

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1861.

THE RELIEF FLEET OFF THE HARBOR.

How the News is Received in Washington.

OUR CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The ball has opened. War is inaugurated.

The batteries of Sullivan's Island, Morris Island and other points, were opened on Fort Sumpter at 4 o'clock this morning.

Fort Sumpter has returned the fire, and a brisk cannonading has been kept up. No information has been received from the seaboard yet.

The military are under arms, and the whole of our population are on the streets. Every available space facing the harbor is filled with anxious spectators.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The firing has continued all day without intermission.

Two of Fort Sumpter's guns have been silenced, and it is reported that a breach has been made in the southeast wall.

The answer to Gen. BEAUREGARD'S demand by Major ANDERSON was that he would surrender when his supplies were exhausted, that is, if he was not reinforced.

Not a casualty has yet happened to any of the forces.

Of the nineteen batteries in position only seven have opened fire on Fort Sumpter, the remainder are held in reserve for the expected fleet.

Two thousand men reached this city this morning and embarked for Morris Island and the neighborhood.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The bombardment of Fort Sumpter continues.

The Floating Battery and Stephens Battery are operating freely, and Fort Sumpter is returning the fire.

It is reported that three war vessels are outside the bar.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The firing has ceased for the night, but will be renewed at daylight in the morning, unless an attempt is made to reinforce, which ample arrangements have been made to repel.

The *Passaic*, *Harriet Lane*, and a third steamer are reported off the bar.

Troops are arriving by every train.

LATER DISPATCHES—HOSTILITIES STILL PROCEEDED.

ING.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The bombardment is still going on every twenty minutes from our mortars. It is supposed that Major ANDERSON is resting his men for the night.

Three vessels of-war are reported outside. They cannot get in. The sea is rough.

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CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

Nobody is hurt. The floating battery works well. Troops arrive hourly. Every inlet is guarded. There are lively times here.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The firing on Fort Sumpter continues.

There are reviving times on the "Palmetto coast."

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12—3 A. M.

It is utterly impossible to reinforce Fort Sumpter, to-night, as a storm is now raging.

The mortar batteries will be playing on Fort Sumpter all night.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

Civil war has at last begun. A terrible fight is at this moment going on between Fort Sumpter and the fortifications by which it is surrounded.

The issue was submitted to Major ANDERSON of surrendering as soon as his supplies were exhausted, or of having a fire opened on him within a certain time.

This he refused to do.

Major ANDERSON has the greater part of the day been directing his fire principally against Fort Moultrie, the Stevens and Floating Battery, these and Fort Johnson being the only five operating against him. The remainder of the batteries are held in reserve.

Major ANDERSON is at present using his lower tier of casemate ordnance.

The fight is going on with intense earnestness, and will continue all night.

The excitement in the community is indescribable. With the very first boom of the guns thousands rushed from their beds to the harbor front, and all day every available place has been thronged by ladies and gentlemen, viewing the spectacle through their glasses.

The brilliant and patriotic conduct of Major ANDERSON speaks for itself.

Business is entirely suspended. Only those stores open necessary to supply articles required by the Army.

Gov. PICKENS has all day been in the residence of a gentleman which commands a view of the whole scene—a most interested observer. Gen. BRAUNGALD commands in person the entire operations.

It is reported that the *Harrist Lane* has received a shot through her wheelhouse. She is in the offing. No other Government ships in sight up to the present moment, but should they appear the entire range of batteries will open upon them.

Troops are pouring into the town by hundreds, but are held in reserve for the present, the force already on the island being ample. People are also arriving every moment on horseback, and by every other conveyance.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12—6 P. M.

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

Capt. R. S. PARKER brings dispatches from the floating battery, stating that up to this time only two have been wounded on Sullivan's Island. He had to row through Major ANDERSON'S warmest fire in a small boat.

Senator WIGFALL in same manner bore dispatches to Morris Island, through the fire from Fort Sumpter.

Senator CHESTUT, another member of the staff of Gen. BRAUREGARD, fired a gun, by way of amusement, from Mount Pleasant, which made a large hole in the parapet.

