government have been quietly made and there is reason to believe the expedition will prove successful.

There was a report current in Washington yesterday that the Grand Jury of the district had indicted Mr. Floyd, ex-Secretary of War, for malfeasance in office.

A company of fifty United States troops from Governor Island was landed yesterday on pier No. 1, East river, destined for Washington city.

THE HOMELESS POOR OF NEW YORK.

The poor of New York are divided into two great classes - those who have homes, such as they are, and those who when they awake in the morning know not where they will sleep the next night. Of this latter class there are at least a thousand in the city, of whom about one half find shelter every night in the different stations houses throughout the city. This portion is made up of laborers, tradesmen and poor women out of employment, with a small number of unfortunate inebriates who have managed to escape being sent up on the Island as vagrants. In estimating the number of houseless poor in New York at a thousand we are certain we fall very considerably short of the actual count, but then it must be remembered that many of these procure temporary employment and are enabled to provide themselves with a home for at least a week at a time. There are, however, at least a thousand who wander about the city every day, living upon whatever alms they receive, and sleeping in the police stations or cheap lodging houses where they can procure a bed for six pence or a shilling a night, the owners thereof being very little better off than themselves. The number of these homeless and destitute poor, although subject to frequent reductions under the Vagrant act which consigns them to the public institutions, is constantly recruited by the daily accessions made to it by the unemployed who come in from the country, where they have worked upon farms, but where their services are no longer required. We have shown how several of these unfortunate free white citizens are obliged to bind themselves into slavery to the State for certain terms, during which they are obliged to work in return for their food alone! This is the only alternative which is left to save them from starvation, and in some cases that we have seen they are only too willing to accept it. During the present winter there has been a large increase in the class of unfortunates, as shown by the returns of the past four or five days, compared with the average daily returns of the same time last year. From the report of the Superintendent of Police for the quarter ending January 31, 1860, we find that the number of persons accommodated with lodgings in the twenty six station houses of New York was 22, 051. This gives a nightly average of about 240, which is about one half of the number who now find shelter within their walls, although, as will be seen, that shelter is to some instances not of the same desirable character. The following are the returns recorded on the police books for five nights:-

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of lodgers January 19..... | 523 |
| “” January 20..... | 412 |
| “” January 21..... | 476 |
| “” January 22 | 534 |
| “” January 23 | 525 |

This is certainly a sad exhibit, but it does not tell the whole story, for there are several who are unable to procure lodgings some nights on account of the crowded state of the houses. The shelter which is afforded to the unfortunate applicants is called a lodging, but that our readers may not form a wrong impression as to what is meant by the term as applied to station houses, we will give them the result of a visit to two of these institutions. While in the office of the first station house at which we called an applicant made his appearance, accompanied by a man who had kindly undertaken to show him the way, for the poor fellow had but lately come from the country and was ignorant of the ways of the city. he was examined by the Captain, who asked him the prescribed form of questions, the following being the results of the inquiry:-

“What’s your name

“Jacob —.”

“Where were you born!”

“In Germany.”

“What is your business?”

“I work on a farm.”

“How long are you in this country?”

“Three years.”

“Have you any family?”

“Only myself.”

“Where have you been working?”

“I have been working out at Newark.”

“How long have you been out of work?”

“Five weeks.”

“How did you come to get discharged?”

“I don’t know; I suppose because they had no work.”

“When did you come to New York?”

“The day before yesterday.”

“Where did you sleep last night?”

“I slept in the Fourth ward station house.”

“Where are you going tomorrow?”

“I am going to look for work.”

This terminated the examination, and the man was shown to his place, whither in company we followed, to take a look both at it and its occupants. And such a lodging and such a scene we do not care ever to witness again. Down a narrow stairs we proceeded to the basement floor, emerging into a hall, on either side of which were some four or five cells with iron grated doors, while at one end was the lodgers’ apartment, to which, and its occupants, we shall immediately refer. Before doing so, however, there is another scene of which we wish to speak. At one side of a huge stove, which is employed to heat the cells and the lodging apartment, were seated two poor women who were out of employment. They were both natives of England, and had been out of work for some weeks, although they were willing, as they said, to engage themselves for even the lowest wages, but they found it impossible so far to get employment on any terms. They had no home and no means to pay for other lodging, and were only too glad to get even this shelter from the streets. It was a sad sight to see them as they sat there and to know that there are thousands of their sex in this city in a hardly better condition, although they have what maybe doing violence to the English language, be called a home.

