

THE WAR BEGUN.

Very Exciting News from Charleston.

Important Correspondence Between General Beauregard, Major Anderson and the Southern Secretary of War.

The Summons to Major Anderson to Surrender.

MAJOR ANDERSON'S REFUSAL.

Bombardment of Fort Sumter Commenced.

Terrible Fire from the Secessionists' Batteries.

Brilliant Defence of Maj. Anderson and His Gallant Garrison.

Reckless Bravery of the Confederate States Troops.

SIXTEEN HOURS FIGHTING.

Breaches in the Walls of Fort Sumter.

Several of Major Anderson's Guns Silenced.

Partial Cessation of the Firing for the Night.

Arrival of the Harriet Lane, Pawnee and Another Steamer Off Charleston.

THE HARRIET LANE FIRED INTO.

Anticipated Attempt to Reinforce Fort Sumter.

Maps and Plans of the Scene of Conflict.

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

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

In my last despatch I stated that negotiations had been reopened between General Beauregard and Major Anderson. This was done with a view to prevent an unnecessary effusion of blood.

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

He refused to do, and accordingly, at twenty-seven minutes past four o'clock this morning Fort Moultrie began the bombardment by firing two guns.

To these Major Anderson replied with three of his batteries guns, after which the batteries on Morris Island, Cummings Point, and the Floating Battery, opened a brisk fire of shot and shell.

Major Anderson did not reply, except at long intervals, until between seven and eight o'clock, when he brought into action the two tiers of guns looking towards Fort Moultrie and Stevens' gun battery.

Up to this hour (three o'clock Friday afternoon) they have failed to produce any serious effect. Despatches received at headquarters from the various forts report that all is going on admirably, and no men hurt.

Major Anderson has the greater part of the day been directing his fire principally against Fort Moultrie, the Stevens and Floating Batteries, these and Fort Johnson being the only five operating in reserve.

Some fifteen or eighteen shots have struck the Floating Battery, but made not the slightest impression upon it in its iron casemates. The Stevens' Battery is also admirably successful, and does terrible execution on Fort Sumter.

Breaches, to all appearance, are being made in the several sides exposed to fire. Portions of the parapet have been wrecked, and several of the guns there mounted have been shot away.

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

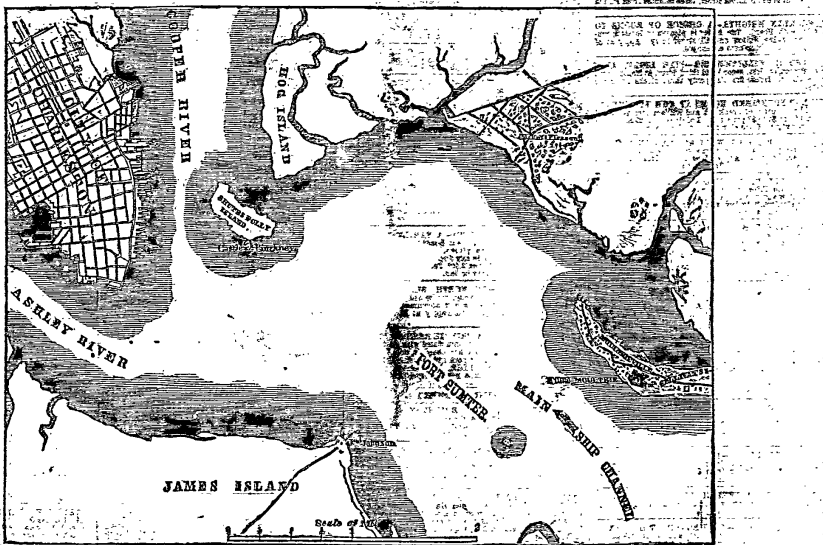
The fight is going on with intense earnestness, and will continue all night.

It is not improbable that the fort will be carried by storm.

The soldiers are perfectly reckless of their

THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS.

