

Bombardment of Fort Sumter--Fort Moultrie Impregnable--The Floating Battery and Stevens' Battery a Success--"Nobody Hurt" on Our Side.

As may have been anticipated from our notice of the military movements in our city yesterday, the bombardment of Fort Sumter, so long and anxiously expected, has at length become a fact accomplished. The restless activity of the night before was gradually worn down, the citizens who had thronged the battery through the night, anxious and weary, had sought their homes, the Mounted Guard which had kept watch and ward over the city, with the first grey streak of morning were preparing to retire, when two guns in quick succession from Fort Johnson announced the opening of the drama.

Upon that signal, the circle of batteries with which the grim fortress of Fort Sumter is beleaguered opened fire. The outline of this great volcanic crater was illuminated with a line of twinkling lights; the clustering shells illuminated the sky above it; the balls clattered thick as hail upon its sides; our citizens, aroused to a forgetfulness of their fatigue through many weary hours, rushed again to the points of observation; and so, at the break of day, amidst the bursting of bombs, and the roaring of ordnance, and before thousands of spectators whose homes, and liberties, and lives were at stake, was enacted this first great scene in the opening drama of what, it is presumed, will be a most momentous military act. It may be a drama of but a single act. The madness which inspires it may depart with this single paroxysm. It is certain that the people of the North have rankling at their hearts no sense of wrong to be avenged; and exhibiting to those who expect power to reconstruct the shattered Union, its utter inadequacy to accomplish a single step in that direction, the Administration of the old Government may abandon at once and forever its vain and visionary hope of forcible control over the Confederate States. But it may not be so; they may persist still longer in assertions of their power, and if so, they will arouse an independent spirit in the South, which will exact a merciless and fearful retribution.

But to return to our report: The act which we have undertaken to record was so unique as might be supposed there were few incidents to mark it.—Below we have presented the different batteries, and which, when placed on our bulletin board, were received with the most earnest interest by the mass of anxious friends who, at every instant of the day, came crowding to our office.

There were several circumstances, however, developed by the day's experience which it is important to notice.

It affords us infinite pleasure to record that Fort Moultrie has fully sustained the prestige of its glorious name. It fired very nearly gun for gun with Fort Sumter. We counted the guns from eleven to twelve o'clock, and found them to be forty-two to forty-six, while the advantage was unquestionably upon the side of Fort Moultrie. In that fort not a gun was dismantled, not a wound received, not the slightest permanent injury sustained by any of its defences, while every ball from Fort Moultrie left its mark upon Fort Sumter. Many of its shells were dropped into that fort, and Lieut. John Mitchel, the worthy son of that patriotic sire, who has so nobly vindicated the cause of the South, has the honor of dismantling two of its parapet guns by a single shot from one of the Columbiads, which at the time he had the office of directing.

The famous iron batteries—the one at Cumming's Point—named for C. H. Stevens, the inventor, and the celebrated floating battery, constructed under the direction of Capt. Hamilton, have full vindicated the correctness of their conception. Shot after shot fell upon them and glanced harmless away, while from their favorable position their shots fell with effect upon Fort Sumter: and the South-east pancopoe, under the fire of Stevens' battery at night-fall, if not actually breached, was badly damaged. At this battery the honor of firing the gun was accorded to the venerable Edmund Ruffin, of Virginia, who marched to the rendezvous at the sound of the alarm on Monday night, and who, when asked by some person who did not know him, to what company he belonged, replied, "to that in which there is a vacancy."

It were vain to attempt an exhibition of the enthusiasm and fearless intrepidity of our citizens in every department of this eventful day. Boats passed from post to post without the slightest hesitation under the guns of Fort Sumter, and with high and low, old and young, rich and poor, in uniform or without, the common wish and constant effort was to reach the post of action; and amid a bombardment resisted with the most consummate skill and perseverance, and with the most efficient appliance of military art and science, it is a most remarkable circumstance, and one which exhibits the infinite goodness of an overruling Providence, that, so far as we have been able to learn from the most careful inquiry, not the slightest injury has been sustained by the defenders of their country.

It may be added, as an incident that contributed no little interest to the action of the day, that from early in the forenoon three vessels-of-war, two of them supposed to be the Harriet Lane and Pawnee, lay just beyond the bar, inactive spectators of the contest. Whether they will attempt to enter during the night and encounter the batteries on either side that line the shore, is yet to be determined; if so we will present the records of a bloody issue in our next.

Fort Sumter did not return the fire of our batteries for over two hours, and ceased firing at seven o'clock p. m., though our men continued to the hour of our going to press.

