FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, April 7, 1861.

The rain, which has been descending almost incessantly for the last twelve hours, must have rendered the quarters of the "hireling" companies upon the islands anything but pleasant. If I mistake not, it has also materially interfered with the sandy foundations on which the principal batteries rest. The iron battery at Cummings's Point, usually called the Star of the West Battery, and upon which much dependence was placed, gave way yesterday, and a hundred and fifty men were taken down in the afternoon on the "sloop-of-war Gen. Clinch," to repair the damage. The floating battery is also in trouble again. They have just discovered the truth of my statement in THE TRIBUNE weeks ago, that the embrasures would not permit the guns to discharge a ball anywhere else than in the water. Men are at work to-day (Sunday) in lowering the gun carriages. This, however, will not produce the desired effect. It is useless lumber, and may as well be condemned at once. This is by no means Gen. Beauregard's opinion, however, for he has ordered the Richardson, or Rum Guard, to report for active service upon it to-morrow morning. This order, and numerous others issued yesterday, seem to favor the idea that hostilities will shortly commence.

I called in at the Charleston Hotel, to see what were the Governor's movements, but one of his "Aids" told me that the old gentleman went to bed as usual, a little "screwy," and had not yet made his appearance. At General Beauregard's headquarters everything was lively, and his satellites were pretending to be elated at the early prospect of a fight. A strong and politic move of the government would be to reënforce Major Anderson. The rebels know, and admit, that properly garrisoned, Fort Sumter would be impregnable against any such assault as they could make upon it. *I have myself heard Governor Pickens, General Beauregard, General Dunovant and Colonel Duryea admit this.*

I made a trip to Savannah yesterday, to see how the land lay, and was surprised at the utter carelessness and recklessness with which the storekeepers there regard the state of affairs. The quiet, respectable business men, most of them of New-England origin, look upon the South as utterly and irretrievably ruined unless the United States Government interfere to maintain the laws, and throw protection around life and property. There exists in Savannah, in place of the usual Vigilance Committee, a society of vagabonds, who exult in the name of Rattlesnakes. It is composed of the very dregs of society—nigger-traders and brokers are among its leading spirits. It was this crowd which committed the gross outrage on the English sea Captain. A highly respectable and eminent merchant in Savannah, who is a Republican in heart and feeling, assured me that they were very little better than common thieves, and I can readily believe it, for I happened to be present at their formation at the commencement of January, and certainly never saw a regiment of harder looking cases. I am credibly informed that they entirely defy all law, and do not scruple to enter and ransack the chambers of men who are at all suspected of being loyal and patriotic to their country. They have a strong and bitter antipathy to the company of Savannah Blues, a respectable company of men who all voted against Secession candidates for Convention; and so utterly unscrupulous are these Rattlesnakes considered, that the Captain of the Blues has ordered all his men to carry arms about their person to defend themselves from attack from these midnight assassins. A Jew, named Solomon Levy, and a man named Butler, formerly of New-York, both of whom attempt to palm themselves off as respectable citizens, are connected with this band, and openly advocate the tar and cotton remedy for any honest man who dares to do his own thinking, if he should happen to stray that way.

I intended to have mentioned in my last letter the petty theft which was committed here the other day by the police. Lieut. Talbot, when he came to this city from Fort Sumter, was rowed hither by four of Major Anderson's men, and they took the opportunity to visit a store on East Bay and purchase for themselves and their comrades a small supply of tobacco—some thirty small separate packages—and a few clay pipes. Before the boat left the landing these packages were all STOLEN by the two policemen who were upon the wharf; and a mean, contemptible, and disgusting felony it was.

An Irishman, who belongs to the police force, and who is a good Union man, when relating these circumstances to me, communicated at the same time a piece of information, which exhibits a state of mind existing among the "*Chivalry*" so utterly regardless of the feelings of an innocent and poor widow that, had it not been backed by proof, I would have given it no credence. The mean, dastardly, and contemptible ruffians who molested and injured poor Mrs. Bottsford, who was guilty of no crime, have heaped insult upon injury by exhibiting her photograph among their gallery of South Carolina rogues, who adorn the walls of the Police-Office. However, Mrs. Bottsford can rest secure in her own consciousness of innocence; and the insults and vagabondism heaped upon her by pirates and traitors will do her no harm.