Charleston and Its Defences--Plan of the Harbor, Showing the Position of Forts Sumter and Moultrie, Cummings Point Iron Battery, Fort Johnson, the Floating Battery and Other Fortifications.



Fort Moultrie, which first opened its batteries against Major Anderson and his command, is one of the best of the kind that have been constructed in Charleston harbor. It is opposite to and distant from Fort Sumter about one and a half miles. It is more properly speaking, a large water battery, with its guns under cover. Its armament consists of sixteen guns of heavy calibre and several mortars. The outer and inner walls are of brick, capped with stone and faced with earth, making a solid wall fifteen or sixteen feet in thickness. The work has been much strengthened recently, and presents a nearly front to Fort Sumter. It is now in command of Major Ripley, formerly of the United States Army, who has under his command several hundred experienced artillerymen.

The novel war machine, designed for harbor operations, is now anchored near Sullivan's Island, commanding the barbettes guns of Fort Sumter. It is constructed of heavy iron, and is mounted on a carriage and is supposed to be impregnable against shot. It is embraced for and mounted four guns of heavy calibre. It requires sixty men to operate it. The first impression of the machine is that of an immense cylinder. The outer or gun side is covered with a pattern of iron-work, the pattern of the iron-work being placed horizontally, and the other four sides are covered with a pattern of iron-work, the pattern of the iron-work being placed vertically. The work is so constructed that it will resist a shell of thirty-four pounders. The machine is so constructed that it will resist a shell of thirty-four pounders. The machine is so constructed that it will resist a shell of thirty-four pounders.

The novel point of land is, Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. It is a small island, but on this point is the celebrated harbor iron battery, an illustration of which we give above. It consists of a heavy framework of yellow pine, the top of which is covered with a pattern of iron-work, the pattern of the iron-work being placed horizontally. The work is so constructed that it will resist a shell of thirty-four pounders. The machine is so constructed that it will resist a shell of thirty-four pounders.

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lives, and at every shot jump upon the ramparts, observe the effect, and then jump down, cheering.

A party on the Stevens battery are said to have played a game of the hottest fire.

The excitement in the community is indescribable. With the very first boom of the gun thousands rushed from their beds to the harbor front, and all day every available place, viewing the solemn spectacle through their glasses. Most of these have relatives in the several fortifications, and many a fearful eye witnessed the anxious affection of the mother, wife and sister, but not a murmur came from a single individual.

The spirit of patriotism is as sincere as its universal. Five thousand ladies stand ready to respond to any sacrifice that may be required of them.

The brilliant and patriotic conduct of Major Anderson speaks for itself, and silences the attacks lately made at the North upon his character and patriotism.

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

Governor Pickens has all day been in the residence of a gentleman which commands a view of the whole scene, a most interested observer. General Beauregard commands in person the entire operations, and thus far they have moved with the utmost system and success.

It is reported that the Harriet Lane has received a shot through her wheelhouse. She is in the offing. No other government ships are in view 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. Within an area of fifty miles, where the thunder of the artillery can be heard, the scene is magnificently terrible.

CHARLESTON, April 12-6 P. M. Captain R. S. Parker brings despatches 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 some manner bore despatches to Morris Island, through the fire from Fort Sumter.

Senator Chesnut, another member of the staff of Gen. Beauregard, fired a gun, by way of amusement, from Mount Pleasant, making 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 Sumter 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 10 o'clock, 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.

THE LATEST FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, April 12-11 P. M. A heavy rain caused a suspension of hostilities between Stevens and Cummings' batteries, except an occasional gun.

Major Anderson is busy repairing damages. He received twenty-nine full shots from Stevens' battery alone, making the bricks fly from the walls in all directions.

Orders have been issued to send Major Anderson a bomb from all the batteries every twenty minutes during the night, to keep him wide awake, making about two a minute.

Major Anderson fired only two harbette guns. Two more were dismounted. His shots at Fort Moultrie were generally bad, most of the balls going over. The same was the case with the Floating Battery, to which he was very particular in his attentions. A ball penetrated the Moultrie House, where a party of gentlemen were sitting in the parlor, watching the fight. It entered the second story, and travelled into the kitchen. The gentlemen scattered miscellaneous.