Annexed are the reports above referred to, which appeared on our bulletin:

FLOATING BATTERY, }
April 12—9, A. M.—1861. }

Capt. R. S. Parker reports from Sullivan's Island to Mt. Pleasant that everything is in good order at Fort Moultrie. "Nobody hurt." The embrasures have stood well. The Floating Battery has been struck eleven times, but the balls failed to penetrate. Major Anderson is concentrating his fire on the Floating Battery and the Dahlgren Battery, under command of Lieut. J. R. Hamilton. No houses on fire, as has been rumored. A number of shells from Fort Moultrie have dropped into Fort Sumter, and one of the barbette guns has been dismantled. A steamer, supposed to be the Nashville, hove in sight about eight o'clock, but, upon hearing the firing, put back to sea.

FLOATING BATTERY, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.

All right here, not a man wounded, though Anderson has concentrated a heavy fire on us. The battery stands well. S. LOGAN, M. D.

FLOATING BATTERY, 11 o'clock.

Nobody hurt up to this hour. Three guns are working. One ball struck on the edge or angle of the roof, and perforated planking. When a ball strikes the battery, the shock is not perceptible.

CAMP BOMAR, SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, 1 P. M.

No fleet in sight yet. Sumter badly damaged in parapet guns and buildings. Lieutenants Rhett and Mitchell are at Moultrie, in command of the battery bearing on Sumter. Capt. Hamilton has a Dahlgren gun at the Cove, doing great mischief, and gets, with the floating battery, commanded by Lieutenants Yates and Harleston, nearly all Anderson's attention. No one killed yet on our side, or injured.

Ripley is in his shirt sleeves, working his guns himself. The work is progressing finely.

LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN COMMAND OF THE SUMTER GUNS ON FORT MOULTRIE.

FORT MOULTRIE, 4 o'clock.

We are all unhurt, and if the war steamers now off the bar do not give us trouble to-night, I have great expectation of success.

Ripley is every inch a soldier. Indeed, I cannot speak in too high terms of our officers and men.

Our gun practice has been fine. It has been satisfactory to Col. Ripley. Every now and then whilst I write, seated between two of my Columbiads, a shot from Anderson hissed spitefully over my head.

To Lieut. Mitchell, under my command, belongs the honor of having dismantled two guns for Anderson at one shot. In haste yours.

FOURT MOULTRIE, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.

We commenced firing this morning at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ a. m., and have continued a steady fire until the present, and are still firing. The balls from Fort Sumter are doing little or no damage, not a person having been injured. The Morris Island batteries appear to be doing a great deal of injury to their side of Sumter.

Major Anderson has one gun bearing on Fort Johnson, one on each of the lower batteries on this island and five on Fort Moultrie. At present there are three United States war vessels off the harbor. All the guns bearing on them are loaded and manned, ready for action.

MORRIS ISLAND, 8 a. m.

The batteries are doing great execution, and have received no injury.

STEVENS' BATTERY, MORRIS ISLAND, 10 a. m.

Everything going on well. The battery has been struck ten times without being injured. Everybody in good spirits, and no one hurt.

MORRIS ISLAND, 12 m.

Two of the guns on the iron battery have been partially disabled, but no one injured.

MORRIS ISLAND, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.

We have repaired the injury done to the iron battery, and have commenced firing with the same success. No one injured.

FORT JOHNSON, 2 o'clock.

Anderson has fired two shots, but without effect.

The official reports made to headquarters last night from the several forts and batteries, state that no person was injured; and that four out of every six shells fired, fell inside Fort Sumter.

The schooner Petrel, J. L. Jones commanding, while lying off the mouth of Hog Island Channel, was fired into from Fort Sumter, about half past eight o'clock. One shot took effect in the bow of the schooner, and several passed over her.

Capt. Jones reports that the fire of Sumter is principally directed against the floating battery, the Four Gun battery, and the Dahlgren battery, on Sullivan's Island, with little apparent effect. Most of the shell from the mortar battery on Morris Island are falling in Sumter, while the shot from Stevens' battery are breaching the Fort rapidly.

The additional item we take from the *Courier* of the same date:

All the batteries on Morris Island, bearing upon the channel, kept up a steady fire for some time at the dawn of day. It is reported they threw their shot into the Harriet Lane, and that that steamer, having advanced as far as the renowned Star of the West Battery, was crippled by a well aimed shot, after which she deemed it prudent to give up the dangerous attempt, and turned her sharp bow to the sea.