Quite a number have been struck by spent pieces of shell and knocked down, but none hurt seriously. Many fragments of these missiles are already circulating in the city.

The range is more perfect than in the morning and every shot from the land tells.

Three ships are visible in the offing, and it is believed an attempt will be made to-night, to throw reinforcements into Fort Sumpter in small boats.

It is also thought, from the regular and frequent firing of Major ANDERSON, that he has a much larger force of men than was supposed. At any rate, he is fighting bravely.

There have been two rain storms during the day, but without effect upon the battle.

Everybody is in a ferment. Some of those fighting are stripped to the waist.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE PRECEDING THE BOMBARDMENT.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence between the War Department at Montgomery and Gen. BRAUREGARD immediately preceding the hostilities.

The correspondence grew out of the formal notification by the Washington Government, which is disclosed in Gen. BRAUREGARD'S first dispatches.

[No. 1.]

CHARLESTON, April 8.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War :

An authorized messenger from President LINCOLN, just informed Gov. PICKENS and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumpter peaceably, or otherwise by force.

(Signed,)

G. F. BRAUREGARD.

[No. 2.]

MONTGOMERY, 10:11.

Gen. G. T. BRAUREGARD, Charleston :

If you have no doubt of the authorized character of the agent who communicated to you the intention of the Washington Government to supply Fort Sumpter by force, you will at once demand its evacuation, and if this is refused, proceed in such manner as you may determine, to reduce it.

Answer.

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

Signed, L. P. WALKER, Sec. of War.

[No. 3.]

CHARLESTON, April 10.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War :

The demand will be made to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Signed, G. F. BRAUREGARD.

[No. 4.]

MONTGOMERY, April 10.

Gen. BRAUREGARD, Charleston :

Unless there are especial reasons connected with your own condition, it is considered proper that you should make the demand at an early hour.

(Signed) L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

[No. 5.]

CHARLESTON, April 10.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War MONTGOMERY,

[No. 8.]

CHARLESTON, April 11.

To L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War :

Maj. ANDERSON replies :

"I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR COMMUNICATION DEMANDING THE EVACUATION OF THIS FORT, AND TO SAY IN REPLY THERETO, THAT IT IS A DEMAND WITH WHICH I REGRET THAT MY SENSE OF HONOR AND MY OBLIGATIONS TO MY GOVERNMENT WILL PREVENT MY COMPLIANCE" He adds : "Probably I will await the first shot, and if you do not batter us to pieces, we will be starved out in a few days."

Answer.

G. F. BRAUREGARD.

[No. 9.]

MONTGOMERY, April 11.

Gen. BRAUREGARD—Charleston :

We do not desire needlessly to bombard Fort Sumpter, if Major ANDERSON will state the time at which, as indicated by him, he will evacuate, and agree that, in the meantime, he will not use his guns against us unless ours should be employed against Fort Sumpter. You are thus to avoid the effusion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the fort as your judgment decides to be the most practicable.

(Signed) L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

[No. 10.]

CHARLESTON, April 12.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War :

HE WOULD NOT CONSENT. I write to-day.

G. F. BRAUREGARD.

MR. FOX'S VISIT TO FORT SUMPTER.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 11.

Intercepted dispatches disclose the fact that Mr. Fox, who had been allowed to visit Major ANDERSON on the pledge that his purpose was pacific, employed his opportunity to devise a plan for supplying the fort by force, and that this plan had been adopted by the Washington Government,

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

and was in progress of execution.

THE KENTUCKY VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

LOUISVILLE, Friday, April 12.

Dispatches have come here to hold the Kentucky Volunteer Regiment in readiness to move at a moment's notice from the War Department at Montgomery.

EXCITEMENT IN MOBILE.

MOBILE, Friday, April 12.

There is intense excitement and rejoicing here. Fifteen guns have been fired in honor of the attack on Fort Sumpter.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

MONTGOMERY, Friday, April 12.

An extra session of the Confederate States Congress has been called for April 29.