A distinguished citizen, and good Union, Anti-Slavery man, called upon me this morning, to assure me of his entire agreement with my views as to the state of affairs here, as expressed in THE TRIBUNE correspondence. He expressed fears as to my safety, in case of discovery by the rabble; but was evidently pleased and satisfied when I told him that, to the best of my knowledge, no suspicion existed against me, and that I was in the hands of true and trusty friends.

EXPECTATIONS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861.

A circumstance occurred yesterday which struck terror into the hearts of the soldiers on the islands. As you know, the batteries have all been constructed for the purpose of resisting shot only, it being accepted as a certainty that Anderson had no shells. Much to the chagrin of Gen. Beauregard, the garrison at Fort Sumter were yesterday engaged in shell practice, and threw ponderous shells with marvelous rapidity and wonderful precision to a given spot seaward. The Morris Island, Fort Johnson, and Fort Moultrie batteries, are entirely unprotected from the effects of shell, and these, sent from the well-directed mortars at Fort Sumter, will certainly produce desolation, and scatter the "green" troops in all directions.

I am anxiously looking for the United States vessels the departure of which for this port has been announced. Every lover of his country, every man jealous of its honor and prestige, must rejoice at the decision of the Government to reenforce Fort Sumter. The strength and capabilities of these sand batteries have been greatly exaggerated. Provisions and men could to-night be placed within Sumter's walls with a very trifling loss; and when that has been accomplished, South Carolina and her "Confederate" sisters will not DARE to attack it. Swift and sure destruction would be their fate. I repeat, upon the authority of Gen. Beauregard, and also upon the authority of men abler and more experienced than he, that South Carolina cannot capture Fort Sumter, even with its present garrison, and that if reënforced, it would be a positive absurdity to attempt it.

The General yesterday pronounced "Stono" to be a very weak point, observing to his aids that it would be perfectly easy for the Government to land troops there and attack the island-batteries in the rear. He said it was positively necessary that a force should be stationed there, and in obedience to the telegraph some five or six hundred men were scared up in the country districts, part of whom have arrived. The Charlestonians are restless, dissatisfied and anxious. The women—whom, of course, we all pity—are by no means unanimous in desiring the commencement of war. Brothers, fathers, husbands and lovers, who have rushed into this melee in a state of excitement, hoping by bully and brag to defeat the cause of justice, freedom and law, may well pause for a moment now and reflect upon the possible misery they have entailed upon their innocent dependents. I can have no pity for these now. I have been witness to so many acts of treason, violence and oppression, that, as a law-abiding citizen, I can only look upon their approaching punishment as a cause of gratulation to all true patriots and freemen. I speak confidently of speedy punishment, and it is sure and certain even if hostilities are yet warded of. It will come not only in the shape of corporeal punishment, but in panics, bankruptcy, want and destitution. Farms have been neglected; money has been squandered; credit has been destroyed. It is impossible already to make a collection in Charleston of an honest debt. The banks have no specie, and are subsisting upon paper which must soon become uncurrent. The end, although not yet, is steadily and surely coming. *The Charleston Evening News*, owned and edited by the notorious fighting man, Col. John Cunningham, closed its career yesterday; reason assigned, men all at the wars; real cause, few subscribers and only quack advertisements. The other newspapers will soon follow. They are losing money every day. The people have no money for papers when they want for bread. So they make the bulletin boards answer,

Coates, one of the detective force, was discharged here yesterday. The charges against him were for communicating inconvenient facts to *The Police Gazette*, and for entertaining Union sentiments. I mention this fact for the purpose of reiterating my previous statement, namely, that a system of espionage exists here which would disgrace the vilest and most barbarous despotism of the old world. Men who dare to say they are American citizens, and desire to be true to their country and its laws, are every moment liable to the attacks of vile and infamous rowdies, who are the paid puppets of the slave power. More than one instance has come within my own observation during the last two days, which loudly call for the immediate attention of the American Government. When her loyal and loving sons are risking their lives and property by being true to her, it is no time to stand idly by and wink at treason.

If there were any reliance to be placed upon the braggadocio of the Chivalry, I should assure you that my next letter will be written amid the booming of cannon and the roar of artillery. The sooner rebellion and treason are subjugated the better, and if reason can produce no effect upon the Pro-Slavery Rebels, there is not a civilized Power in the world, and not a living creature, whose desires and aspirations are for Freedom and Justice, who will not wish God speed to the land of civilization and progress, and success to the United States Government as their representative.

FROM LOUISIANA.

