

Skedaddle

FEBRUARY 4, 1861
WEEKLY GLIMPSSES FROM
NEWSPAPERS, JOURNALS AND
DIARIES, &C, OF THE TIME

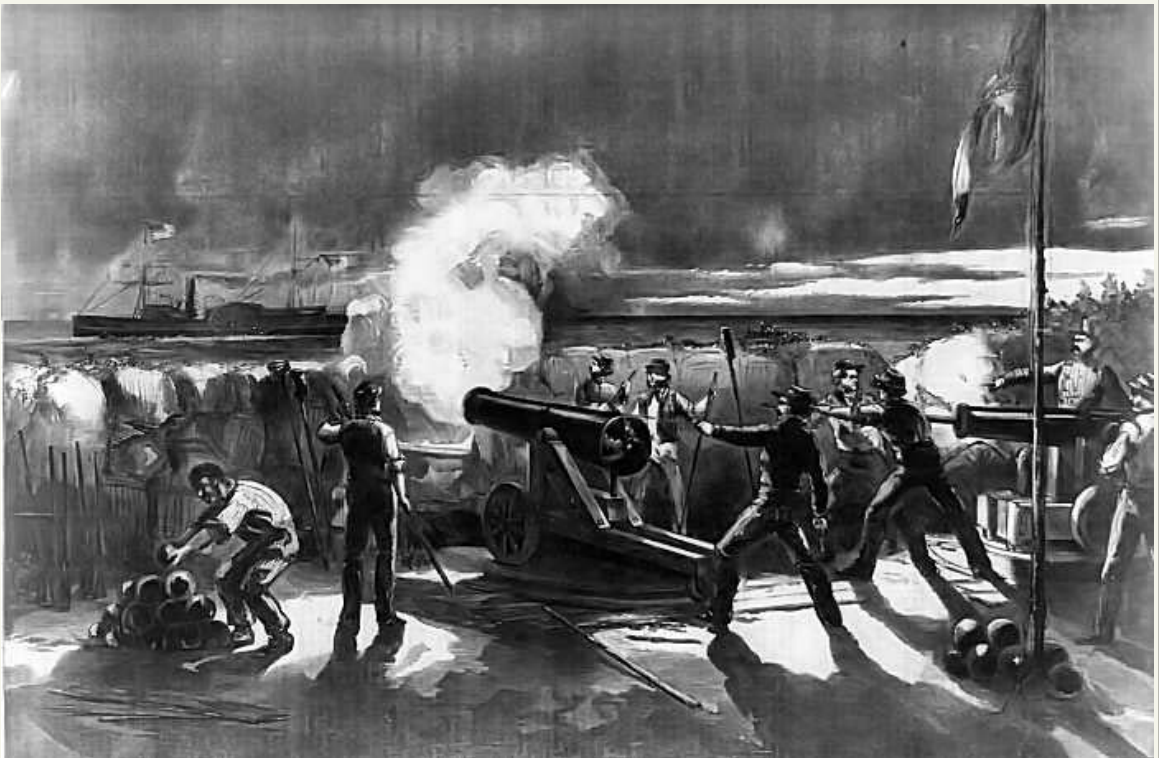
REMINISCENCES OF FORTS SUMTER AND MOULTRIE IN 1860-'61

by Abner Doubleday
published 1876
(an excerpt)

SUMTER

The first thing that attracted the eye of the stranger, upon approaching Charleston from the sea, was Fort Sumter. It was built on an artificial island made of large blocks of stone. The walls were of dark brick, and designed for three tiers of guns. The whole structure, as it rose abruptly out of the water, had a gloomy, prison-like appearance. It was situated on the edge of the

We, the People of the State of Texas, by Delegates in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, that the Ordinance adopted by our Convention of Delegates, on the Fourth day of July, A.D. 1845, and afterwards ratified by us, under which the Republic of Texas was admitted into Union with other States and became a party to the compact styled "The Constitution of the United States of America" be, and is hereby repealed and annulled;... (Adopted in Convention February 1, 1861)



Firing on the "Star of the West" from the South Carolina battery on Morris Island, January 10, 1861

channel, in the narrowest part of the harbor, between Fort Moultrie and Cummings Point, distant about a mile from the former place, and twelve hundred yards from the latter. The year before, it had been used by us as a temporary place of confinement and security for some negroes that had been brought over from Africa in a slaver captured by one of our naval vessels. The inevitable conflict was very near breaking out at that time; for there was an eager desire on the part of all the people around us to seize these negroes, and distribute them among the plantations; and if the Government had not acted promptly in sending them back to Africa, I think an attempt would have been made to take them from us by force, on the ground that some of them had violated a State law by landing at Moultrieville.

As Fort Sumter has considerable historic renown, it may not be uninteresting to relate another incident connected with it, although it is not germane to my narrative. In 1859, after the negroes were taken away, the fort remained in charge of an ordnance-sergeant, who lived there alone with his wife and two little children. Supplies were sent to him regularly, but in case of emergency he could only communicate with the shore by means of a small boat. One wild stormy day, when the wind was blowing a gale, he was suddenly struck down with yellow fever. His wife saw that if he did not have immediate medical assistance he would die. She herself could not go, as he required constant attention, and the children were too young to be of any service. A day passed on, and it became evident that he was growing worse. In a frantic state of mind, she rushed up to the top of the fort, waved a sheet backward and forward, and raised and lowered the garrison flag repeatedly, in hopes of attracting the attention of some passing vessel; but although several went by, no one seemed to notice the signals, or, if they did, they would not stop, on account of the tempest, which still continued. She then took the desperate resolution of putting her two little children in the small boat, and trusting to the flood-tide to drift them somewhere in the vicinity of Charleston. She placed a letter in the hand of one of them, to be given to the first person they met, imploring that a physician might be sent to her at once. It was a terrible experiment, for the children might easily have been swept out to sea by the ebb-tide before they could make a landing. They succeeded, however, in reaching the shore near Mount Pleasant. A doctor finally arrived, but too late to be of any service.

MOULTRIE

To the South Carolinians Fort Moultrie was almost a sacred spot, endeared by many precious historical associations; for the ancestors of most of the principal families had fought there in the Revolutionary War behind their hastily improvised ramparts of palmetto logs, and had gained a glorious victory over the British fleet in its first attempt to enter the harbor and capture the city.

The modern fort had been built nearly on the site of the ancient one. Its walls were but twelve feet high. They were old, weak, and so full of cracks that it was quite common to see soldiers climb to the top by means of the support these crevices afforded to their hands and feet. The constant action of the sea-breeze had drifted one immense heap of sand against the shore-front of the work, and another in the immediate vicinity. These sand-hills dominated the parapet, and made the fort untenable. Indeed, it was originally built by the engineers as a mere sea-battery, with just sufficient strength to prevent it from being taken by a *coup de main*. As an overpowering force of militia could always be summoned for its defense, it was supposed that no foreign army would ever attempt to besiege it. The contingency that the people of Charleston themselves might attack a fort intended for their own protection had never been anticipated.