THE NEWS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Friday, April 12.

The town was thrown into intense excitement to-night by the report of the commencement of hostilities at Charleston this morning at 4 o'clock. The more so because of the previous news of peace and landing of provisions at Fort Sumpter. The news came to-night from the Associated Press agent at Charleston, giving all the particulars of the correspondence between BRAUNSGARD and Major ANDERSON, the commencement of the attack by the Secessionists, and ANDERSON'S response from his batteries.

The news was posted at once in all the hotels, and the wildest scene of excitement ensued. Among the Union men here there was general rejoicing that an issue was made at last, while no advocates of Southern rights were to be found.

Major ANDERSON'S fame is on every one's tongue about the hotels and streets. The news was at once taken to the White House. All visitors will be excluded, and the Cabinet summoned to await further information and act upon it. One thing I am certain of, from positive knowledge—that if this last information proves true, the Administration will support ANDERSON and his course, with the whole power and means of the Government, at all hazards.

A crowd assembled at the telegraph office to await further news.

Everyone had been waiting anxiously all day for the report of an attack upon the Government supply vessels, which it was ascertained last evening would probably approach Charleston harbor some time during the night or this morning. The surprise occasioned by the report from repeated dispatches that they had entered the harbor without molestation, and were landing the supplies without any difficulty, present or apprehensive, created nearly as great an excitement as the later reports of battle. The President was informed by dispatches to three different parties, announcing the safe landing, until he finally concluded that they must be correct, and that better counsels were prevailing among the Southern men.

CABINET COUNCILS.

Mr. LINCOLN summoned the Cabinet together 'to

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

second time to consult. They had met once at 10 A. M., and now convened again at 1 o'clock P. M. There was general rejoicing at the prospects of peace and final adjustment of our national difficulties, dampened somewhat, however, by fear that it would prove false. LINCOLN said to a friend that if these advices were correct, the crisis had been passed, and the whole question settled without firing a gun. He added that he did not consider the Government at war with the South, and did not intend it should

get the details of the fight at Charleston, but very little has leaked out except the leading statement that the fighting has begun. The last rumor on the streets is that a breach has been effected in the walls of Fort Sumpter. Military men here say if this statement is part of the Associated Press news, it throws discredit on the whole story, as Fort Sumpter is too strong to be thus speedily reduced by any battery in the possession of the enemy. The motive of the statement that a breach has been effected, is supposed to be to discourage the President from sending additional forces there on the idea that the whole affair would be ended before reinforcements could arrive. This surmise is strengthened by the failure to get news of the arrival of the transports at Charleston, as there can be no doubt that some of them reached there before this. The President is anxious but calm at this trying hour of responsibility, confident in the rectitude of his course, and its approval by the people.

FOREIGN ASPECT OF SECESSION.

Mr. SEWARD and the President have consulted frequently with the foreign diplomats here concerning the present condition of our national affairs and the course of their respective Governments. On the part of the representatives of England and France, it is well understood that there is no sympathy whatever for the South. Lord LYONS says, that he sees no benefit to be derived by the English Government, or any foreign Power, from the supremacy of its people; that there is, of course no prospect of foreign supremacy on this continent in any event; while England and the United States have become so strongly united in mutual interests, that misfortune to one is disaster to the other in all points of material interests. The Southern Commissioners had reason to discover these facts while in Washington, and have probably given DAVIS and his compatriots some new ideas not at all flattering to their vanity and visions of ultimate success.

VIRGINIA TRAITORS.

The report that R. A. PRYOR, of Virginia, has joined the staff of BEAUREGARD, gives color to the rumor that several companies had left Richmond for Charleston, to join the rebel forces. Under the circumstances, the Virginia Committee who arrived to day, will get only cold comfort from Mr. LINCOLN, although they will be treated courteously, as the Administration cannot disclose its purposes while a rebellious army is opposing its power.

THE TRAITORS' MAILS TO BE STOPPED.

Should the news of to-night be confirmed, the

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CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

Postmaster-General will suspend at once all mail communications with the rebel States.