WHAT THE REBELS THINK OF WAR.

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS April 9, 1861.

The Secession newspapers express gratification that Mr. William H. Russell, the graphic correspondent of *The London Times*, is to visit the South. They *profess* to court investigation, whenever it is made in a spirit of truth and candor. If Mr. Russell is able to see the truth, through all the misrepresentations which will be made to him, and honest enough to tell it, in spite of all the courtesies and hospitalities of which he will be the recipient, it will prove him a man of remarkable penetration and firmness. Let him remember that the slaves, like the lions in the fable, have no painter. Let him remember that the masters have every motive of interest and reputation, to whitewash the facts. Let him visit the Slave Auctions—not merely once or twice, where he is known, and with companions—but alone and frequently. They will afford him the best of all attainable opportunities for studying the nature and effects of Slavery.

The recent vigorous movements of the Administration in connection with the navy continue to cause great excitement. The leading Secessionists, in spite of the defiant tone of their journals, wear an anxious look, and begin to dwell upon the vast injury a war will do to the commerce and the other material interests of the country. Why didn't they think of all this before?

You have of course observed the indignant denials of the Southern Press that there was any intention to assassinate Mr. Lincoln. I was in a crowded railway car, on the very day of his inauguration, when a young man said, loud enough to be heard through the carriage, he *hoped* that Lincoln might be killed before he took the oath, and no one uttered one word of dissent. And no longer ago than yesterday morning, I breakfasted beside a wealthy resident of this city, who lost a new hat on a bet that *both* Lincoln and Hamlin would be killed before the fourth of March.

Our Secessionists are less sanguine than they were about the five million loan which comes into market on the 17th inst. They are reporting that a single bank in this city proposes to take one million; but that is their old game of brag. They are certainly working industriously to make the bonds saleable. They are still advertised very extensively and extravagantly puffed by the newspapers. In this State, as I have previously written, they are *exempted from taxation*. In the States where the banks have suspended specie payments, the Secretary of the Treasury asks them to redeem in gold, all of their paper which may be paid for these bonds. These measures, the unusually high rate of interest, and patriotic considerations are relied upon to make the people swallow them. By the way, I notice that the Montgomery correspondent of *The Charleston Mercury* charges me with representing, in my letter of the 15th ult., that these bonds were already in the market. I made no assertion of the kind, but alluded to them distinctly as not yet offered. Therefore, O Secession brother of the quill, all your moralizing about "perverting the truth," however sound, is inapplicable.

It is vouchsafed to few mortals to know, before death, what their associates really think of them; but an instance which occurred to your correspondent the other night, impresses him as too good to keep. I was chatting in the office of the St. Charles with a Secession friend—a very prominent man in the movement—when conversation turned upon the peculiar Southern method of lynching people, because they don't happen to agree with the majority upon the Slavery question. He scouted the idea (as if I did'nt know better!) that a moderate, gentlemanly Republican would not be safe in this city. "However," he added, "there are three men whose safety I wouldn't guarantee here."

"Who are they?"

"Governor Dennison of Ohio is one. Since he refused to return that slave to Kentucky, I don't think he would be permitted to stay in New-Orleans. I should oppose it all events. Then there is Andy Johnson of Tennessee. But for him, I believe we would have had Tennessee and Kentucky with us. He would be at least liable to insult here."

"And the third?"

"Some infernal scoundrel who is writing abusive letters to THE TRIBUNE about us."

"Is it possible?"

"Yes, Sir, he has been at it for more than a month."

"Have you no suspicion who he is?"

"Some think it is a Kentuckian engaged in the cattle trade; but *I* suspect it to be a man employed on *The Picayune*. We are keeping a sharp eye on both. If we *do* catch him, I don't think he'll write many more letters."

I ventured to plead a little for the Governor and the Senator, but quite agreed with my friend that the audacious scribbler ought to be suppressed. It struck me as one of those cases in which acquiescence was the better part of valor. But when you *do* catch him Colonel, will you be good enough to let me know?

You will see by the subjoined intelligence from Fort Pickens (up to the 5th inst.) that the men are greatly dissatisfied at hard work, reduced wages, and *no money*.