And now for the lodging apartment into which we were introduced by the Captain, who informed us as a sort of precautionary measure that we must look out for our nose. Whatever doubts we might have had as to the meaning of his warning we had none when the door was opened, for such a smell as issued from that room we have rarely, if ever, perceived. There was no ventilation, and some idea may be formed of the effect of the close confinement of about thirty persons in a room not larger at the utmost than forty feet by forty. It was like the stench that might come from a charnel house, or from the black hole of Calcutta. The room was dark when we entered, but the gas was lit so as to give a full view of the interior. There on a large bench, which was intended to represent a bed, and which was raised about two feet from the floor, were stretched about twenty men, lying side by side, and so closely packed that it was with difficulty they could turn. Close as they lay, they were, however, obliged to lie still closer, to make room for the new comer, who took a melancholy survey of the scene, evidently doubtful as to whether he had improved his condition by accepting the hospitality of a station house. Some of the men had the appearance of tradesman, some of laborers, while a few looked as if they were habituated to this life by intemperance. The respectable part of the lodgers shrank from observation, apparently ashamed of the condition to which they had been reduced, and which was one that to their sensitive feelings was more irksome than almost any degree of servitude could be to a Southern slave. In the morning they would be all started off to get their breakfast wherever they might be so fortunate as to find it, and at night should they not succeed

in procuring employment, to again seek a refuge at the same place, or in one of the other station houses.

In the second station house we visited the lodgers were placed in cells, on the floors of which they slept. It was somewhat better arranged than the first, although it had certainly, at the best, a rather uninviting appearance. In one of these cells were two women, one of whom was moaning in her sleep as if in much pain, while the other was complaining bitterly of the cold and piteously asking for some clothing. It is needless, however, to say that in the station houses bed clothes are an unknown luxury, and as for mattresses such things are entirely out of the question. An elevated wooden bench or the floor is the only bed on which station house lodgers are permitted to stretch themselves, and if they don't sleep upon either of these the sooner they can accustom themselves to them the better, particularly if they are forced to frequent these municipal lodging houses. In a cell nearly opposite to that of which these poor women were lying was a man who had been arrested on a charge of attempting to murder. His face was besmeared with blood, and bore the marks of a desperate struggle, while his hands were actually clotted with gore. He came to the door of his cell, protesting his innocence, and with his blood besmeared face and hands he presented a horrid appearance. Mingled with his exclamations of his innocence were the complaints of the poor woman and the moans of her sleeping companion, the effect of all which was enough to oppress the most buoyant with the most melancholy feelings. Here were two unfortunate women forced by extreme poverty into the same habitation with a man charged with the crime of murder, for the law is no respecter of persons and makes little distinction between crime and destitution. Those who think we have no slavery in our city would do well to have their minds disabused of that error by visiting one of our city station houses and seeing how the night lodgers are accommodated.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE BROOKLYN.

The information that the Brooklyn sailed on Thursday evening from Hampton Roads, with troops on board, bound South, reached this city on the same night. It is to be presumed that her destination is Pensacola, although a bright lookout will be kept for her at the entrance of this harbor. The people of South Carolina have so perfectly lost faith in the Government of the United States, that it is preposterous to expect them to remain tranquil so long as Fort Sumter is liable to reinforcements; and consequently the certain knowledge of the intelligence above referred to has renewed to some extent the excitement of a few weeks past.