January 29, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

It is now stated that the mission of the war steamer *Brooklyn* to Pensacola is one of peace. She has been sent out to intercept vessels of the Gulf squadron that have been ordered to Pensacola to prevent them from going there, and thus obviate difficulty and perhaps bloodshed.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

TO OUR CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

In rainy weather we have frequent complaints that the MERCURY is received in a mutilated condition. This is owing to the fact that so few residences are provided with boxes to receive the paper and protect it from the weather. The carriers have to throw it into piazzas, gardens, cellars and other exposed places, and as the paper is thus rendered unfit for reading, we are called upon for extra copies.

We would suggest to all our subscribers to provide boxes, which will be found useful even in dry weather, particularly if locks are attached.

THE DUTY OF OFFICERS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES.

An officer in the army or navy of the United States is a citizen of a State, appointed by the general agent of all the States (the Government of the United States) to an office, to assist in carrying on this agency. He is not a citizen of the agency. He is a citizen of one of the sovereign parties to the agency, having all the privileges of citizens of the other parties, by an express proviso in their agreement – the Constitution of the United States – which stipulates that citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States; and when he takes an office, civil or military, in the service of the Government of the United States, he does not in the slightest degree alter his relation towards his own State. He is still the citizen of a State – nothing more and nothing else – by her permission and agreement, in the employment of her joint and common agency – the Government of the United States. When, therefore, the State to which an officer belongs, withdraws from the Union established by the Constitution of the United States, and thus puts an end to the agency of the Government of the United States so far as she is concerned, what course should a citizen of a State, in the employment of the Government of the United States, pursue? Most assuredly he should leave the employment of the Government of the United States, unless he intends to expatriate himself. If he does not leave the employment of this Government, he will be like a citizen who emigrates to France and enlists in her army or navy. He is no longer a citizen of the State to which he once belonged. He is in the pay and employment of a Government agency to which his native State is not a party. He chooses to transfer his citizenship and allegiance to another power. Whether such a course shall be morally right or honorable, will depend upon the relations which shall exist between his State and her late associates in a common Union and Government after their connection shall be dissolved. If relations of peace and amity continued to exist, there is no obligation of duty which will forbid him to change his country and allegiance. If he thinks that his personal interests require the change, let him do it. But if, on the contrary, on the dissolution of the connection between his State and her late associate in a common Government, these associates attempt to use the agency of the Government, of which he is an officer, to invade his State and to overthrow her liberties and independence – what course ought he then to pursue? Most clearly every dictate of social duty, gratitude, or of honor will require him to leave the employment of the Government which is to be used against his native State, and to go to her aid and

assistance. He became an officer in this Government only because he was a citizen of his State. It was her patronage and her power which gave him his office. To hold on to it, and to use it, at the bidding and in the employment of a Government which she has cast off, to invade or oppress her, is an act of hideous moral delinquency, ingratitude, dishonor and treachery – a crime striking at the root of society itself. In a time of peril no man should desert his country; but not only to desert her, but to join her enemies to subdue or destroy her, is a crime of so deep a dye that history in all ages has marked it as amongst the most flagrant in its infamy, degradation and wickedness.

THE STATE FLAG

The Legislature last night again altered the design of the State flag. It now consists of a blue field, with a white palmetto tree in the middle, upright. The white crescent in the upper flag staff corner remains as before, the horns pointing upward. This may be regarded as final.

THE LEADER OF THE FLORIDA TROOPS AT PENSACOLA.

Major William H. Chase, formerly of the United States Corps of Engineers, is the leader of the State troops at Pensacola, Florida. He was formerly a resident of Massachusetts, and received the appointment of cadet from that State to the Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated March 3, 1815. He was appointed brevet second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in the same month, and promoted to full lieutenantcy April 15, 1818. His subsequent promotions to first lieutenantcy, captain, and major, date respectively March 31, 1819, January 1, 1825, and July 7, 1838. In 1844 he was a member of the Special Board of Engineers for examination of Florida reefs, &c., on the Gulf frontier of Texas and Mississippi. He was a member of the Board of Engineers from March 13, 1848, to September, 1848. He resigned his position in the Federal army October 31, 1856. Major Chase is a man of indomitable perseverance and courage, and ranks high as a military engineer and strategist. He is about sixty four years of age, and possesses a large private fortune.

RICHMOND ENQUIRER

THE CONSTITUTION BY A SOUTHERNER

Wherefore sing ye songs of Union!
 May *they* now the storm abate,
 And in peaceful, calm communion
 Keep each sovereign sister State?
 Can *they* save our flag from trailing
 In the dust fanatics raise;
 And a nation keep from wailing
 O'er its untold miseries?
 Angry threats and mad invadings,
 Urged by passions deep and blind;
 False assertions and upbraidings
 Pass not as the idle wind!
 Chords of love and kindly feeling
 One by one have rent in twain,

'Till between us now revealing
 That *no sympathies* remain.
 Union! anthems might forever,
 Swelling forth in suppliant strain,
 Strive to save us; they could never
 Re-unite our *hearts* again.
 Would you quell this storm alarming,
 Bid the tempest yet be calm?
 Would you chock this fearful arming
 Man against his fellow man?
 Would you all our stars combining,
 Bid their lustre never cease,
 And around our heart strings breaking,
 Bind the olive-branch of peace?

Tell the men who now are drifting
 Recklessly our Ship of State
 On the rocky shore uplifting;
 Tell this story, are too late --
 That when Scottish knights were bearing
 With a small but chosen band,
 Bruce's heart in casket keeping
 'Till 'twas laid in Holy Land --
 And when Moslem hordes o'erwhelmed
 them,
 Bore them back on every side,
 They the casket threw before them:
 "Onward! To the rescue!" cried.
 Then that band the host defying,
 Strew'd the field with Moslem slain,

And amid the dead and dying,
 Bore aloft the heart again.
 Tell the States that now are seeking
 To destroy the Union fair,
 There's a casket in *their* keeping,
 Which contains a gem more rare.
 Hurl the Constitution ever
 'Mid the blind fanatic herd,
 And when strife our States would sever,
 Let *it* be the rallying word!
 Then far down the future ages,
 As they stand in His'ry's forum,
 When no wild contention rages,
 Stars and stripes may yet wave o'er
 them!

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

TUESDAY 29

There are indications today that the Republicans are "coming down" from the Chicago Platform and that something like the Crittenden proposition will be accepted by them. Secession seems to be now a fixed fact and we have to look Disunion in the face, while a subversion of the Government is threatened. This City is still considered in danger. There is a thousand U.S. Soldiers now quartered here. An armed guard now tramps through the Halls of the Patent Office every night and the other Public Buildings are guarded in the same way. Warm & pleasant today.