"There is considerable murmuring among the mechanics at the Navy-Yard on account of their not receiving pay for their labors for the past three months, as well as for the reduction of their wages, and bringing others here to work at the reduced rate. They have been giving their services since the 12th of January last to the Confederate States, in unspiking guns, mounting cannon, preparing gun-carriages, building magazines, and other things absolutely necessary, and have not been paid; their families have been slighted in their supplies, and the first act of the authorities is to reduce their wages and introduce others to work at their own rates. Economy is truly commendable, as well as in individuals, yet I think that justice should be practiced as well as economy. I hope and trust that the injudiciousness of a few men may not tend to bring the secession movement into obloquy with the working men of the South. They are a gallant and patriotic body, who have at all times espoused the cause, and it would be a crying shame to have the acts of a few men, who are unknown save by the position they occupy, estrange the mechanics of our large cities, by their conceiving that the Secession leaders had any such object in view as the bringing down their wages to rates which make it impossible for men with families to live. I wish President Davis, the Secretary of War, or whoever is the proper person to redress the wrong, would take immediate steps to remedy this false step which tends to do more injury to the Southern cause than the reënforcing of Fort Pickens. This morning nearly every man employed quit work when the wages were announced at the bell post—carpenters, machinists, blacksmiths, and all others, @2 per day and a ration. I trust this unfortunate state of affairs may be of short duration."

Mr. Yancey and Judge Rost, the European Commissioners, were at Havana on the 4th inst., enjoying the hospitalities of Mr. Crawford, the British Consul-General. *The True Delta* has a letter from a Havana correspondent, who is utterly inconsolable on this point, and sets forth his grievances thus:

"Every official act of Mr. Crawford as a faithful servant of his country in Cuba, is antagonistic to the institutions and the interests of the South and the Confederate States of America. Every incident which espionage could develop, that might be tortured into prejudice against the people of the South, has been reported to his Government by Mr. Crawford—capital for himself, and making the basis of speeches for Lord John Russell and others, as in debate 27th February, House of Commons, where facts were so perverted that truth could no longer associate with them; and this gentleman is elected to do the agreeable and to court hospitable attention for the illustrious Commissioners."

FROM MARYLAND.

A GLOOMY DAY.

THE FEELING IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT—EXASPERATION OF THE REBELS—JOKES ABOUT THEIR BOBADIL TELEGRAMS—GOV. HICKS'S CHANGE OF VIEWS—THE TRUE BLUES ORGANIZING—THE PRESIDENT'S PROMPTITUDE—A RECOGNIZED FACT.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BALTIMORE, April 13, 1861.

The heavens have been weeping small tears for the last twenty-four hours, and though a gleam of sunshine now and then struggled through the clouds, the day has closed in gloom, with the vapor curtain shutting us in.

A memorable day, this 13th of April, in Baltimore. The newspapers of the morning came freighted to us with the bulletins of a raging battle in Charleston harbor, and "nobody hurt." Such a strange jumbling of messages was never perhaps strung together in the columns of the press. If the subject had not been so serious, the town could not have contained its risible faculties.

Baltimore street was black with people, and the bulletin boards were besieged by anxious inquirers and readers. The general feeling was that of the deepest sympathy with the United States and irrepressible anger and exasperation against the Rebels. Now and then, some unlucky secession-sympathizer would display his feelings; but it was only to receive a volley of hisses from the bystanders. The sons of Erin were especially loud, in all groups, against the Rebels. Rough, stalwart men, were seen to gnash their teeth, as telegrams of adversity to Sumter reached the light. One man appeared on the street, dressed in brown, and wearing a secession cockade. Instantly the boys saluted him with jeers and gibes, and he soon took to his heels, with a crowd after him.

But ridicule was *au comble*, when the news came that Fort Sumter was on fire. One gentleman, in expostulating with some of his friends, because of their want of faith in the news, quietly assured them that it must be so, for the Charleston people would not be true to their character, if they could not burn granite! Another gentleman came in to where I was standing, breathless with the news, that the fire engines of Charleston had succeeded in putting the fire out! Some wag announced very gravely, that a regiment of sword-fish had been mustered into the service of the Rebels, under the command of Jefferson Davis in person, and that they succeeded in sinking the United States fleet outside the harbor! A drunken man on the street blurted out that the process of wiping out the North had begun, but before he got through he slipped into a drinking saloon to refresh himself again.

