

The Great National Struggle.

A Civil War has been inaugurated by the South, and hostilities have commenced! The contest is between the Slave Power and the Government of the United States—between Despotic Rule and the Freedom of the People to govern themselves.

The news which we publish to-day will arouse the nation from centre to circumference. Mr. Lincoln, for refusing to surrender Fort Sumter to the Southern traitors and robbers, without an effort to re-inforce and provision it, will receive the plaudits of every true friend of Constitutional Freedom, North and South, and they will sustain him to the end. The South has forced this unnatural drama upon us, and there can be no more hesitation in the mind of any Patriot as to the duty which the emergency imposes. The Stars and Stripes must be sustained at all hazards and at every sacrifice. The man is a traitor who shrinks now from rendering loyal service to the authorities which are entrusted with the honor and integrity of the nation.

Pennsylvania has already been placed on a war footing. The Legislature has passed, and the Governor has signed, a bill appropriating half a million dollars for this purpose. Every Northern State will doubtless follow the example set by Pennsylvania, and furnish its quota of men and money to aid the Government in defence of its established rights. We presume that Gov. BLAIR will call an Extra Session of the Legislature of this State, forthwith; at all events we think he should do so. There should be no flinching now. Michigan must not be behind her sister States in rendering efficient aid to the General Government in this great struggle for Freedom, and the right to sustain itself on the principles upon which it was founded.

The People and the Government.

The Detroit Advertiser says that the signs of vigor and energy which the Administration has shown within the last few days has had an astonishing effect in inspiring the Northern people with confidence in the strength and ability of the government, and in its determination to enforce obedience to its laws and respect for its flag. All true and loyal men, of whatever party, hail these signs of activity with delight, and everywhere declare a willingness to rally to its support in its efforts to vindicate the national honor. If a war should be commenced by the insane traitors of the South, half a million men would volunteer in a month, if necessary, to aid the government in preserving itself against the disunion conspiracy now threatening its overthrow. The conduct of the Administration is receiving the warm approval of the Northern people. Nobody but traitors hesitate to approve the movements of the government, and nobody else will. A drum-head court-martial will make short work with them, should they ever become as dangerous as they are treacherous.

A Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says: I assure you, that they who are in a way to know, are convinced that Fort Sumter is not in the condition which the Sensation Press has described it. Major Anderson, according to Mr. Buchanan's representations, and they were official, wanted no reinforcements or supplies, as late as the 24th of February last, having at that time seven months provisions and forage on hand. I am assured that this Government, I mean this administration, has not stood idle and negligently by, and suffered Major Anderson to be either starved out, or left with seventy men, should the rebels be mad enough to make war on him.

Nor has Captain Slemmer been left to his own resources. He has been taken care of in the most signal way, as events will prove, and people who have been trembling with fear, will find that there is a MAN at the helm of State.

Gen. Jackson used to swear, they say, and when he brought that big staff of his down with an oath, between his feet upon the floor, there was an end of all doubt. I do not say that President Lincoln swears at all, but the emphasis said to be shown by him on a recent occasion will prove quite as effective in results as that which distinguished Gen. Jackson's manner of speaking.

A portion of the militia of the District of Columbia were mustered at Washington, in preparation to repel any attack that may be made upon the Capitol. The oath to support the Constitution was administered to them. Some of the men refused to take the oath, on the plea that if Maryland should secede they considered their allegiance due to her! The absurdity of treason could hardly be more strikingly shown than in this case. Maryland renounced all right and title to the District more than sixty years ago by ceding it to the United States, and has no more claim to it than Massachusetts or Michigan. And yet on such a flimsy pretense as this, these traitors refuse to take arms in defense of their own city.

BUFFALO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.—This old journal has passed into the hands of Rufus Wheeler, Esq., late junior of the Express. Mr. Wheeler has had many years experience, as printer and editor, and will render effective service to the Republican cause as editor and proprietor of the Commercial.

The War Begun!!

Civil War Initiated by the South. The Rebels Attack Fort Sumter. Firing kept up all Day. No Decisive Results. Telegraphic Correspondence Between Gen. Beauregard and the Montgomery War Department. The General is ordered to Reduce the Fort. He Undertakes it, and Opens his Batteries from various Points. The Firing Commences at Four o'clock, A. M. Major Anderson Replies, and a Brisk Cannonading sets in. The Besiegers flatter themselves that they effected a breach. The Floating Battery stands Fire though Repeatedly Hit. The Rebels Claim that but two Men have been Wounded. Three Vessels seen in the Offing. Apprehensions that a Reinforcement will be Attempted. Belief that Major Anderson has a Larger Force than was Supposed. The Bombardment Continues through the Night. Storm Raging at Sea—Reinforcement therefore not Probable. Great Excitement at Charleston. Maryland will Sustain the Administration. Pennsylvania Appropriates Half a Million Dollars for War Purposes. Preparations for the Defence of Washington.

Washington, April 12.

Private dispatches have been received from the South, which leave no reasonable doubt that hostilities were commenced at Charleston at an early hour this morning. We are in momentary expectation of full details.