January 30, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

The announcement of the peaceful mission of the steam sloop-of-war *Brooklyn* to Florida is confirmed by late advices from Washington. The provisions on board the *Brooklyn* are to be delivered at Fort Pickens, but she is not to enter the harbor of Pensacola, nor to land troops at the fort, unless the fort should be attacked. Her commander is ordered to act strictly on the defensive, and to give no pretext of hostilities.

Companies D and K of the artillery went forward yesterday from Governor's Island to Washington city. They numbered 112 men.

The first duel which has resulted from the present political complications took place yesterday morning, on the Pennsylvania border, between Dr. Jones, a partisan of Senator Douglass and Mr. Wilson, a Breckinridge democrat, both residents of Washington. Wilson was wounded in the hip. The constabulary are said to be in pursuit of the parties.

The radical abolitionists yesterday exhibited another example of the reaction on the slavery question that is going on at the North. These incendiaries arranged for a Convention at Syracuse, a place where they have had the largest liberty for years past. But the citizens, determined to tolerate them no longer, assembled at the hall, organized a meeting, and compelled the abolitionists to beat a retreat.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

EXCITEMENT IN NORFOLK - OPERATIONS AT FORTRESS MONROE.

The *Norfolk Day Book* of Saturday evening says:

A large force of men are now busily engaged in mounting large guns (thirty two pounders) on the ramparts of this fort, all of which point inland and sweep the country for miles around. Eighteen of these guns are to be placed on that portion of the garrison that has no casemates, and doubtless they are to be left without shelter and ready for immediate action. They were to have been completed this week.

Did Virginia cede the ground on which this fort stands for the purpose of having its guns pointed inland, to menace a score or two of peaceful farmers, who till the soil under cover of its guns? And why is it that these mouthed dogs of war are thus turned threateningly and frowningly upon the peaceful citizens of Virginia? Why is it that the taunt goes forth in the *New York Herald*, "Take it if you can - but I should like to see you try it?"

Were we not told a week or two ago that our master(?) at Washington had concluded to consent that all the forts in the Southern States should remain in status quo until the 4th of March?

We ask, again, what means this hot haste in mounting, at this date, long rows of thirty two pounders, pointing inland, and sweeping the farms of peaceful Virginians? Is not this an open declaration of war? Does it not savor strongly of coercion? Can any one think that all this preparation is for nothing? Does any sane man believe that Virginia can secede after the 4th of March, with a standing army of the U. S. troops and threatening cannon closing up the only outlet to her commerce? Will our Legislature remain supine under this open declaration of war, and these preconsidered threats and acts of defiance? Thousands of indignant Virginians await an answer to this last question.

FORT SUMTER AS PROPERTY.

The Government of the United States insists on holding Fort Sumter as property. They pretend to think that this is by no means a hostile attitude against South Carolina. They do not hold it was a military instrumentality by which the waters of our bay and the commerce of our city are controlled. It is true that we have offered to take it, and pay for it, as property. But they will not let us have it; and keep it – a threat, an insult, and an instrument of coercion by the power of the cannon. Fort Sumter is property, like every other fortress in the world; but was it ever heard of that a power can have a right to hold on to a fortress within the jurisdiction of another power, simply because it is property? A fortress is not like a cotton factory, or a pottery, harmless in nature, and incapable of assailing or injuring the people of a country. It is an instrument of war; and when kept possession of by one nation with an armed soldiery, in defiance of the will of another nation, that possession itself is a declaration of hostility. Cannon are property. Suppose a river divides two nations, as is the case for thousands of miles in Europe, and one nation plants cannon on one side of the river, opposite to a city on the other side of the river – would it not be considered a measure of war? The cannon and soil are property, belonging to the people on the side of the river opposite to the city, but when made a fortress, commanding the city, it is more than property. It is an instrument of force, and means war. This is the position taken by writers on the laws of nations. In what does such a case differ from the present state of things in the bay of Charleston? A fortress, belonging to us, in common with other States, is erected in the bay of Charleston, to protect the city. South Carolina withdraws from the Union with her co-States in the Confederacy of the United States. The Government of the United States, instead of surrendering this fortress to the authorities of the State, persists in holding it, for no purpose which can be conceived of, except to assail and coerce the State. As

property, it is valueless to them for any other purpose. As property, the State has offered to pay for it. What, then, is its continued possession, but an insult – an act of hostility? Is it not like the cannon planted on the opposite side of the river? If Fort Sumter was not built, and the Government of the United States owned the land on which it stands – would it be now tolerated, that it should send troops and laborers, and erect the fort on this land? Would any publicist or jurist doubt that we would be justified in preventing the erection of the fort? and if this position is correct, how can it be doubted that we have a right to take Fort Sumter now that it is built or to destroy it if we can? What is a right in matters affecting the security of a State, implies a duty to enforce it.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

WEDNESDAY 30

A pleasant cold day, freezing in the shade, Streets muddy. Another Company of Flying Artillery arrived last night – 90 men & four “pieces.” They are quartered in the old Wm Wirt House where Mrs Smith had her Young Ladies Select School or “Institute,” something of a change on those premises. The southerners here are greatly offended and pretend innocence. But in truth these preparations thwart their plans for seizing the City. No news of importance today, but some compromise seems more likely to be made now than heretofore. Did not go down to the Ave tonight.

January 31, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE REVOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1861.

Private advices from the South, received tonight, indicate that there will be a fight in less than thirty hours.

The President declared to a member of Congress yesterday that he had no doubt that Fort Sumter would be attacked in less than a week, when a fight would ensue and the war would commence. The congressman inquired why he did not reinforce Major Anderson? The president replied, that there were not vessels enough in the American navy to reach Fort Sumter. In the first place, they would have to enter in the day time, and move slowly in order to clear the old vessels, that have been sunk in the channel as barriers against any attempt of government vessels to enter the arbor. This fact, it is asserted, would cause their sure destruction by the outer lighthouse batteries on Morris Island, and before encountering the fire of the Morris light beacon batteries, and Point Cummin’s batteries, and the guns of fort Johnson on James Island, and Fort Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island, all of which they would have to suffer before reaching Fort Sumter. Besides, Major Anderson could afford no protection to a vessel against the outer batteries of Morris Island.

This is the opinion of the authorities having the power to send relief; but in justice to those who would have to execute the work and risk their lives before the fire of the secessionists, I am assured that the harbor of Charleston can be entered by light draft vessels of war, and Major Anderson can be reinforced. There are men in the American navy who believe that the business of firing cannon is a game that two can play at, and that as good a shot can be made from the deck of an American ship of war, as from Morris Island.

Letters are received from Fort Sumter as late as the 26th inst., stating that all the officers and men are well. While they would like some fresh meat for a change, they are a unit in feeling against succumbing to the terms of the authorities of Charleston to supply them either by cour-

tesy or to let them have daily rations, which they can cut off at any moment. When the authorities will allow Major Anderson to contract for a quantity of supplies according to the usual practices, untrammelled by threats or any improper influence, he will do so, and not before. Unless he can do this the men prefer to confine themselves to the fare they now have, and of which they have ample supply.