So, you see, people would crack their jokes even over the bombardment of Fort Sumter. But underneath all this levity caused by the Bobadil character of the dispatches, there was an under-current of vengeance that broke out in strong expressions every now and then, and it was responded to. But in the counting-rooms, and lawyers' offices, and other out-of-the-way places, I have heard of a good deal of sympathy with the Rebellion and rejoicing over the collision. How the fall of Sumter and the defeat of the United States forces (if possible) will affect the public mind in our city, remains to be seen. My impression is that the feeling against Secession will be strengthened.

It is rumored that Governor Hicks's views have undergone a great change since his interview with the President. I hope this is true, for the Governor's own sake, for there is something likeable in his general character. It is said that he has been sounding the feeling of our volunteer military, and that, with here and there an exception, it is true to the Federal Government. I fear there is some error in this, but I am willing to hope for the best. Whenever the call is made for Federal troops, I feel sure it will be promptly responded to, but rather from the ranks of the working people than the soldiers in peace. But we shall see.

The True-Blues of the Fifteenth Ward, I learn, intend to organize a company of 100 to-night, and to tender their services to the Federal Government. The Democrats are foremost in this thing. The same feeling will be called out in the other Wards, if there should be anything like a reverse to the United States. On the other hand, there is some commotion among the Secession rabble, but it will hardly dare show itself in open day, though there is no telling what it will not attempt.

The prompt dealing of the President to-day with the two laggard officers, whose names he caused to be stricken from the rolls, has met with universal commendation. Let this thing be followed up sternly, and the army and navy will soon be purified of all excrescences. The bottom of the old ship of defense had become barnacle-covered. It is time that it should be scraped.

I cannot stop to tell you of all the criticisms I heard to-day upon the strange dispatches from the seat of conflict. They will, doubtless, find their counterpart in your own city and over all the country in the minds of thinking people. If the dispatches reveal the truth, which I do not for a moment believe, there has been some hard thinking about men and measures in other quarters than those of the Rebels.

But everybody hereabout feels and recognizes the solemn fact that 350,000 slave owners, holding 4,000,000 of blacks in servitude, have reached out their wicked hands to destroy the liberties and interests and Government of 27,000,000 of free white men owning no slaves.

THE "MELANCHOLY" NEWS.

TEST QUESTIONS—A BELLEVERETT BOMBARDMENT—MR. WINANS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BALTIMORE, April 14, 1861.

A bright sunshine and charming temperature ushered in this Sunday morning, making glad soul and body, and imparting buoyant spirits, but the darkness of the past night poured in upon us a shower of contradictions—telegrams of the Bombastes Furioso order—culminating in the bloodless catastrophe of the surrender of Fort Sumter, the reënforcement of Fort Pickens, and the arrest of a flag of truce, in the person of Lieutenant Worden, a man the Rebels will probably convert into a second Andre.

At an early hour this morning Baltimore street was crowded with eager hosts of people, looking out for the last tidings. About 10 o'clock *The American* issued an extra, containing what is styled the *melancholy* intelligence, and it was pungent enough to stir up the black bile of even a member of the Peace Congress. This last batch of telegrams was received in silence by the vast multitude, and the general feeling is reported to have been in deep sympathy with the Government. The Rebellion has evidently lost ground, and is hourly waning, though I hear this morning that Secessionism is still flourishing to some extent among certain of our Monument aristocracy; but it has not yet taken on anything like active form. It is overawed by the power of the Federal Government and the acknowledged anti-Secession sentiment of the whole city.

People do not know what to think of this reported bloodless bombardment. If it is true in all the details given by the telegraph, then the nation will turn from it with disgust, for where everybody had expected to find serious dealing with a serious subject, there has been the most contemptible trifling, the most ridiculous child's play and pottering inanity. But it is impossible to be true, and therefore the public mind is waiting for the smoke to clear away before it decides upon the character of the conflict. Meantime, people will talk, will ask questions, and clouds of doubt are made to envelop the conduct of the Administration and Major Anderson. The grand question is: How came the bombardment to be a bloodless one? On the solution of this question turns the whole story, so far as Fort Sumter is concerned. Again: Where was the reenforcing fleet?

Turning from "peaceful" war's alarms to the far more desperately-fought field of politics, I have to note that the Belleverett party of this city are making a second Charleston-harbor assault upon the Administration, with a view to the capture of all the Federal offices in Maryland. The manifesto of their bombardment was made in the leading article of the organ of that party, *The Clipper*, of yesterday. It consigns to the "demnition bow-wows" the 2,000 Republicans of Maryland, and claims for the Bell men the exclusive right to the Federal offices of Baltimore, on the ground that they voted against Lincoln, which was a vote against Democracy, while they who voted for Lincoln gave the State to Democracy! If this be sound logic, and they should thus succeed in carrying their point, I desire to make a prediction just here, that the 2,000 Republicans of Maryland will be no less Republicans, but they will so voto as to maintain their distinctive character, even though they should, by so doing, consign the State again to the Democracy.