We surmise, however, that the destination of the Brooklyn is Pensacola, as that place is, from its situation, its harbor, fortifications, and Navy Yard, a position of prime military importance. To send her there, therefore, seems the most natural move of the United States Government, and we may expect to hear of her arrival at that point within the next five or six days. Should she succeed in reinforcing Fort Pickens, Pensacola, the only fortified point within our grasp with a harbor suitable for naval purposes, will be lost to the South, and will be used by the enemy to fit out and shelter its fleets. With these facts, which are as plain as daylight before us, Southern politicians are to be found who have counselled an inaction which can only result in the catastrophe alluded to. So soon as Fort Pickens is reinforced, we presume the surrender of the Navy Yard, under the cover of its guns, will be demanded, and this being refused, it will be reduced to ashes by the shells from the fortifications; thus will be destroyed not only the only Navy Yard on the Gulf, but the only one in the southern Confederacy - which we hope to see formed, but which our reconstruction politicians are by sinister and secret efforts striving to strangle in its birth. Enough already has the South yielded for peace; let us no longer be deceived by its dreams, and let us learn that our only salvation is in looking to ourselves, and in

leaving the Federal Union, as we would leave any other foreign Government to take care of itself. We have done with it forever; and let us crush, as we would a viper, any man who would whisper in our ears the word reconstruction.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SATURDAY 26

A regular snow storm today, snow four or five inches deep. Nothing important occurs from day today here. But the Govt is posting troops in different parts of the City for its protection. We were just startled by hearing two pistol shots and a cry of Watch Watch on Franklin Square near our house. Did not go down to the "Avenue" this evening on account of the snow. Usually do go down to the Hotels and get the "Herald" or "Times," sometimes the "Tribune." I take the City papers (two). The Balt "Sun," Home J[ournal], N.Y. Lyons paper, Scientific American, &c. I read daily a number of other papers and a good deal in Books, mostly relating to Steam. Business in the Pa[ten]t office is very dull this winter as might be expected.

January 27, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The State of Louisiana is now added to the list of seceding States. The ordinance of secession was passed in the State Convention yesterday by a vote of 113 to 17. A deathlike silence prevailed during the calling of the roll, and many members were in tears. When the vote was announced the President of the Convention declared Louisiana a free and sovereign republic. The Convention adopted a resolution guaranteeing the free navigation of the Mississippi river.

The chronological order of the secession movement is as follows:

1. Dec. 20. South Carolina.
2. Jan. 9 Mississippi..
3. Jan. 11 Florida.
4. Jan. 11 Alabama.
5. Jan. 19 Georgia
6. Jan. 26 Louisiana.

The secession junta at Washington, having learned the intention of the government to reinforce the forts on the gulf coast, have telegraphed to Charleston and Pensacola, advising the State authorities to be on the alert. Major Chase, the commander of the Florida forces at Pensacola, has been advised to seize upon Fort Pickens, and as the officer in command of the garrison is represented to be a man of spirit and determination, it is likely that we shall soon have news of a hostile collision between the opposing forces.

The State troops of Louisiana, on the 11th inst., seized upon the United States barracks, situated about two miles below New Orleans, which have been used as a marine hospital for the treatment of sick sailors. At the time of the seizure there were two hundred and sixteen invalids and convalescents in the hospital. The Collector of New Orleans was required to remove the convalescents immediately, and the sick as soon as practicable. The only reason assigned for this discreditable conduct on the part of the State authorities, is, that they wanted the buildings for quarters for their own troops. It is said the federal government has no authority nor means to make provision for the invalids, and they are consequently thrown upon the charity of persons more merciful than the authorities of Louisiana.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SUNDAY 27

The snow is about 6 or 7 inches deep and some attempts at sleigh riding are made but there seems to be a sad deficiency in vehicles of that kind, but the ring of sleigh bells has been quite common today. It has thawed in the sun all day. I was in at Willards. The House seemed to be quite full. Called at Cramers and spent an hour. Mr Russell from Saratoga there, took tea there. The moon is at its full and it is almost as light as day out. Every one you meet looks grave and anxious.

January 28, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

From Washington we learn that the city was very quiet yesterday. Despatches from Charleston received there state that much excitement existed in regard to the departure of the Brooklyn from Norfolk with troops.

As soon as it became known that the Brooklyn and other vessels had been ordered South, despatches were sent to Charleston and Pensacola informing the authorities at those places that these vessels had reinforcements for the Southern forts and to be on the look out. The destination of the Brooklyn is said to be Pensacola, where she may be expected to arrive the latter part of this week. It was stated in Washington that late Saturday evening a despatch was sent to Major Chase, in command of the State troops at Pensacola, advising him to seize Fort Pickens without delay. Should this officer see proper to follow this advice a collision between the State and federal authorities is almost inevitable.