Floating batteries, the superstructures of which are composed of cotton bales, are in course of erection, by which means in part the South Carolinians expect to attack Fort Sumter. The officer who writes from Fort Sumter, alluding to these batteries, says: - "The difference between fighting behind cotton bags in 1812 and now is, that General Jackson commanded behind the bags then and had no Robert Anderson within the impregnable walls of a Sumter, with the destructive weapons which the ingenuity of man for half a century has invented, to contend with. Besides, Jackson is dead."

The same writer in another connection says: -

"We have been wonderfully favored by Providence in all our movements. We abandoned Moultrie under cover of night, by aid of a vessel chartered to take the soldiers' wives, twenty five in number, to a safer place. When the captain discovered the intention of Major Anderson he became rebellious, but was soon sent below and locked up until we were safely landed at Sumter. Our nightwork was crowned by a glorious sunrise. The men were all summoned around the flag staff, and the stars and stripes were run up, and the Chaplain invoked God's blessing to rest upon our little band, and to aid us in the work of our country's defence, and in defending the national honor and flag. I shall never forget the scene. If we had been assailed on that day by any considerable force it is doubtful if we could have held out, as the fort was in a miserable condition for defence. But the Almighty heard our prayers. A storm came up and lasted for ten days. It was so terrific that the sea, tired of knocking at our flinty walls, would dash far above and over us. During these ten days no vessel could approach us. We put our house in order, so that at the end of the storm we could have defied any power on earth."

Col. Easkell, aid de camp to Gov. Pickens, arrived here this afternoon, with despatches to Col. Hayne. It is understood he brings the ultimatum of South Carolina respecting the public property within that State, and also in regard to Fort Sumter. Col. Haskell had a protracted interview with Col. Hayne immediately after his arrival. Until Col. H. makes his communication to the President, which will probably be tomorrow or the day after, nothing definite will be now respecting affairs at Charleston.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

MAGNANIMOUS BUCHANAN.

There is something base, on the part of the President, in keeping Major ANDERSON at Fort Sumter under the present circumstances. Knowing him to be a Southron and a slaveholder, he should be offered a furlough or leave of absence, and a substitute sent who is not a Southron. Leave all the DOUBLEDAYS - whether three score or one. The people of South Carolina have been measurably disarmed by their sympathy for Major ANDERSON, and President BUCHANAN knows it. Why was the former commandant at Fort Moultrie withdrawn, and ANDERSON put in his place, just at the beginning of our issues? Had the latter been as good a politician as a soldier, he would have declined the appointment, and then was his moment to resign. Now, it is a point of honor with him to remain, unless the Federal Government will show more magnanimity than is its character, and will voluntarily move to relieve him. Au contraire: the purpose is to disarm us, through him. But this cannot last. The result will be the sacrifice of a brave man, at the post of a supposed duty, whose government deliberately sacrifices him with the hope of some small temporary profit. Why not send General WOOL, who seems spoiling for a fight, and ought to be indulged, in consideration of his name, if nothing

more. We should be more readily disposed to wool him than the brave Kentuckian whom they have selected for the sacrifice. Anyhow, we cannot well keep our hands off from wooling somebody shortly after the 4th of February. We cannot suffer a flag so hateful as that of the United States to wave in insolent defiance in the harbor of an independent State.

**REINFORCEMENTS COMING – ALLEGED ORDERS OF THE *BROOKLYN*, ETC., ETC., ETC.
FROM WASHINGTON.**

Treachery of the Administration.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, January 30 - 10:45 a.m. - The President has replied to the despatch of Senator MALLORY, of Florida. He says the *Brooklyn* has gone to Pensacola; that she will land provisions at Fort Pickens, and then lay off to assist the fort with troops, should an attack be made upon it.

There is intense anxiety this morning at the Executive mansion to hear from Fort Pickens. An immediate conflict is anticipated by all parties.

I have it from undoubted authority that the commander of the *Brooklyn* has been ordered to keep a strict watch on all the movements at the Pensacola Navy Yard, and in the neighborhood of Fort Pickens. In the event of his discovering the slightest preparations for an attack, or of an attack being made, his orders are instantly to land the artillery forces for the fort and bring his own guns to bear upon those who make the attack upon it.

The Constitution newspaper, now no longer supported by the Federal patronage, will collapse tomorrow.

The Editor, W. N. BROWNE, announces that he will shortly resume its publication somewhere in the great Southern Confederacy - probably at Montgomery, Alabama.

SECOND DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, January 30, 9 p. m. - My despatch of yesterday to the MERCURY, stating that HAYNE had made the formal demand upon the President for the surrender of Fort Sumter, was correct in every particular.

Col. HAYNE has made the formal demand for the unconditional surrender of Fort Sumter. As yet the President has made no reply; but it is known in well informed circles here, that the President holds that he has the right to reinforce the forts, and that he will neither say nor do anything that might be construed into a relinquishment of that right. It is believed here that reinforcements will be sent to Fort Sumter and to the other forts in the South, so far as the resources of the Federal Government will admit.

The following despatch was sent this morning, by a number of distinguished Southern men, whom I will not now name, to Gen. CHASE at Pensacola, to Senator MALLORY, and to the Governors of Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

“The Government here is utterly treacherous. We think you should act as you think best, without regard to the promises or professions from Washington.”

FROM THE OLD DOMINION.

Our Richmond Correspondence.

RICHMOND, January 29.

Richmond Waking Up - Speech of Judge Robertson—What Virginians think of South Carolina—Future Course of the Old Dominion—The Inevitable Botts—A Slow Legislature, etc., etc.

At last the darkness seems about to break here. The day is about to dawn. Last night an immense meeting of the citizens took place at the African Church, and the policy of taking Vir-

ginia out of the Union before the fourth of March was announced by every speaker, and received with deafening applause and cheers. Let me not forget to notice, too, that the very mention of South Carolina was met with shouts, and that the call of three cheers for her was responded to with a voice of thunder. The meeting was held to nominate candidates to represent the metropolis in the Convention to assemble on the 13th February, and the gentlemen selected by the assemblage are all out and out, open avowed secessionists. They are Captain GEORGE W. RANDOLPH, Mr. JOHN O. STEGER, and Judge JOHN ROBERTSON. In their responses to the nomination these gentlemen avowed their willingness to remain in the present Union, if every guarantee demanded by the South was yielded, and the Constitution so amended that it would embrace thorough protective provisions, placing it out of the power of the North to invade Southern rights. But both Captain RANDOLPH and Mr. STEGER – Judge ROBERTSON was with you – declared that they had not the least expectation of any such event. The adoption of any such policy, by the present legislators in Congress, or by a Convention – and that the conclusive remedy, the panacea for all our woes, was secession before the fourth of March, confederation with our Southern sisters, and armed defiance of the vulgar oppressor of the North. In addition to making these good and sound nominations, the meeting adopted a resolution calling on the Legislature to redeem its pledge, that no Southern State should be invaded – in view of the intelligence received that day, that Fort Monroe was being reinforced, and her guns, that should have pointed seaward, turned upon the town of Hampton, inward. This resolution passed unanimously with deafening applause, and a reference by one of the speakers to the timidity of the Legislature, and its utter failure to represent the feelings of the people, was greeted in the same unmistakable manner.