The first shot was fired from Fort Johnson, on Morris Island, by Captain James, and the second by Lieutenant U. H. Gibbs. This was not answered until three o'clock this afternoon. The first shot from Stevens' Battery was fired by the venerable Edmund Kniffin, and the second by the venerable Edmund Kniffin, and the second by the venerable Edmund Kniffin.

There are no tidings from Fort Sumter. The schooner Petrel, Capt. S. F. Coste, received four shots, but no damage.

Three United States vessels are certainly outside. They were signalled by Major Anderson lowering and raising his flag.

The attempt will probably be made to reinforce the Floating Battery. The mortar batteries are now blazing away. The scene is magnificent.

CHARLESTON, April 13-12:30 P. M. It is utterly impossible to reinforce Fort Sumter to-night, as a storm is now raging.

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

THE GENERAL PRESS DESPATCHES.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861. The ball has opened--war is inaugurated. The batteries of Sullivan's Island, Morris Island and other points were opened on Fort Sumter at four o'clock this morning. Fort Sumter 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.

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 southeast wall.

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.

Intercepted despatches 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.

The Floating Battery and Stevens' Battery are operating daily and Fort Sumter is returning the fire.

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

CHARLESTON, April 12--Evening. The firing has ceased for the night, but will be renewed at daylight in the morning, unless an attempt is made to reinforce the fort, which ample arrangements have been made to repel.

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

Reports arriving by every train.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF WAR AND GEN. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861. 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 detailed in Gen. Beauregard's first despatch.

GEN. BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 9, 1861. L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War.

An authorized messenger from President Lincoln just informed Governor Pickens and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumter peacefully, or otherwise by force.

P. G. T. BEAUREGARD, SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD. MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861. GEN. P. G. T. BEAUREGARD, Charleston.

If you have no doubt of the authorized character of my agent 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 manner as you may determine to reduce it. Answer.

L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War. GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861. L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War.

The demand will be made to surrender at twelve o'clock. P. G. T. BEAUREGARD, SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD. MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861. GEN. P. G. T. BEAUREGARD, Charleston.

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

L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War. GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861. L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War.

General Beauregard, Charleston. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication demanding the evacuation of this fort, and to say in reply that there is no demand which I regret that my sense of honor and my obligations to my government prevent my compliance.

L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War. GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 11, 1861. L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication demanding the evacuation of this fort, and to say in reply that there is no demand which I regret that my sense of honor and my obligations to my government prevent my compliance.

L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War. GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 11, 1861. L. F. WALKER, Secretary of War.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS. MONTGOMERY, April 12, 1861. An extra session of the Confederate States Congress has been called for April 20.

CHARLESTON AND ITS DEFENCES.

The news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter by the Confederate forces, which we publish this morning, induces us to give a full description of the scene of operations, embracing the city of Charleston, its harbor and fortifications. The plans of the forts and batteries, showing the strength of Major Anderson and the position of the attacking forces under General Beauregard, cannot fail to interest our readers.