THE DEFENCE OF WASHINGTON.

Two companies of the Second Cavalry are ordered to this city, to be selected by the officer in charge of the corps. Although Washington is not under martial law, all possible precautions are taken to guard against surprise. Mounted videttes are stationed at all the approaches to the city, at a distance of several miles, to give notice of any coming hostile force.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE NEWS AT WASHINGTON.

The first dispatches from the seat of war were received in this city about 7 o'clock this evening. The excitement caused by the meagre intelligence was most intense. Bulletins were posted at the principal hotels, where immense crowds gathered to discuss the probable results. It is almost needless to say that while there was but one opinion as to the end, there was an infinite variety of conjectures as to the *modus operandi*. The public sentiment is very decided that in the war inaugurated to-day the Government will prove to be the victor.

NEVER THOUGHT OF EVACUATION.

There is no foundation for the long stories told of the original purpose of the Government to evacuate Fort Sumpter. Mr. LINCOLN has not entertained any such purpose. He has entertained no purpose but to maintain possession of the Government property and enforce the laws. All statements that negotiations were entered upon for the departure of Major ANDERSON'S command were mere *concocts* got up for the purpose of covering political defeats. The policy of the Administration never depended upon the contingency of evacuation. It was fixed within ten days after Mr. LINCOLN'S inauguration. If evidence were wanting of this, it would be found in the fact that the Government was prepared to dispatch such quantities of men and material as left the port of New-York within four days.

FORETHOUGHT OF THE ADMINISTRATION—ITS EFFECT

The rapid shipment of supplies, men and munitions was the result of forethought and previous preparation—the end of means long before matured. The Government continues to receive assurances of the popularity of the measures it has inaugurated. These come from all quarters, and from men of all parties. I was talking with a gentleman from Maryland this evening, who assured me that the steps taken to maintain the supremacy of the General Government had done more to stifle secession in his State than all the compromise propositions. He was at home yesterday when a dispatch was received that a conflict had taken place in the harbor of Charleston. About forty persons were present, including Republicans and “very few” Douglas Democrats and Bell-Everett men. There was a universal expression of hope that the Government would succeed. This feeling pervades the Border States to an ex-

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

tent that surprises all. The stern realities of an actual conflict appear to have sobered the people and brought them to realize the duties of the present Democrat of the State of New-York who shall venture to give his aid and comfort to the Southern Confederacy is doomed to political oblivion. I could multiply a dozen such instances in my experience of to-day.

NO EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.

There is little probability of an extra session of Congress. As was telegraphed you yesterday, there is no necessity for such a session. The Government has all the power which Congress could confer, except the money.

MONEY PLENTY.

Until the limit of Treasury Notes is reached, the Government has as much means at its disposal as its wants are likely to exhaust before the regular period for the assembling of the National Legislature. Were it to be called together now, it could do nothing more to maintain the national honor than Mr. LINCOLN is now doing, while it might seriously jeopardize the early success of the Government forces by needless but exciting debates. In the hands of a prudent, just and decided President, and an intelligent and harmonious Cabinet, the national honor and the national integrity is much safer than experience has proved it would be in the keeping of Congress.

LBO.

GENERAL WASHINGTON NEWS.

THE MORRILL TARIFF NOT SO BAD.

The alleged imperfections and imprudences of the Morrill Tariff, upon which an extra session has been defended, are found to be largely exaggerated, if not entirely unfounded. Mr. BARNBY assures me that he will find no difficulty in executing the law with his present force, and that its provisions are quite as explicit as such laws are usually made, and that the changes from the previous system are not so violent and general as is supposed. A gentleman from Maryland told me to-day that the new tariff was doing much to keep that State loyal. He represents the iron and coal interests of the State, and he thinks the same beneficial influences will be felt in Virginia and North Carolina, in both of which States the mining interests are fast becoming paramount.