The time for talking has passed – the hour for action has arrived.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1861.

Mercury this morning 20 above zero, cold and pleasant all day. Interesting debates in Congress now. Chas Francis Adams took high conservative ground today in the "House." There now seems to be a disposition in Congress to do Something. Attended the meeting of the "Raven Club" this evening at Prof Whitakers on 11th St. J. S. Willson delivered an address, The Ideas of the Ist & IIIrd Napoleon. Ended by paying a fine tribute to the Founders of our Govt and the Value of the Union. Mr Fuller of N.C. followed in a few very eloquent remarks. No particular news. Doct John C. Smith, 4th Pres[byterian] Ch[urch] called on me today at office.

February 1, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE REVOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1861.

Colonel Hayne has been engaged today in preparing a letter to the President in regard to affairs at Charleston. This document will contain the ultimatum of South Carolina, which is understood to be the unconditional surrender of that fort to the authorities of South Carolina.

Colonel H. had been instructed to make this demand when he first arrived here, but was dissuaded by leading Southern men to withdraw it. The demand is now reiterated in the most positive terms, and will be laid before the President tomorrow in Colonel Hayne's communication.

A rumor was very current this evening, that Fort Sumter had been assaulted and captured by the South Carolina troops. It could be traced to no reliable source. News of such an event,

however, would not any moment create unusual surprise here. The plan of attack, as divulged, is to dismantle schooners and convert them into floats, load them with cotton bales, and, the vessels being towed under the walls of the fort, the cotton bags are to be piled one upon another until a sufficient height is reached to enable the scaling parties in multitudes to ascend the walls. It is believed that the fort can be taken by this process at less sacrifice of life than by any other means.

The friends of the Union are much discouraged by the news from Pensacola and Charleston. A collision is imminent, and the fear is it has already occurred. Once began, it is idle to talk of compromise. Whatever may have been the criminal folly that prompted the attack, the appalling consequences are to precipitate at once all the central slave States into the vortex of revolution. Whatsoever may have been the outrage perpetrated, they can never permit federal troops to avenge the fate of their comrades without themselves becoming partners in the meleé.

The policy now talked of among leading Union men is to call on the President to evacuate Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens, and thus remove all the opportunity for the seceding States inaugurating civil war, and carrying off the central States with them. This course will save the Union, as it is now certain that none of these States can be voted out except by the application of some such unnatural stimulus as a fight at the South between State and federal troops.

The President is known to be opposed to the withdrawal of the troops, but the representations that will be made to him by many true men at the South, and to avoid civil war, it is thought by many he may be induced to do it.

THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER

TO THE VOTERS IN VIRGINIA

CONSERVATISM—WHAT IS IT?

Fellow-citizens:—In a few days you will be called upon to decide the most momentous question, which has ever been submitted to your judgment. The issues before our fathers in '76 was liberty or death? Before you, it is war or peace?

What is conservatism? A few months ago the question could be answered definitely—to conserve the value of the States.

But, what is it now? Is it to conserve a union already broken? Is it to conserve a Government, that is making war upon the Southern States—a Government which is converting the Capitol into a military encampment, to inaugurate a President by force?

Is it to conserve a Union with States who have offered men and money to carry on a war against the slaveholding States? Ohio and Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts have offered hundreds of thousands of men, and millions of money to wage war with you and your sister States of the South. What peace, what happiness could there be in such a union if it could



Citadel Cadets, Charleston, S.C.

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

be preserved? But it cannot, except in your subjugation. When we offer terms of compromise they are rejected with disdain. When we present the olive branch, they draw the sword. The disruption of the Union is already accomplished, It cannot be re united while we remain under its power. What, then, is conservatism for Virginia now?

It is to secure a peaceful dissolution. Shall we have peace, or civil war? The answer to the question will be given by you on Monday next. If you so vote as to secure the immediate secession of our State, you will preserve the peace. If we have a united South, the North will not be so mad as to commence a civil war which will be the bloodiest in the history of the world. If you hesitate, the Military government at Washington will probably attack the States which have already seceded. You are pledged to aid you Southern brethren in a war which few of you may live to see the end of.

True conservatism demands: First, that you vote for delegates to the Convention, who are in favor of immediate secession! Second, that you vote against referring the action of the Convention to the people! Such a reference would bring us under the power of the Black Republican Government. May you be guided by wisdom from above, and may God defend the right.

A CONSERVATIVE

And therefore a Secessionist

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE ISRAELITES OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Israelites of South Carolina are amongst the most faithful and patriotic of the people of South Carolina. On every occasion of difficulty and danger they have exhibited a devotion to the State worthy their well known characteristics of a hatred of oppression, and a dauntless spirit to resist it. With an equal right to enter into all the offices of our Government, they have shown themselves competent to fill the highest. In the late Senate of the United States, they furnished two Senators - being one sixteenth of the numerical power of the Senate, - and both of these Senators were from the South, and both of them have been foremost in vindicating the rights, interests and liberties of the South. Mr. BENJAMIN and Mr. YULEE are worthy to sit in any assembly of statesmen in the world. Indeed, the former, in intellectual ability, was not surpassed by any public man in the late Senate of the United States; whilst his fidelity to the State he represented was as illustrious as the great ability with which he defended her. Recently in New York Dr. RAPHALL has defended us in one of the most powerful arguments put forth North or South. Here, in South Carolina (as, we believe, everywhere in the South), our Israelite fellow citizens have promptly thrown their whole weight to sustain the State in the great contest in which she is engaged, to save her liberties and institutions from the ruthless despotism of the Northern people. They too well understand the Old Testament, and that grandest of all revelations for the conduct of men, the Commandments which God gave them from Mount Sinai, to be carried away by the false philanthropy of a spurious fanaticism, which, born in infidelity and nursed by sectional hatred, has broken up the fairest fabric of free government the world has ever seen. True to their God and true to their native land, they faithfully exemplify the motto of our State, 'opibusque parati.' In expressing these opinions, we know that we but echo the feelings of the great body of our people.

OUR KEY WEST CORRESPONDENCE.

KEY WEST, January 22.

Fort Taylor, a large first class fortification at the entrance of the harbor of Key West, is now nearly finished, the barracks and a few platforms for barbette guns being alone uncompleted. Capt. E. B. HUNT, Engineer Corps, in command, on account of the seizure of Southern works by State authorities, has given the military command of the fort to Capt. JOHN M. BRANNAN, First Artillery, United States army, and he, with his officers and men, are now

quartered within the walls. The fort is an irregular quadrangle, with three channel curtains of equal length, and a gorge or shore curtain of much greater length. It is situated near the S. W. point of the island, in from six to twelve feet of water, and distant from the shore three hundred yards. The foundation is granite and the superstructure brick. The scarp walls are eight feet thick, and rise to the height of forty one feet from the water edge. It has two tiers of casemates and one barbette tier, and mounts one hundred and twenty 8 and 10 inch Columbiads on the channel fronts, and forty five heavy guns on the shore fronts. Most of the armament is in place, enough to sustain a protracted siege. The troops are well supplied with ordnance stores, provisions, water, fuel, &c., and are probably better fitted to resist attacks than Major ANDERSON at Fort Sumter.