Fort Sumter is a strongly fortified peninsula, built upon an artificial island at the mouth of Charleston harbor, three and three-eighths miles from the city of Charleston. The island has for its base a sand and mud bank, with a superstratum, if we may so term it, of the refuse chips from several Northern granite quarries. These are not merely piled on the sand, but upon them the present fortification is raised. The island itself cost half a million of dollars, and was ten years in construction. The fortifications cost another half a million dollars, and at the time of the occupancy by Major Anderson was nearly completed, as to admit the introduction of the present armament. The walls are of solid brick and concrete masonry, built close to the edge of the water, and without a berm. They are sixty feet high, and from eight to ten feet in thickness, and are pierced for three tiers of guns on the north, east and west exterior sides. The weakest point is on the south side, where the masonry is not only weaker than that of the other sides, but is not protected in any manner. The work is designed for a heavy artillery, and is intended to resist the fire of all calibres. Two tiers of the guns are under bomb proof casemates, and the third or upper tier, on its military parapets, on berks, the lower tier for the other side, which is with very few exceptions for eight anti-tench culverins, for throwing solid or hollow shells, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. The full armament of the fort, however, had not been received when Major Anderson took possession, as to admit the introduction of the present armament. The walls are of solid brick and concrete masonry, built close to the edge of the water, and without a berm. They are sixty feet high, and from eight to ten feet in thickness, and are pierced for three tiers of guns on the north, east and west exterior sides. The weakest point is on the south side, where the masonry is not only weaker than that of the other sides, but is not protected in any manner. The work is designed for a heavy artillery, and is intended to resist the fire of all calibres. Two tiers of the guns are under bomb proof casemates, and the third or upper tier, on its military parapets, on berks, the lower tier for the other side, which is with very few exceptions for eight anti-tench culverins, for throwing solid or hollow shells, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. The full armament of the fort, however, had not been received when Major Anderson took possession, as to admit the introduction of the present armament.

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These works are one and one-fourth of a mile from Fort Sumter, and are present manned by two companies of regular artillery. The position of this old fort, which is of the utmost importance as a connecting point in the defence of the harbor, has been considered the most important military authority as the key to all the defensive works in the harbor. Against the attack of three or four, or a host attack by the Stone River, it must be considered an essential element of the harbor's defence.

Castle Pinckney is a small work, situated on the southern extremity of "White's Folly Island," between the Hog and Fox channels. Though in 1861 not a very considerable military work, yet from its position commanding as it does the whole line of the eastern wharves, it becomes of the utmost importance for it to be held by the State authorities. It is in fact, the immediate outwork of the city, and to occupy an landing post should it pass the outer forts, and to render their landing very difficult, if not impossible. In its plan it presents to the south a semicircular face, the eastern and western faces are formed by the line of rampart following the direction of the largest to the smallest, and are extremely high, and for a distance of twenty yards the northern side is plain; at the north the eastern and western angles are semicircular bastions, the outer bastions of the fort being connected together by the eastern and western sides of the fort. There are two rows of guns--the lower being in casemates (bombproof), the embrasures for which are about seven feet above low water mark, and the position being the height of the rampart is twenty, and the width thirty feet; the depth of the casemate wall and the parapet is six feet; the depth of the casemate is twenty feet; the height of the bastions is twenty feet; the height of the bastions is twenty feet; the height of the bastions is twenty feet.

The embrasures for mortars on the side of the work exposed to the fire of the batteries of Cummings' Point and Fort Johnson have been fitted with mortar tracks, and the work will be able to resist the fire of all calibres. The magazine and hospital have been protected by stone towers, and the parade cleared.

THE KENTUCKY VOLUNTEER REGIMENT. Louisville, April 12, 1861. The regiment is in readiness to move at a moment's notice, from the War Department at Montgomery.

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JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND MASSACHUSETTS STS.

Volume XXV, No. 104

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—ITALIAN OPERA—Maiden of the Orkney...
THEATRE OPERA, Broadway—THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO...
THEATRE OPERA, Broadway—THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO...

New York, Saturday, April 13, 1861.

BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER.

Civil war has begun! General Beauregard, in accordance with instructions received on Wednesday, from the Secretary of War of the Southern Confederacy, opened fire upon Fort Sumter yesterday morning, at twenty-seven o'clock.

Major Anderson had replied vigorously to the fire which had been opened upon him, but our dispatches represent the injury inflicted by him to have been small.

The opinion prevailed in Charleston that an attempt would be made during the night to reinforce Fort Sumter, by means of small boats from the three vessels seen in the offing.

No one had been killed by the fire of Major Anderson, and the casualties among the Confederate troops in the batteries were inconsiderable.

The particulars of hostilities, as well as the correspondence and telegraphic despatches between General Beauregard, Major Anderson and the Secretary of War at Montgomery, will be found in the appropriate column.