But the Belleveretts will find they can't take the Republican Sumter of Maryland. The Administration is not going to make such an odious discrimination between the two classes of its opponents, as will drive the Democracy entirely into the arms of the leaders disaffected to the Union. These Belleveretts admit, in their manifesto, that they are in an "impotent minority," and they want the offices to help them to get into the majority again. This matter of office in our State is almost as endless and fruitless as the Sumter affair.

Mr. Thomas Winans has waked up from his hybernation, and has chalked out for himself a large Summer's work, in the way of improving his ship-yard on the Patapsco, thus giving employment to several hundred persons.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DEMOCRATIC POSITION ON THE SOUTHERN QUESTION.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Looking at the name signed to this communication, which I will give you the most undoubted reasons for believing to be a true and candid one, and one exactly expressing the position and belief of the writer, you may feel some surprise, and so may a large number of your readers, at my having selected THE TRIBUNE as a medium for giving expression to the sentiments and statements contained in this article. Democrats do not often make THE TRIBUNE their organ for the expression of political opinions, as I am well aware; and I am equally free to confess that under any circumstances other than those at present existing, I should not myself select a paper to the general course of which I so strongly object, as a medium of communicating with the public. But what I have to say addresses itself especially to the General Government and the Republican party; and I am not bigoted enough against a newspaper, with the course of which I may be dissatisfied, to ignore or fail to recognize its wide circulation or influence. THE TRIBUNE did much to bring the present Chief Magistrate before the country, and it played an equally important part in securing his election. It cannot be otherwise than that its columns are looked to with some confidence by the President and his Cabinet, when desirous to know the varying currents of public feeling. What I express here, then, must come to the Government with some authority—that Government having full confidence that you would not attempt to mislead them as to matters of fact, and that you would exercise due care in tracing out the origin of statements put forth in your columns. This, flattering to yourself in some degree, and the opposite in other particulars, must be my full explanation, if not apology, for obtruding upon you expressions which under other circumstances could find their more appropriate place in journals holding my own political creed.

I have said that I wish, through your columns, to address the Government. I am a plain man, and may have difficulty in making myself fully understood; but I trust that I may be able to write with so much of the confidence and earnestness which I really feel, that all who read may be convinced of my thorough sincerity. At this crisis the Government should not be left for one moment in doubt, on any point of public opinion pertinent to the great duty and responsibility in which the Administration is involved. President Lincoln and his Cabinet must be more unworthy the station they hold, than I could have supposed when I voted against him (and by result against them) at the last general election,—if they are disposed to administer the Government solely for the interests and at the behoof of any single party. If they are the patriotic men I hope them, they remember that though elected by a plurality of votes, the Administration is, like all others, by no means the unanimous choice of the people, and that a very large minority, even in the Northern States, have wishes and feelings to be consulted, which cannot possibly be ignored by the Government without alienating friends and still more embittering foes. The Administration, too, must be fully aware that in any forcible operations looking to the preservation of the dignity of the country, it needs the support of the *whole people*, and that without that support its action must be cramped, crippled, and eventually subjected to the chances of partial if not total failure—a failure which would involve the partial if not total destruction of the country. Do I exaggerate, then, when I reiterate the absolute necessity it lies under, of fully understanding the wishes and positions of the bulk of that large body of men who, as the Democracy, have heretofore opposed Republicanism, and who in the same phalanx will stand ready to oppose it again whenever the national position is again such as to make the strict drawing of party lines anything else than abetting national suicide.