The steamship *Joseph Whitney*, LOVELAND, sails today for Baltimore via Fort Jefferson, and we send the marine items collected since our regular despatch of the 12th per steamship *Atlantic*.

The ship *Ocean Belle*, BROWN, was brought into this port on the 12th by the steamer *Salvor*. As she received little apparent injury, the survey which was called to examine her pronounced the ship in a fit state to take on board her cargo and complete her voyage without undergoing repairs. The Admiralty Court has heard the testimony of the wreckers, but has not yet rendered a decision. It is thought that the compensation will be \$20,000.

The ship *Clifton* is being repaired. She has been hove out and is now receiving a sheathing of copper. She will take in her cargo next week and at once proceed to Boston.

The steamer *Louisiana*, KIRBY, for Philadelphia, arrived the 12th, and sailed for Mobile the 14th.

The slave bark *Mary J. Kimball*, condemned and sold by the Marshal, brought the sum of \$3605. CHARLES TIFT was the purchaser. The materials of the bark sold for \$4000. The slave brig *Toccoa*, although condemned, has not been sold.

The ship *City of Washington* has been destroyed by fire on the coast of Abaco. She was chartered to take the cargo of the ship *Ocean Star*, at this port a wreck, to Liverpool.

The schooner *Charles P. Stickney*, and schooner *J. W. Vance*, both sailed with cargos of damaged cotton for New York on the 14th.

The United States steamship *Crusader* sailed for Havana on the 14th, returned on the 21st, and is now at anchor near Fort Taylor.

The United States steamer *Mohawk*, Lieutenant Commanding Craven, left this station for Fort Jefferson on the 21st.

The schr. *J. W. Webster* arrived from New York on the 15th, and is now discharging cargo at Fort Taylor.

The steamer *J. Whitney* landed Major Arnold's company of Artillery at Fort Jefferson on the 18th. She is now in this harbor, and will tonight take in tow the bark *Horace Beals*, loaded with ordnance and ordnance store to Fort Jefferson.

A Spanish man of war arrived yesterday from Havana with the Spanish Consul, and returned last evening.

Dr. Cornich, U. S. A., has arrived from Old Point. He has joined Capt. Brannan's company.

The steamer *Galveston* is coming up the harbor from New Orleans.

The U. S. schr. *Aggajiz*, C. T. Quatella, arrived the 21st from Charlottes harbor. We learn that the United States Marshal for this district, F. T. Moreno, Esq., has resigned his office; also that John P. Baldwin, Collector of this port, has resigned.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Fine cool morning, M: 24 – warmer and misty the latter part of day. Got measured for new

black coat. Paid some Bills & small note at Bank. Willie has been quite ill. I came home from the office at 1'o'ck. He is much better tonight. The day has passed off much as yesterday. Two more companys of U.S. Soldiers came today. One is quartered on E St. near pat & post offices. The other in west part of the City. There are many "Secessionists" or Disunionists among the Citizens here. It is my opinion that the District Militia would prove, in case of need, a poor support for the Govt to rely upon. Have spent the evening at home with the boys in various amusements.

February 2 , 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEWS.

There are reports from Charleston in circulation that the military authorities there have completed their preparations for an attack upon Fort Sumter, and only await the order to open the batteries. It is also reported that Gov. Pickens has directed Col. Hayne to demand of the President the unconditional surrender of the fort, and in case of noncompliance that the attack will be ordered. Col. Hayne had not presented any communication to the President up to eight o' last evening. He has, however, it is stated, received his instructions, and will no doubt attempt to open negotiations with the President without delay.

Lieutenant Jewett, of the navy, has arrived in Washington from Pensacola. He states that he was arrested by the authorities of Florida, who held him in custody until he gave his parole of honor that he would never take up arms against the State of Florida. The facts in the case have been communicated to the Navy Department.

The slavers *Kate* and *Weathergage* were condemned yesterday by Judge Betts in the United States District Court.

THE NEXT CONGRESS - AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE UNAVOIDABLE.

The leaders of the republican party find themselves in a peculiarly perplexing position. They are opposing with all their might the meeting of Commissioners to consider the Virginia resolutions, and they are determined to resist the Bigler proposition to submit the whole question to the people. In both of Mr. Seward's speeches he has clearly indicated that the policy of the new administration is the strict party policy, and that the republican leaders believe that the secessionists will exhaust themselves in time. Mr. Seward adheres to his former position, that after one, two or three years shall have elapsed the Southern storm will blow over. Then will be the proper time for a Constitutional Convention of all the States; but if all else fails, and Union by force of arms is to stand or fall, he will advise his people to stand or perish with it – that is, to fight for it to the death.

The republican leaders, Mr. Seward included, have no confidence in the masses of their party. The fear that if the question of compromise should be put directly to the people of the North they would vote in the affirmative, when the republican party would be broken into half a dozen cliques, and finally perish of strangulation at the hands of its own friends. They will therefore take the risk of losing the border States rather than run the chance of destroying their party organization. If the matter could be left to the people, it would be very soon settled; but the politicians are bound to keep it in their own hands, on the principle of rule or ruin. So there is nothing to be hoped for from the republicans. They go in for the inauguration of Lincoln and the spoils first, and adjustment afterwards, if adjustment is practicable. It is probable that nothing practical will result from the efforts now being made to bring about a settlement, and that all or nearly all the border States will withdraw from the Union on or about the 4th of March.

When Mr. Lincoln takes office he will be compelled to call an extra session of Congress, to assemble at the earliest possible moment. As will be seen by the tables we have given elsewhere, fourteen States — namely: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia — have still to elect representatives to the next Congress. Of course the seceding States will disregard the President's proclamation altogether; but we shall obtain from New England, California, and, we trust, from the border States, an expression of the public sentiment, which may go far towards bringing about a peaceable settlement of existing difficulties.

The New England States choose in March, and elsewhere special Congressional elections will be ordered. It is claimed that there has been a great change in the opinions of the New England people since the election of Lincoln, and it is very evident, from the frantic appeals of Hon. Massa Greeley, in the Tribune, that the concessionists are rapidly gaining strength. No pains should be spared in building up this conciliatory sentiment in the republican party. That organization is clearly responsible for the troubles which now menace the nation, and the remedy must come, if it comes at all, from the republican ranks. The question is, whether the federal Union, the prosperity of the United States, the interests of civilization, progress and free government, are of less importance than the preservation of the republican party. Mr. Seward and his friends seem to think so, but we disagree with them entirely. Let the matter go to the people, and we will be willing to abide by their verdict.