FINANCES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The financial embarrassments of the "Confederate States" are betraying themselves at every turn. Yesterday's TIMES exposed some of the evidences of the pecuniary troubles of secession by calling public attention to the fact that the \$5,000,000 of the \$15,000,000 loan of the Confederate States are being "apportioned among" (that is, forced upon) the Banks of New-Orleans, Mobile, &c. Have you noticed, also, that the very first of the \$1,000,000 Treasury Notes, issued by the Provisional Government of the seceded States, were taken "by the Secretaries of War and the Treasury in payment of their quarter's salaries." The significance of this fact is apparent when it is remembered that the test of financial soundness in any Government consists of its ability to pay all Government dues in gold.

An old Clerk of the Treasury Department, who

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

was South last week on private business, met there Ex-Secretary HOWELL COBB, with whom he had some conversation relative to the financial condition of the Government of the United States. Mr. COBB'S experience in the Southern Confederacy does not seem to have improved his judgment at all in the matter of financial estimates, for he continues to come as wide of the mark as ever. In the conversation referred to, he expressed the opinion that the revenues of the Treasury would be only about \$1,000,000 per month; that, under this state of facts, the funds would be speedily exhausted, and that, as there is authority to borrow only \$27,000,000, which, with the \$1,000,000 per month for the ensuing year, would foot up only \$32,000,000, while the expenses of the Government must be about \$55,000,000, the Treasury must be bankrupted inevitably.

The figures in the Department show, in fact, an increase of revenue over last year, and the revenue is coming in at the rate of \$3,000,000 per month, instead of \$1,000,000, which Mr. Cobb graciously allows. During the two weeks ending April 9, 1860, the receipts in the Treasury were \$1,471,241 48. The receipts during the corresponding fortnight of 1861 were \$1,500,667 34; increase in 1861 \$29,426 81.

It should be remembered, too, that these results are attained at a time when the new Tariff is operating unfavorably towards the Treasury, because goods are withdrawing from bond for consumption in cases where the duty is less under the old Tariff than under the new, while merchandize which can be taken out of bond at reduced duties under the new Tariff are allowed to remain. Unless a war shall occur, Government is likely to have abundant means during the coming year.

SUMPTER AND PICKENS CANNOT STAND BOMBARDMENT.

Gentlemen skilled as engineers, and whose judgment is usually sound, express the opinion that neither Pickens nor Sumpter can withstand bombardment, if their assailants are not operated against by land forces. The forts in question were not constructed to sustain a siege, but to defend harbors against hostile fleets. For the latter purpose they are admirably adapted; no "wooden walls" could withstand the fire from their batteries, or do themselves harm; but a well-sustained fire from different points on the adjacent shores, if maintained, will reduce them both in time,—unless they have men enough and guns enough to promptly demolish the assaulting forts.

An agent of the Navy Department might be profitably employed in an occasional stroll through the hotel lobbies at Washington, to notice the language and deportment of those who wear the naval buttons, and yet consistently and publicly swagger about the folly of the Government undertaking to bring the "Southern Confederacy" to terms. It is not often that a naval officer thus dishonors the button,—but when he does, if he has not the manliness to resign, it would be advisable to ship him to sea somewhere where he could do

CHARLESTON DISPATCHES.

no harm if he should take the action to turn traitor.

A. B. DICKINSON, on Thursday, formally accepted the mission to Nicaragua.

GUARD DUTY BY THE CLERKS.

It is suggested that the Secretaries of the various departments call upon the clerks to perform guard duty at each Department where they are stationed. In this way all the loyal employees will be very easily discovered, and the shaky ones detected. I have the assurance that the experiment is to be

There was a great rush at the White House again to-day of office-seekers. Most of them failed to gain admittance on account of the exciting news. The entire remainder of the Boston appointments were made, to-day, as follows :

Surveyor, CHARLES A. PHELPS.

Navy Agent, EUGENE L. NORROW.

United States District-Attorney, RICHARD H. DANA.

Marshal, JOHN B. KEYES.

A strong, but unsuccessful effort to defeat this state was made.

The crowd of New-York office-seekers is increasing. CHARLES A. STETSON denies that he is a candidate for Marshal, or any other office.

The New-York Times.

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