It is with reference to the position of the body of the Democracy on the national question, that I would now write, not less in justice to them than in view of the strong necessity of true information on the part of the Government, to which I have before adverted. I have every reason to know that the position of the National Democracy on the question of sustaining the authority of the Government and the Union by any and all means possible, is grossly misunderstood by many of those without its pale. The ultra men of the South fearfully misunderstand it, or they would never have ventured upon the course of rebellion now culminating. They—the Southerners—have been misled, by the false and traitorous statements of papers heretofore professing to express the views of the Northern Democracy, into the belief that sympathy with Secession is general outside the ranks of the Republican party. They know how faithfully and self-sacrificingly we fought for them when they yet pretended to hold toward us the position of brotherhood, and they are not, in the heat of their present madness, quite capable of drawing the line at which those who have sympathized with undoubted Southern *wrongs* withdraw all sympathy with the wronged persons when they no longer ask for justice but take up the weapons of rank rebellion. I regret to say that with a few bright exceptions, the professedly Democratic press of this city is false alike to the party and the country; and continual declarations of the weakness and want of unanimity of the North, coupled with continual avowals of sympathy with the Southern movement, must do much to keep up the unfortunate illusion under which, on this point, the seceding South seems to be all the while laboring. I have no doubt that in the event of a struggle extending over the nation, the body of the Secessionists confidently calculate, not only upon a large minority of the North refusing to enter into the conflict, but upon finding extensive material and moral aid from this quarter. Under no other supposition, I think, could they have staked their all upon so desperate a cause as that in which they are now embarked. Very many of the Republicans of the North, too, I have no question, look upon the body of the Democracy as certain to be lukewarm if not traitorous in the National cause, and fail, on that account, to do *their* share in doing away for the present all party lines, and taking that counsel with those who would temporarily be their allies for the public good, which might be beneficial eventually to the great national cause. If the men of the North, then, as well as those of the South, are many of them so fatally deceived as to the position of the Northern Democracy, for the reasons I have stated, how much danger is there that the Administration should labor, at least partially, under the same deception, and be weakened in its measures by the doubt of a support which is really ready to its hand!

The Democracy of the North are neither traitors nor yet waverers. A few broken-down politicians there are among them, men sore from defeat and who never rose above the grade of time-serving demagogues, who do not know what national honor means, or who would destroy it for some future chance of regaining political position. And there may be, and doubtless there are a few men whose mercantile connections with the South have made them more than half Southerners, who know no God but trade, and who would mistakenly barter every other interest for the hope of regaining their temporarily-shadowed commercial prosperity. Such men as these there are, but they form no considerable part of that body which I am yet proud to call the National Democracy. Here is not the place to discuss the question, but we hold that we have been the great conservative party on whose shoulders rested the weight of more than half the Union, and we have no idea of remaining quiet under the injurious accusations which have come to us in three directions—like the shots directed at Sumter—from Republican opponents, from false exponents of public opinion in our midst, and from Southern sources more or less intentionally misrepresenting us. We *have* loved the South—trusted it—aided it—fought and sacrificed for it; and we would gladly see the difficulty between the Government and the Secessionists settled at once and forever. But we do not demand such a settlement—nor will we listen to the idea of such a one—as will do any less than vindicate the dignity of the Government, maintain our right to public land and property, restore the momentarily-dimmed luster of our flag, and not only destroy the hydra of Secession, but make it unlikely that any of its heads can ever again rise to afflict us.

No man of the North—whether he be Democrat or Republican—if he is at the same time a true friend of his country and his race—will wish any such action taken toward the seceded States as can be construed by the world into cruelty or malevolence. But no true man of the North—Democrat more than Republican—can consent that the struggle now inaugurated should be abandoned until the full power, position and dignity of the Government is asserted. You of the Republican party have no more sacred Union watchwords than we, for we claim the man who said that "by the Eternal the Union must and shall be preserved!" and who, for the time, with a hand equally firm and considerate, preserved it! Nor have we failed to learn those lessons of political history which should tell us what has been the fate of every party that either opposed or wavered in its support of the national dignity, whether in diplomacy or in arms. Let the Administration do its duty—yield nothing to threats or armed attitudes, though granting, at the proper time, everything to right and justice—let it neither truckle, trifle, nor delay—let it do all that it *can* do, leaving the issue to God, to assert our old position and carry out our authority over every foot of our soil; and if, when the call is made for moral support, money, or *men*, the true Democracy of the North are found wavering, I have misread all the signs of the times, and misknown the men with whom I have all my life been politically associated. For the assurance of the Administration, and of all doubters, I make this assertion in behalf of the National Democracy who have been so maligned and misrepresented; and as one of them, with an apology for the space which I have unavoidably occupied, in what I felt to be a holy purpose, I beg to subscribe myself A NATIONAL DEMOCRAT.

New-York, Monday, April 15, 1861.

EFFECT OF THE WAR NEWS IN WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1861.