THE BANNER STATE OF THE SOUTH—THE TROUBLES OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO GET AN ENSIGN.

Among the many measures that have exercised the wisdom of the South Carolina Legislature recently, is one on the subject for the adoption of a national or State flag.

About one week after the passage of the secession ordinance the South Carolina Legislature adopted a flag of the following description: —

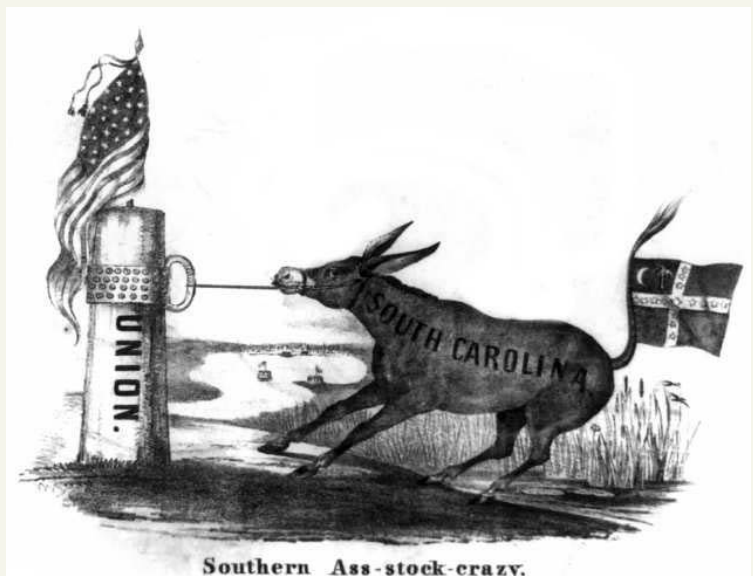
The flag has fifteen white stars on a marine blue ground, the centre star the larger one; a white palmetto tree and crescent on the upper right hand corner, and the corner spaces, including the ground on which the palmetto and crescent are placed, of red.

On the 26th of January the Legislature repealed the first resolution adopting a State flag, and substituted another one. The following cut will give an idea of the appearance of the new ensign: —

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 subsequent day the Legislature rescinded the second resolution, and substituted the following: —

It now consists of a blue



Southern Ass-stock-crazy.

(from Library of Congress)

field, with a white palmetto tree in the middle, upright. The white crescent in the upper flag staff corner remains as before, the horns pointing upward.

Whether these shiftings and changes in the Legislature of the miniature republic are ominous or indicative of the character of its statesmen or policy we cannot at present divine. It strikes us, however, that the vision of the stars and stripes of the Union, which have proudly waved over our country for seventy years, is still impressed in the imaginations of the legislators of South Carolina, and that, notwithstanding their new flags, made up with combinations of snakes, palmettos, half moons and fifteen stars, they will not be content until they re-unfold the flag with thirty four stars and thirteen stripes.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE FLAG OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

We present this morning a carefully prepared cut of the flag of our State. The field is dark blue, with the palmetto tree upright in the middle. Upon the upper inner corner of the flag is a crescent in white, the horns pointing upward. The design is at once distinct and simple.

OUR KEY WEST MARINE CORRESPONDENCE.

KEY WEST, FLA., Jan. 26.

The steamship *Joseph Whitney*, Captain LOVELAND, arrived at Fort Jefferson, Garden Key, Tortugas, the morning of the 18th, and landed Major ARNOLD and his command the same day. There being no heavy ordnance at Fort Jefferson Capt. MEIGS, the Engineer Officer in charge, made a requisition upon Captain E. B. HUNT, U. S. Engineer in charge of Fort Taylor, for a portion of his heavy ordnance, together with the ordnance property appertaining thereto, and sent the steamer *Whitney* to this place to transport the same.

The Barkantine *Horace Beal* was here chartered by Capt. MEIGS to receive on board the Columbiads and Howitzers, &c. She was taken in tow by the steamer and carried down under convoy of the U. S. steamship *Crusader*, Lieut. MAFFITT. The vessels arrived at Tortugas in safety, and the guns were at once mounted. This fortification may now be considered safe in the hands of the Federal Officers.

The U. S. Steamer *Crusader*, Lt. MAFFITT is at Havana. She will return to this rendezvous the 28th, and remain here to assist Capt. BRANNAN in the defence of Fort Taylor.

The Steamship *Mohawk*, Lt. CRAVEN, is at present at Fort Jefferson assisting in its defence. No other men of war are known to be in these waters.

Fort Taylor has a large part of her armament mounted, and is considered capable of sustaining a protracted siege. The company of Artillery, in command of Capt. J. M. BRANNAN, have been transferred from the barracks, and now occupy quarters within its walls. They have six months supply of provisions, and water sufficient for twice that period.

In marine matters we have little of interest. No wrecks have occurred on our coast since the *Ocean Belle* went ashore, and no vessels have arrived in distress. The vessels here repairing are nearly ready for sea. The ship *Mary Washington*, from Charleston, for this place, to take the cargo of the *Ocean Star*, was lost about the 15th, on Abaco reef.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SATURDAY 2

Foggy and misty day with water dripping from roofs all the time. A Salute of 34 guns was fired today at noon at the Armory on account of the Admission of Kansas into the Union. Many of the Citizens who did not know the cause of the firing were much alarmed thinking that the "fighting" had commenced. No particular news today. More talk now of an attack upon

Forts Sumpter & Pickens now held by U.S. troops. In Congress the Republicans are giving ground for the sake of peace. The Peace Convention invited by Virginia meets Monday the 4th. Did not go down to the Ave tonight.

February 3, 1861

NEW YORK HERALD

THE REVOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1861.

The President has received Colonel Hayne's communication in regard to the public property in South Carolina, and demanding, in case he will not enter into negotiations for it, the surrender of Fort Sumter.

This letter has been prepared with great care, having been submitted to Messrs. Hunter and Mason, and also to Messrs. Benjamin and Slidell.

The President will reply to it as early as possible. His views are already well known to the people of South Carolina in regard to this matter. He has seen nothing in the events of the last few weeks to change them.

Lieut. Hall's departure for South Carolina, with official despatches, has been postponed for the present. He expected to have gone tonight.

THE NEWS.

Col. Hayne, the South Carolina Envoy, sent a communication to the President yesterday, in which he proposes to open negotiations for the transfer of the federal property to the State, and in case of non-compliance threatens the capture of Fort Sumter. The President summoned his Cabinet on the receipt of the letter to deliberate upon the subject. The result is not known, but it is stated that the President will act as heretofore with regard to the demands of South Carolina, and await the result.

The Louisiana secessionists have seized the Mint and Custom House at New Orleans. The Mint contains a considerable sum of public money, which the government agent at New Orleans has refused to deliver up to the United States.

Both the Washington Peace Convention and the Convention of the secession States at Montgomery meet tomorrow. Several of the delegates to the former had reached Washington last evening, and it is likely that they will all be at the capital by Monday morning.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1861.