Charleston, April 12.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence between the War Department at Montgomery and Gen. Beauregard, immediately preceding the hostilities. The correspondence grew out of the formal notification by the Washington Government, which is disclosed in Gen. Beauregard's first dispatches:

"No. 1." "Charleston, April 8. To 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 Sumter, peaceably, or otherwise by force. (Signed) "G. T. BEAUREGARD."

"No. 2." "Montgomery, April 20. To Gen. Beauregard, Charleston: If you have no doubt of the authorized character of the agents who communicated to you the intention of the Washington Government to supply Fort Sumter by force, you will at once demand its evacuation, and if this is refused, proceed in such a manner as you may determine to reduce it. Answer. (Signed) "L. P. WALKER, Secty of War."

"No. 3." "Charleston, April 10. To L. P. Walker, Secty of War: The demand will be made to-morrow at twelve o'clock. (Signed) "G. T. BEAUREGARD."

"No. 4." "Montgomery, April 10. To Gen. Beauregard, 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, Secty of War."

"No. 5." "Charleston, April 10. To L. P. Walker, Charleston: The reasons are special for twelve o'clock. (Signed) "G. T. BEAUREGARD."

"No. 6." "Charleston, April 11. To L. P. Walker, Secty of War, Montgomery: Demand was sent at 2 o'clock. Allowed till 6 to answer. (Signed) "G. T. BEAUREGARD."

"No. 7." "Montgomery, April 11. To Gen. Beauregard, Charleston: Telegraph the reply of Major Anderson. (Signed) "L. P. WALKER, Secty of War."

"No. 8." "Charleston, April 11. To L. P. Walker, Secty of War, Montgomery: Major 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 my sense of honor, and my obligations to my Government, 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." Ans. (Signed) "G. T. BEAUREGARD."

"No. 9." "Montgomery, April 11. To Gen. Beauregard, Charleston: We do not desire needlessly to bombard Fort Sumter. 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 Sumter, you are thus

to avoid the effusion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the fort as your judgement decides to be the most practicable. (Signed) "L. P. WALKER, Secty of War."

"No. 10." "Charleston, April 12. To L. P. Walker, Secty of War, Montgomery. "He would not consent. I write to-day." (Signed) "G. T. BEAUREGARD."

SECOND DISPATCH.

Charleston, April 12.

The ball has opened—war is inaugurated. The batteries of Sullivan Island, Morris Island and other points were opened on Fort Sumter at 4 o'clock this morning. Fort Sumter has returned the fire, and a brisk cannonading kept up. No information has been received from the sea-board yet. The military are under arms, and the whole of our population are on the streets, and every available space about the harbor is filled with anxious spectators.

New York, April 12.

The Herald's special dispatch says: "Fort Moultrie began the bombardment with two guns, to which Anderson replied with three shots from his barbette guns. After which the batteries at Mount Pleasant, Cummings Point and the floating battery opened a brisk fire of shot and shell. Anderson replied only at long intervals until between 7 and 8 o'clock, when he opened from two tiers of guns, looking towards Moultrie and Stevens' battery; but at three o'clock failed to produce serious effect. During the greater part of the day Anderson directed his shot principally against Moultrie, the Stevens' and floating battery and Fort Johnson, they being the only ones operating against him. Fifteen or eighteen shots struck the floating battery without effect. Breaches to all appearances have been made in the sides of Sumter exposed to the fires. Portions of the parapet were destroyed and several guns shot away.

"The fight will continue all night. The fort will probably be carried by storm.

"It is reported that the Harriet Lane received a shot through her wheel house. She is in the offing. No other Government ships are in sight.

"The troops are pouring into the city by thousands."

THIRD DISPATCH.

Charleston, April 12.

The firing has continued all day without intermission. Two of Fort Sumter's guns have been silenced, and it is reported that a breach has been made in the South-east 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 Sumter; 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.

The bombardment continues from the floating, Stevens and other batteries. Sumter continues returning the fire. It is reported that three war vessels are now off the bar.

Charleston, April 12.

The firing has ceased for the night to be renewed early in the morning. Ample arrangements are made to prevent any reinforcement of Anderson to-night.

A special dispatch to the Herald says that two men are wounded on Sullivan's Island, and a number have been by spent projectiles.

Three ships are visible in the offing. It is believed that an attempt will be made to-night to reinforce Fort Sumter.

From the regularity of the firing it is believed that Major Anderson has a larger force than was supposed. It rained to-day.

THE VERY LATEST.

The bombardment is continuing with mortars, and will be kept up all night.

It is supposed that Anderson is resting his men for the night.

The Government vessels cannot get in, as a storm is raging and the sea is rough, making it impossible to reinforce the Fort to-night.

The floating battery works well

Washington, April 12.

It is said that the expedition to reinforce Fort Sumter was dispatched against the advice of Gen. Scott, who urged the evacuation of both Forts Sumter and Pickens.

At Baltimore the war news was received with regret, though general sympathy with the government is expressed.

Charleston, 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, and was in progress of execution.

New York, April 12.

The Commercial says—Reverdy Johnson, now here, expresses warm approval of the President's present movement, and emphatically affirms that Maryland will give the Administration cordial support.

