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[From the N. Y. World.]

## PRESIDENT BUCHANAN'S VINDICATION.

We print with the eighth, the ninth and the eleventh chapters of Mr. Buchanan's book, giving the history of the last eventful months of his administration. From want of space we reluctantly omit the interesting chapter, which forms a chain in the continuity of that part of the book which relates to and refutes the charges of treachery, negligence and feebleness in his failure to confront the nascent rebellion with a strong display of military menace and preparation. Mr. Buchanan's book contains a rapid discussion of the causes which led to the rebellion, and an ample one of the legislative measures attempted in the memorable winter of 1860-61. We will not offer any comment on this part of its contents, which relate to events on which men will continue to differ, and which do not affect the reputation of Mr. Buchanan more than of hundreds of others. But the charges discussed in the striking chapters we republish are not by such a force of overwhelming array of evidence, that they can never be repeated by persons having an motive to do so.

The patience with which Mr. Buchanan has submitted to employ such an ill such means of vindication is accounted for in his preface by his unwillingness, while the war lasted, to do anything which might embarrass President Lincoln. His book was written soon after his retirement from the Presidency. Had it been published, its posthumous publication would have vindicated his memory; but we congratulate him that he has lived to publish it himself, in time to receive from his contemporaries that justice which will be done him by history.

Mr. Buchanan's message of December, 1860, has been misrepresented at the South, but it was correctly understood at the South; and so offended the secession leaders in Washington that his intercourse with them was completely interrupted during the last two months of his administration. Its ideas in respect to coercion were repeated with great clearness and condensation by Senator Johnson, of Tennessee, (now President), in a speech delivered by him that winter, from which Mr. Buchanan makes a pertinent extract. He always upheld the authority of the Federal Government to compel the inhabitants of the States, by military force, to obey the laws.

President Buchanan has been persistently accused of feebleness and imbecility in neglecting to put strong garrisons in the Southern forts; in failing to assume toward the South a high attitude of military menace; and in not preventing Secretary Floyd supplying the South with arms taken from Northern arsenals. These charges have been industriously circulated by common rumor, and more than once made in print by so renowned an officer as General Scott. All these charges are triumphantly refuted by the ex-President. Everybody will regret to see with how much damage to the reputation for accuracy of their chief author.

There was certainly a discreditable and improvident imbecility in that threatening crisis; but it lay at the door of Congress, not of the President. The blindness and infatuation of that body was as disgraceful as it was astonishing. With States when State seceding, and the whole South full of the bustle of military preparation, no law was passed authorizing the President to raise an additional soldier or appropriating a dollar to pay one. The incumbent administration was left as helpless and destitute as the outgoing; and when Sumter was fired on and captured, President Lincoln was compelled, in the stress of the emergency, to raise troops without the authority of law. Why did not President Buchanan do the same? For two sufficient reasons; the crisis justifying so bold a step had not come; and even if it had, Congress was in session and could have supplied the authority.

President Buchanan, as early as the 8th of January, sent a special message to Congress laying before them the alarming state of the country, and submitting to their decision the necessity of efficient military preparation. On the 10th, this message was referred to a special committee of which Mr. Reynolds was chairman; he reported a bill on the 30th, and killed his own bill by withdrawing it, the same day, with the acquiescence of the House. Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, chairman of the Military Committee, afterwards reported a bill for putting the Government in a state of preparation, and this was killed by the House. Still another bill was reported, but action on it was prevented till the last day but one of the session, when the House refused to suspend the rules to take it up. Mr. Lincoln had previously arrived in Washington, fresh from making speeches in which he declared that nobody was hurt, and it was by the motion of his intimate friend, Mr. Corwin, that action on this subject was finally defeated. The friends of the New President must have been, at the time, very confident of a peaceful settlement, and have deemed all military preparation needless, even as a precautionary measure.

It was the purpose of President Buchanan to collect the revenue at Charleston at all hazards, even if he had to fit a custom house on a vessel of war at the mouth of the harbor. But the collection of that port depended on the presence of the authority of the State, and no step could be taken without a struggle. The President, on the 21 of January, sent to the Senate the name of Mr. McIntyre, of Pennsylvania, but that body never confirmed the nomination, Messrs. Bayard and Iverson being the only members of the full machinery for executing the laws.

Mr. Buchanan had then had to fill Post Master and [illegible] to do so, and as the laws could not hold Early in December, the war steamer Brooklyn was ordered to Charleston harbor in readiness to sail on any day at a few hours notice, with three hundred additional soldiers, provisions and munitions to reinforce Sumter. Assistant Adjutant General Buell was dispatched to Charleston with verbal orders to Major Anderson, which he carried to Major Anderson, which he carried to writing at Fort Moultrie, requiring him to make a resolute defence of Sumter if it should be attacked. When the South Carolina members of Congress tried to obtain from the President a pledge that he would not reinforce the fort he firmly refused. The letter addressed to President Lincoln by Secretary Holt was held over a few days for Mr. Corwin's information, and what had been done in reference to Sumter, proves that the fort was not reinforced only because Major Anderson had declared reinforcements unnecessary, till, to the utter astonishment of the Administration, that officer discovered that his 76 men would be of no avail. However, it was upon Major Anderson, Secretary Holt's letter is a complete vindication of Mr. Buchanan, so far as regards Fort Sumter.

It is in proof that on the 12th of March General Scott advised President Lincoln to abandon Fort Sumter, which Mr. Buchanan had steadily refused to do. "This voluntary surrender," says he, "would have gone far towards a recognition of their independence."

With regard to posting strong garrisons in all the Southern forts, a sufficient reason why it was not done is, that there were no available men for the purpose. Our small army was on the western frontier, where it was impossible for the emergency if it could have been spared; where it had been employed for many years; and where by Gen. Scott's emphatic and repeated testimony, it was insufficient for the demands of the service against the Indians. To have distributed the six hundred and odd men General Scott was able to scrape together for the insurrection among the Southern forts, would only have exposed the government to derision. Gen. Scott's own recorded opinion that it would require three hundred thousand soldiers, under young and active generals, to subdue the South, makes his accusation about not manning the forts sufficiently ridiculous.

No part of Mr. Buchanan's defense is more lucid and triumphant than his refutation of the standing calumny about his permitting Floyd to supply the South with arms. The charge is stifled till not a shred of it exists. We will not recapitulate the details of the evidence; and if justice did not require its production, we would fain cast a thick veil over it all, in tenderness to the reputation of General Scott. If it were any man of less consideration that received this terrible dissection the exposure would be as amusing as we find it painful. Like much else in President Buchanan's book, it is conclusive and unanswerable.

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"What are you writing such a big hand for, Pat?" "Why, you see that my grandmother is dead, and I'm writing a load letther to her."

## GEORGIA AND THE WAR.

The State of Georgia furnished during the war 120,000 men to the Confederate army, including 15,000 militia summoned to the defence of Atlanta. The following are the war records and employments of some of the leading officers:

Lieutenant General John B. Gordon, a lawyer of Northwestern Georgia, is practicing his profession at Atlanta. From what I saw of him I judge he is an honorable man and a scholar. He is a fine-looking man, partly of Celtic blood, and inclining to stout. He was a lieutenant-colonel, and was for a time in command of his regiment. He was [illegible] at Appomattox Court House, and was one of the last to surrender. He is a Democrat, and a strong Johnson man. He was a Union man before the war, but followed his State when she seceded. He is a fine specimen of a Southern gentleman, and a good soldier. He is a [illegible] and a good Christian. He is a member of the Episcopal church, and a vestryman in his church