A little frozen this morning, but warm the rest of the day with plenty of mud. Wife and boys went to church. I did not go out till evening. Was in at "Willards" Hotel. Quite full of eastern and northern men. Was introduced to ex Gov Gardner of Mass. Very young man for an ex Governor. The "Peace Congress" meets tomorrow. Most of the Delegates are here. It is said that Virginia will demand as a preliminary that the U.S. troops now in this City be immediately withdrawn and that no State that "Secedes" shall be coerced. If such be the case it will make trouble & Virginia herself will be ignored altho she first called for the convention. It cannot mean Peace.

February 4, 1861**NEW YORK HERALD****THE NEWS.**

Our despatches from Washington this morning are interesting. A despatch received from Governor Pickens assured his friends at the federal capital that no attempt would be made to take Fort Sumter until all peaceable means to get possession had been exhausted. The seizure of the revenue cutter *Robert McClelland* at New Orleans has been confirmed. Her commander sometime ago notified the government that he would not obey the orders of the Secretary of the Treasury. The instructions of Secretary Dix to the officer appointed to succeed Captain Brushwood, which, it appears, were intercepted by the Governor of Alabama, were, as will be seen by the despatch, of the most spirited and decisive character. It is now stated that the leading spirits of the republican party are about to make a serious change in their policy, and that hereafter the question to be decided will be one of boundaries and not of slavery and Territories; that they will submit to the loss of all the slave States, with the exception of Maryland and Delaware, the possession of which will place the National capital, with all its associations in their hands, and by a peaceable union with the Canadas, and a peaceable or forcible acquisition of Mexico and Central America, build up an empire greater than has ever existed on the Continent.

The Peace Congress will assemble in Washington today. Our despatches furnish all the gossip and rumors in regard to their proceedings that were current in the federal capital yesterday.

The Convention of the seceding States assembles at Montgomery, Alabama, today. A despatch received in Washington yesterday states that the Convention would probably adjourn over to await the action of the Peace Conference.

Colonel Hayne, the commissioner from South Carolina, on Saturday sent to the President a communication containing the ultimatum of that State. He proposes to enter into negotiations for the purchase of Fort Sumter, and in case of refusal threatens the capture of that fortification. The President will reply to the letter as soon as possible, and as his views have undergone no change, it is thought his answer will be substantially the same as that given a few weeks since. By telegraph we learn that the Mint and Custom House at New Orleans had been seized by the secessionists of that place. The Mint contained a considerable amount of money, which, it was reported, the Assistant Treasurer had refused to deliver up to the agent of the United States. A communication in our paper explains the matter, and the writer thinks, the Legislature will return to the government at Washington whatever moneys may stand to its credit.

THE REVOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1861.

Governor Pickens has assured his friends here that there will be no hostile movements on the part of South Carolina, or any attempt made to take Fort Sumter until all efforts have been exhausted to get peaceable possession of that fort.

It will be at least a week yet before the President letter in reply to Colonel Hayne is laid before the authorities of South Carolina. Therefore we may look for a week yet of peace.

The *New Orleans Delta*, of the 30th of January, arrived here tonight, containing the following announcements, which not only show where the traitors are, but that we have a Secretary of the Treasury who, although he did not know on the 29th of January that the telegraphic lines of the extreme south were not in reliable hands, is a bold man, and is determined to execute the laws of his country:

The Mayor of New Orleans, Mr. Monroe, last night received a highly important despatch

from Governor Moore, of Alabama, addressed to the Governor of Louisiana or the Mayor of New Orleans. Mr. Monroe finding himself unable to communicate with Captain Brushwood last night, has thought it best to give publicity to this despatch, in order that its object may thus be attained. We think his course in the matter the best that can be adopted under the circumstances.

No reply has been received by Secretary Dix to the despatch sent yesterday to the collector and United States Treasurer, inquiring into the circumstances of seizure of the mint by the State authorities of Louisiana. The refusal of those officers to reply shows conclusively that there has been a deliberate plan in which these officers were parties to seized the money in the mint.

Information just received by the government from the Collector at Savannah, in which he states that he has been notified by the Governor of the State of Georgia that no more money must be paid over to the United States without his, the Governor's order. The government has telegraphed to the Collector to know whether he intends to obey the President of the United States or the Governor.

Captain Ingraham yesterday tendered his resignation to the Secretary of the Navy, and it was accepted. It is understood he intends to join his fortunes with the people of South Carolina. He took this step after mature deliberation.

It is understood that Commodore Shubrick will pursue a similar course.

CHARLESTON MERCURY

THE SOUTHERN CONGRESS.

Today meets a body charged with the duty of constructing a Confederate Government for those States which have seceded from the Union of the late United States. It is a grave mission. Since the framing of the United States Constitution and Government, no work of such magnitude and importance has been imposed upon any statesmen in this country. The counsels now inaugurated are fraught with the destinies of the Southern people. Nor is it unlikely that the fate and practicability of Republican Government will be here settled. At the North this has proved a failure. The people there are ignorant of the theory of constitutional free government, and the public men, steeped in schemes of corruption and ambition and plunder, are the rankest of demagogues. Republicanism of Northern interpretation, is the vulgar and irresponsible tyranny of the majority of voters, overriding all law and all legal rights, and trampling the minority under their feet as opportunity and inclination urge. Higher law radicalism and lawless agrarianism have usurped the place of order and conservative justice. Society is given up to the selfish whims and festering isms of the licentious, the irreverent and the unscrupulous - a prey to political harpies - bloated and rotten throughout. It now remains to be seen whether, with slave institutions, the master race can establish and perpetuate free government. Shall the white man here enjoy liberty protected by law, and be free from impertinent interference with private rights - secure under his vine and fig tree. This is the problem to be solved - this the task of the Montgomery Convention. It is a question in the determination of which the human race is not indifferent - the civilized world is deeply interested - the North agitated. To us it is an issue of prosperity and success, or disaster and ultimate ruin - a question of life and death.

All eyes will be fixed upon the deliberations of that body. We trust they will be characterized by wisdom, promptness and efficiency; that a Southern Confederacy will be the aim of all; and the speedy establishment of a permanent Central Government for the South - the grand desideratum of our position and its necessities.

DIARY OF A YANKEE IN THE PATENT OFFICE

MONDAY 4

The Peace Convention met today but all the Delegates had not arrived and but little was

done. The ground was covered with snow again this morning, but nearly melted off during the day. Schuyler Colfax M.C. was at my table in the office attending to a "case." At Willards tonight I met J F Starbuck of Watertown NY and his new wife. Spent an hour in their room in the Hotel. He was Clerk in the Constitutional Conv'n NY, 1846. Willards Hotel is now about full and the Av'e is much crowded during the day. The Election for Delegates to State Convention takes place in Virginia today.

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 I 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 the 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

This publication is intended to be readily available in printed form for use, reading and reference. To facilitate this, I 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 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.