For two or three days past, this city has seemed like a military camp. The marching to and fro of troops, in small squads, at short intervals, without any excess of martial music, and with a business-like air and mien, as if earnest work was in preparation, if not in close proximity, reminds one of the novel scenes which American travelers daily witness in the capital cities of the European continent. The effect of this unusual display upon the nerves, respectively of Secessionists, and Republicans, is peculiar, greatly mollifying and relaxing those of the former, while stimulating and stiffening those of the latter. If Ben McCulloch and his Rebel band is not a myth but a reality, their ardor must have been dampened by the patriotic exhibition of the last sixty or eighty hours. The capture and sacking of Washington will be no holiday amusement for the empty-headed and rotten-hearted rogues who, if we credit rumor, have confederated to seize upon the White House and the Capitol, and hold them against all comers from the North until Jeff. Davis arrives to take possession in the name of the Confederate States. By the time this letter will appear in your columns, about two thousand troops, regulars and volunteers, all picked men, will be on duty in this city, ready to defend it to the last against a rabble horde, led by the outlaw McCulloch, or the more imposing legions of the Confederate States. And, ere any sudden foray could widen into a formidable assault upon this city, the tap of the drum and the click of the telegraph would bring hither thousands upon thousands from our Northern hills, who would enrich these arid lands with their heart's blood before they would let the city, which bears the name of Washington, become the prey and spoil of the traitors dwelling in the Cotton Republic.

Special Dispatch to The Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1861.

The Secretary of War was in consultation with the President, at the Executive mansion, during a large portion of the day. Mr. Blair and Mr. Chase called, but did not remain long. The family of the President attended church.

Two companies of Texas troops came in to-day in an extra train. They are rough in appearance, but swear bitterly at traitors. Yesterday two companies of cavalry arrived without horses. The Department is purchasing horses for these companies.

Reports are flying of all shades of complexion, manufactured to suit the inclination of the parties who conceived them. We have had a large throng on the Avenue all day, with groups at every corner, discussing the war question. The hotels are crowded, many of our citizens congregating there, eagerly inquiring for intelligence from Charleston.

It is generally thought by naval and military men here that the war-ships lying off the harbor of Charleston were in communication, by signals, with Fort Sumter, and that Major Anderson informed them that it would be certain destruction if they attempted to come in, except under cover of a close fire between Fort Sumter and the shore batteries, or at night.

It is well known here to-day that the telegraph has been constantly in operation conveying messages between the Governors of South Carolina and Virginia, the purport of which is not known. We are deprived of the use of the wires between Richmond and Washington.

Military men here do not believe the details of the news from Charleston.

It is not possible for the batteries to throw bombs into Fort sumter, as stated in the telegraph. The nearest batteries are 1,200 yards distant, and a bomb would require to be protected at an angle of 45 degrees, so that bombs thrown from a mortar could not be made to enter the port-holes of the battery once in a hundred charges.

W. Porcher Miles telegraphs to Mrs. Doubleday here that the report of her husband's insanity is without foundation. It is believed here that he refused to obey Major Anderson's command to surrender, and was consequently placed in irons.

In all or nearly all of the telegraph offices south of Philadelphia there are Secessionists in attendance—specially engaged by interested parties—while not a few of those who control the wires are decidedly of the same stamp. We have, therefore, to make large allowances for intelligence dealt out through the enemy's hands.

Special Dispatch to The Philadelphia Inquirer.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1861.

On Saturday night, Wm. P. Edgar, a prominent lawyer of Chicago, got into a dispute at Willard's Hotel, with a Secessionist. The Secessionist hoped that the news of Sumter's capture was true. Edgar said such conduct was disgraceful and treasonable, and defended the Administration, at which the crowd cheered him. Willard, the proprietor, came forward and ordered him out. He left the hotel quietly.

On Sunday afternoon he came to the hotel again with a friend to see the Hon. John Sherman, and Mr. Gurley of Cincinnati. After seeing them he came down into the hall. Here he was seen by Mr. Willard, who procured a warrant and had him arrested on the street and taken before a Police Court Magistrate, who ordered him to give bail in the sum of $250 to keep the peace. Two men swore there was nothing in his manner except earnest gesticulation that was disorderly. He refused to give bail, and was sent to prison. The Secessionist was not interfered with.

A large number of military men have left for different parts of the North, for the purpose of raising regiments. Col. Ellsworth goes immediately to Illinois for that purpose.