An extraordinary session of the Confederate Congress has been called for the 20th inst. Preparations are preparing for the war. A bill was reported to the Legislature of that State yesterday appropriating half a million dollars for arming and equipping the militia...

Several appointments were yesterday made at the Custom House. In another column we give a list of the names. The business in that department still continues very dull. The Collector is expected back to-morrow evening, and on Monday will doubtless receive his afternoon reception of applicants.

The legislators at Albany were hard at work again yesterday, driving business through rapidly, in anticipation of an early termination to their labors. A large number of bills were acted on in both Houses.

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The Present Antipathy of England and France towards the United States. Sir Robert Peel, a quarter of a century ago, considered that the expenditure of one hundred millions of dollars, would be a cheap price for solving seeds of mischief upon the American continent...

The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day. The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.

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NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

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NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

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Wood, Eddy & Co., Managers of the... The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.

When You Feel Dull and Heavy, with... The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.

Handsome and Well-Known... The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.

The Latest Styles of Dress and Soft Hats... The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.

Spring Clothing—We Call the Attention... The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.

Wholesale and Retail... The bill to amend the act in relation to the duties on spirits, &c. was passed to-day.



SITUATIONS WANTED-FEMALES.

ALL EMPLOYERS IN CITY AND COUNTRY... A NURSE WISHES A SITUATION TO OCCUPY...

A YOUNG GIRL WISHES A SITUATION AS TRAVEL... A SITUATION WANTED BY A RESPECTABLE...

A YOUNG ENGLISH WOMAN DESIRES A SITUATION... A RESPECTABLE GIRL WISHES A SITUATION...

A LADY ABOUT PARTING WITH A GOOD HOVER... A WIDOW WITH A FRESH RESTAURANT...

A SITUATION WANTED BY A RESPECTABLE... A YOUNG GIRL WISHES A SITUATION...

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HELP WANTED-MALES.

WANTED-A GERMAN APPLY AT... WANTED-GOOD PEDDLERS TO SELL...

WANTED-A GOOD MAN FOR THE RESTAURANT... WANTED-A CLERK IN A PRODUCE HOUSE...

WANTED-A BOY ABOUT 16 OR 18 YEARS OLD... WANTED-A CLERK FOR A WHOLESALE GROCERY...

WANTED-A COOK AND BAKER... SITUATIONS WANTED-MALES.

A PROTESTANT MAN, HIS WIFE AND CHILD... A FURNISHED SMALL MODERN ROOM...

A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET... A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET...

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A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET... A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET...

HOUSES, ROOMS, &c. TO LET.

AN OFFICE TO LET-SUITABLE FOR A... A LADY FOR TWO STY BORN STONE...

A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET... A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET...

A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET... A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET...

A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET... A FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET...

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HOUSES, ROOMS, &c. TO LET.

TO LET-HOUSE ON BROADWAY... TO LET-A FIRST CLASS CORNER HOUSE...

TO LET-THREE STOREY AND BATH... TO LET-THREE STOREY AND BATH...

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HOUSES, ROOMS, &c. TO LET.

TO LET-UPPER PART WITH ONE... TO LET-A COUNTRY RESIDENCE IN GREENWICH...

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SHIPPING.
THE STEAMSHIP...
GREAT EASTERS...
FOR LIVERPOOL...
Sailed to leave New York on or about May 25.

FINANCIAL.
ABOUT BELMONT A. C. BANKERS...
CHATELAIN AND POLLOCK RAILROAD COMPANY...
NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK...
TUESDAY, APRIL 10.

LAND WARRANTS FOR SALE.
TAYLOR BROTHERS...
22 Broadway, corner of Wall Street.

USION DEPT. SAVINGS BANK.
Open for business on 10th of April...
25 Broadway, corner of Wall Street.

LOAN OFFICES.
A. THOMPSON & CO. BROKERS...
25 Broadway, corner of Wall Street.

ADVERTISEMENTS.
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