The Louisiana Convention on Saturday passed the ordinance declaring that State a free and sovereign republic by a vote of 113 yeas to 17 nays. A resolution declaring the right of free navigation of the Mississippi river and tributaries to all friendly States was passed, and the Convention adjourned to meet in New Orleans on the 29th inst. The resolution to submit the ordinance to a vote of the people was defeated.

From Springfield we learn that Mr. Lincoln will start for Washington on the 14th of February, and will proceed by the way of Indianapolis, Cleveland, Buffalo, Albany, Harrisburg and Baltimore to the federal capital.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI TO BE UNOBSTRUCTED.

We are glad to see by the message of Governor Pettus, of Mississippi, and the proceedings of the Louisiana Convention, that the people of those States have no idea of following the suicidal example of South Carolina, and ruining their own commerce in order to carry out their extreme political notions. The subject of the navigation of the Mississippi is one of the great practical importance, perhaps the greatest among all the complications involved in the problem of disunion. Five and twenty years ago, before the whistle of the locomotive - the herald of progress and civilization - had been heard west of the Alleghanies or south of Baltimore, the act of shutting up the lower Mississippi to Northern trade would have ruined the great West. Now, however, the farmers and producers of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin have other markets, and the south depends upon them, not they upon the South. If Louisiana and Mississippi agreed to throw obstacles in the way of the free navigation of the Father of Rivers, they would cut their own throats; and they know it as well as we do. Latterly there has been a great excitement all over the North and West in consequence of the fact that the State authori-

ties of Mississippi had caused the erection of batteries near Vicksburg, and that steamboats passing down the river were fired upon in case they did not stop at that point. There was a good deal of fierce talk on both sides, and some Western Governors drew ensanguined pictures of possible difficulties to take place among the canebrakes and woodyards of the Mississippi. It appears however, that these batteries were temporary affairs, built to prevent the reinforcement of the forts at points below Vicksburg, more especially those at New Orleans. The Louisiana Convention made haste to declare that the navigation of the river should be free to all States and Powers. The Governor of Mississippi recommends that the prompt and efficient measures be adopted to make known to the people of the Northwestern States that peaceful commerce on the Mississippi river will neither be interrupted nor annoyed by the people of Mississippi. We agree with the Governor in the statement that will preserve peace between the South and the Northwest, if it can be preserved. Further than that, we believe that civil war, if it comes at all, will not break out in that quarter. The war policy of the new administration would undoubtedly be the starvation of the South, by blocking up its ports and destroying its commerce. Accordingly to present appearances, the Charleston and Mobile people having saved the republicans the trouble of shutting out their foreign and coasting trade, and the Orleans seeming almost as crazy as their friends on the seaboard, there will be no necessity for coercion in that shape. However that may be, we regard the course of Louisiana and Mississippi upon the matter of the river navigation as being not only very important in a commercial point of view, but likewise a very cheering sign that our political affairs are not in such a bad way as to be altogether hopeless. Let Chicago rejoice and Wall street be comforted. Trade, calm health of nations, will still flow unrestricted from the Falls of St. Anthony to the Delta of the Mississippi.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE SECESSION OF LOUISIANA.

Reception of the News.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BATON ROUGE, January 26. - The Committee reported the Ordinance of Immediate Secession this morning. At ten minutes past one othe vote upon its adoption was taken, and amid the greatest excitement, the result was announced as follows: Yeas, 113, nays, 17. The Ordinance will be signed by all the Delegates.

There is intense joy and enthusiasm among the people here. The Pelican flag has been unfurled, and the military are firing salutes.

THE NEWS IN NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, January 26. When the fact that the State was out of the Union became known here the Washington Artillery fired a salute of a hundred guns. Salutes were also fired in Jackson Square, Annunciation Square, and the Place d'Armes. The Pelican banner was flung to the breeze from prominent points, and the demonstrations of public joy were general.

OUR FLAG.

On Saturday last both Houses of the General Assembly finally concurred in the design of the flag which is hereafter to represent the Sovereign State of South Carolina. The field is dark blue. Upon the upper inner corner of the flag is the crescent, in white, the horns pointing upward. In the middle of the flag is an oval, in white, emblazoned with a golden palmetto, upright. The cut we present will give an idea of the proportions of the new ensign.