Harrisburg, April 12.

A bill has been reported in the House, appropriating half a million of dollars for arming and equipping the militia of the State. It provides for the appointment of an Adjutant, Commissary and Quarter-Master-Generals by the Governor.

Harrisburg, April 12.

The war bill passed both houses to-night without amendment, and has been signed by the Governor.

Louisville, April 12.

Dispatches have been received here from the War Department at Montgomery, to hold the Kentucky volunteer regiment in readiness to move at a moment's notice.

Montgomery, April 12

An extra session of Congress has been called for April 29th.

AFTERNOON DISPATCHES.

New York, April 12

The steamship Vanderbilt proceeded to the navy yard this morning, having been chartered by the government.

Some of the troops which arrived per steamer Coatzacoalcas will probably proceed to Washington immediately. New York, April 11.

The commissioners of the Confederate States sailed from Savannah on the steamer Clyde for Europe.

A schooner arrived at Key West on the 27th from New York with ordnance and stores for Fort Taylor. The supplies are very extensive, and embrace all appliances for a long siege.

The Herald's Washington correspondent of the 11th says: "The men of Westpoint flying artillery, now in Washington, received orders to keep their revolvers constantly loaded, and to be ready for immediate action.—Part of the volunteers will be stationed at the bridge across the Potomac, so as to defend it from an opposing force.

"Nearly one thousand men are now enrolled for regular service from the ranks of the District militia. Those who refused to take the oath of allegiance were marched back to the armory, disarmed, and their names stricken from the rolls. Blisses from the spectators accompanied their disappearance from the parade ground.

"Gen. Cadwallader, of the first brigade of the Pennsylvania militia, has been ordered home immediately by the Governor. The movement is supposed to be in connection with the occupation of the capital by Pennsylvania volunteers.

"Gov. Hicks, of Maryland, has been in consultation with the President for several hours to-day. He came here with feelings of regret at the course of the administration in its seeming coercive policy; but when the Governor heard the reason for the present course of the President and his advisers, and understood the record by which they had been guided, he modified his opinions to a very great extent.

For the Grand Traverse Herald

PAPERS ON AFRICA—NO. 5.

BY REV. GEO. THOMPSON.

PRODUCTIONS CONTINUED.—COFFEE.

Not only is Africa peculiarly adapted to the culture of cotton and cane, but is also the finest coffee country in the world. Like the cotton, coffee is indigenous to the soil. It can not only be cultivated with the greatest ease and success, but grows wild abundantly—is a regular forest tree. In the country about Sierra Leone it is found, gathered by the natives and brought to Freetown and sold to the merchants. I have seen it in the stores there, and they told me that it was of a superior quality. I pretend not to be a judge, as I am not a coffee drinker; but old coffee drinkers testify in its favor.

When in Liberia, I traveled nearly one hundred miles back into the country, and found that the wild coffee was abundant. The trees grow from 30 to 75 feet high. I measured one that had blown down; it was 75 feet long, and 15 inches through. The more general height was from 20 to 40 feet. The wood is hard, and the tree—in the forest—grows slender and tall in proportion.

Those who wish to set out a coffee orchard, but waiting for trees to grow from the seed, go to the forest and dig up the young shoots and small ones, and transplant them.

The wild grain is about the size of the common coffee grain in the stores, while the cultivated is nearly twice as large.

In Liberia, the American colored people are cultivating coffee with great success. The trees are seen all about the streets—in nearly every man's yard, and numbers had large yields of coffee. I passed one coffee orchard on St Paul's river containing 100 acres; others had 10 acres, and others less. I was assured that the quality of the domesticated coffee—the large grain—was not to be excelled. They are beginning to export considerable quantities. It can now be obtained in New York. The domestic tree grows more like a cherry tree, obtaining the height of 10 to 15 feet, and 3 to 6 in. in diameter. In an orchard they are placed from 8 to ten feet apart—in rows, and for the first few years vegetables are cultivated between the rows.

They are first propagated in nurseries from the coffee-grain, and transplanted when about two years old, and from two to three feet high. They begin to bear when about three years old, and three to four feet high; at first, only a few of the plums, (containing the coffee) and increasing in amount every year, till one tree will produce bushels. They are cultivated with great ease. The plum grows on a long stem—a number in a cluster about the branch. This fruit is about the size of a small crab apple. It is covered with a sweetish pulp, and each plum contains two coffee grains—each grain being incased in a hull by itself. When ripe, the plum is of a pale reddish color, and the pulp can be eaten.

To prepare the coffee for use, the plums are picked, and beaten in a large wooden mortar till the pulp is all mashed, then spread in the sun till dried. The grains in the hulls are then beaten again, till the hull is separated; then the coffee is ready for use. Where they are cultivating it much, they have a machine for hulling the coffee, which expedites the business very much.

In the culture of coffee, children can do much of the work, and a large coffee plantation must be a steady source of income, without any great outlay. And from all I can learn, Africa is the best country for coffee yet known.

Receipts from Customs for the two weeks ending April 9th, 1860, were \$1,471, 241, and for the two corresponding weeks this year \$1,500,667; increased \$29,416.