ACCOUNTS FROM FORT SUMTER. - WHAT CAPTAIN DOUBLEDAY SAYS.

(From the Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore Exchange.)

I have been permitted to peruse a very interesting letter from Lieutenant DOUBLEDAY,

of Fort Sumter, received last night, in which he says:

“While the leaders are becoming more pacific the mob is becoming more outrageous and ungovernable. I hear they are loud in threats about me. They say there may be some excuse for other officers, as they are supposed to be Southern men performing a duty disagreeable to them, but I am an open Republican and enemy. Some influential Southern men have written to Governor Pickens that this refusal to allow us to hold any communication with the city, and his interference with our mails, has made South Carolina enemies in many Southern States, and he has been urged to relax his severity. We have been living on our rations and a few vegetables laid in for Capt. Foster’s workmen, who went away; and yet the MERCURY has the impudence to say we are fed by them. We have received no supplies of any kind from Charleston, with the single trifling exception of a box of candles smuggled in. If Major Anderson is allowed the privilege of contracting for fresh meats, as is done everywhere in the army, he will exercise it, but if it is proposed as a present for South Carolina, he will not receive it. The country people who never saw a gun or a fort, who have no education, and own little property, are raving mad to attack us.

“We may be too incredulous, but feel no apprehension, and don’t believe the fort can be taken. Day before yesterday the Carolinians landed two or three mortars on Cummings Point, on the nearest point of land for attacking the fort. There is not a particle of truth in the story of a mutiny. It was started in Charleston to induce the Government to surrender this place. There has been no prisoners in the guard house for a long time. The men are behaving admirably, are in good spirits, full of fun, and spoiling for a fight. As for surrendering, under any circumstances, they never dreamed of it. You need pay no attention to any thing you see in the Charleston papers in reference to our affairs. If you reflect that when a boat comes with a white flag from Charleston, that none of our men are allowed to communicate with it, you will readily see that all their stories about us are mere inventions. The men bear their privations and severe guard duty very cheerfully. They miss their tobacco more than any thing else.

“P.S. - Two steamboats were on the watch over us all night, one in the direction of the bar and the other towards Charleston.”

This is the substance of the letter which is dated the evening of the 20th. It gives a closer insight into matter concerning which there have been many contradictory statements.

RASHNESS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Certain phlegmatic of the South, to call them by the tenderest name, have had a great deal to say about the rashness and hot haste of South Carolina in seceding from the Confederacy. But this is the language of cowardice borrowing the speech of impudence. South Carolina would not consult her sisters, as if her beautiful and indignant sisters did not refuse her appeal for consultation. They would neither act for themselves nor counsel with her. Such was the language and decision of the politicians, at least. We have great hopes that the people of these sister States will soon speak a different language. But South Carolina gave long notice before hand, that, with the election of LINCOLN, she had resolved on secession. Why did they not counsel with her when she declared that resolution? But we have some faint recollection that this sentiment, which looked to secession as the only remedy, was entertained and declared by some of these very politicians. It was understood among all of them that LINCOLN’s election would endanger the Confederacy – so well understood that the New York merchants, who well knew what the danger was, devoted themselves to the one effort of defeating LINCOLN. Did these phlegmatics of the South feel less upon the subject than the New York merchants? One thing is certain – if, as our timid friends augur, this revolution shall turn out to be a bloody one, at least all the bloodshed will be on the hands of those tardy phlegmatics, who refused to counsel with

South Carolina – who would do nothing themselves, and threw cold water on the zeal of those who strove to do. They had their warning – they should not be taken by surprise. The non-performance, in a time of national crisis, which shelters itself under the cloak of its dignity, is at once impudence and cowardice.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1861.

It has thawed only in the sun today but it has been bright and pleasant overhead. The day has passed without any startling news. The committee in Congress resolved to investigate the conspiracy said to exist to seize the City, or at least as far as Govt officials are concerned. Some persons in our office are said to be implicated. Many officials from States that have “seceded” are employed in all the Depts. I was at the “National” this evening. The Hotels and the Streets on the Ave. seem quite crowded at present. A collision at Pensacola (or Fort Pickens) is now expected daily. No Blood has yet been shed.



THE SMALL PRINT

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