

FORT SUMTER, THE GUARDIAN OF CHARLESTON, NEVER CONQUERED



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FORT SUMTER, the scene of the beginning of the greatest civil war in all history, has other unique distinctions. The fortress that guarded the harbor of Charleston was never conquered, though more severely bombarded than any similar defense of a beleaguered city. It is estimated that 80,000 projectiles were fired at Fort Sumter by the fleet and marsh batteries. Of course they were not such projectiles as are used in warfare today, but they were the best that man had invented up to that time. And yet Fort Sumter was never captured, and Charleston remained as a Confederate stronghold until long after all the other Confederate posts along the Atlantic had fallen into Federal hands. Charleston was not abandoned until menaced by Sherman's army from the rear. The picture shows Sumter from the Confederate Fort Johnson, almost as impregnable as Fort Sumter. It was protected by almost impassible swamps, morasses and a network of creeks rendering capture by land assault impossible.

FIFTY YEARS AGO THE CIVIL WAR WAS AT ITS BLOODIEST

Battle of Shiloh Had Just Been Fought, and Seven Pines Was to Come. The Capture of New Orleans Had Proved Severe Blow to the Confederacy.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.
FIFTY years ago this Memorial day the war was in earnest. Grant had begun his career of victory in the west, and Shiloh had been fought. New Orleans had been taken, and Butler was in possession of the city. McClellan was on the peninsula, and on May 30 Johnston started the movement against him that on the two following days resulted in the battle of Seven Pines or Fair Oaks. The battle had been fought between the Monitor and Merrimac, and early in May the Merrimac had been sunk by her own crew. "Stonewall" Jackson had made his incursion into the Shenandoah, fought an action with Banks at Winchester, forcing Banks to retreat, and on May 30 was retreating back up the valley himself. Following Shiloh, Halleck had laid siege to Beauregard at Corinth, and on May 30 it was found that the Confederate general had evacuated during the night. The dispute about the battle of Shiloh has not ended to this day. The claim of one faction is that only the arrival of Buell saved Grant's army from destruction. The reply of General Grant and his friends has been that the advance of the Confederates on the first day was checked practically without any help from Buell and that, with the assistance of General Low Wallace's recruits, who belonged to his own army, Grant could have won the battle on the second day even without Buell. The facts seem to be that the Union army was forced back practically one mile on April 6 and when the fighting ceased late that night was in a dangerous position in the bend of the river, but that toward the end the Union troops rallied and held off their foes, and that without any material assistance from the re-enforcements. What would have happened on April 7 without Buell is all a matter of speculation. The facts are that with Low Wallace's fresh troops on one wing and Buell's on the other the Union army steadily forced back the enemy and won the victory. Possibly it could have been won with Wallace's aid alone. But who knows?

Evacuation of Corinth.
After Shiloh General Halleck went to the front, practically supplanting Grant, who asked to go to Memphis, where he remained until Halleck was called to Washington. Much fault has been found with the Union army for its failure to pursue the enemy after Shiloh. Part of the responsibility belonged to Grant, but he was preparing to follow up when Halleck arrived and took command. The pursuit did go on after a time, but meanwhile Beauregard had been able to recruit his army and to fortify himself at Corinth. Here Halleck faced him early in May and drove in his outposts after a series

of skirmishes. The Federal army at this time amounted to about 100,000 men and the Confederates to something less. The northern generals expected another great battle at Corinth, but on May 30 it was discovered that Beauregard had evacuated his works and retreated toward Mobile. The fall of Corinth was in effect a Union victory and left much of Mississippi in control of the nationals. General Mitchell already held northern Alabama, Tennessee was in Federal hands, Andrew Johnson having been made military governor of the state, and altogether the aspect of the Union cause was very bright in the west. To add to the good fortune New Orleans had fallen but shortly before, and was then under the control of General Benjamin F. Butler, much to the indignation of the citizens.

Capture of New Orleans.
The story of the taking of New Orleans will be told as long as history is written. It was the heaviest blow yet received by the confederacy, at least barring the defeat at Shiloh, and led soon to the practical abandonment of the Mississippi valley as a base of supplies for the Davis government. The running of the formidable forts below the city by the Federal gunboats will make the name of Farragut famous for all time. It was this gallant and daring action that doomed New Orleans. To prevent such a catastrophe a chain had been stretched across the river between Forts Jackson and St. Philip in imitation, perhaps, of the chain across the Hudson in the time of the Revolution. The Mississippi chain had been disarranged by high water, however, and it was possible for the Union boats to dislodge the obstacles sufficiently to permit passage. Before the attempt to run by the forts was made a bombardment of several days was carried on by the Union fleet against the forts, but without apparent effect. It seemed that the confederate boast as to the impregnability of the defenses of New Orleans was to be made good. Abandoning this method of attack, Commodore Farragut boldly decided to run past the forts. Placing a line of boats on either side the river to engage these strongholds, Farragut in the Hartford led a dash up the middle of the stream. As soon as the forts discovered this movement they opened a terrific fire which was answered by broadsides from the boats, neither doing any great damage. Arrived at a point out of range of the enemy's guns, the Union fleet encountered another danger from the Confederate boats. Here the battle became furious, the southern ironclad Manassas successfully raiming one of the Federal vessels, but being in turn penetrated by a Union shell and bursting into flames. Fireboats added to

the terror of the scene, one of them actually igniting the side of one of the Union ships, but the flames were soon extinguished by the crew. In the end the victory lay with the Federal fleet, several of the southern boats being grounded or sunk. There were engagements with smaller fortifications up the river, after which the way was open to New Orleans.

The Arrival of Butler.
In the meantime the land forces under General Butler worked their way through the bayous around to the rear of Fort Jackson, ready to make an attack. On hearing that the American flag raised on the New Orleans custom house by Farragut's men had been torn down by the natives and trampled through the streets Butler turned his attention to the city, in which he arrived early in May.

General Butler's rather stormy occupation of the southern metropolis has long been a subject of controversy, the passions of both sides being so inflamed that clashes and misunderstandings were inevitable. Looked at from this distance, some actions on both sides might have been omitted. To Butler's credit it can be said that he introduced a system of sanitation into New Orleans that kept out the yellow fever, at least for the time being, and made the city healthier than it ever had been before. As for his order concerning New Orleans women, also the incident of the "spoons," well, they happened fifty years ago and are not worth being celebrated in a semi-centenary.

McClellan Before Richmond.
The situation in the east was not so favorable to the Union arms. After repeated urgings by the president General McClellan had started his famous campaign on the peninsula and, after waiting indecisively with his army of nearly 100,000 before Magruder with his 3,000 until the southern forces withdrew, had begun the advance that finally led him to within six miles of Richmond. On this forward movement his troops had fought the battle of Williamsburg on May 7, where General Hancock held the key to the field. As a result of this fight the Confederates were compelled to evacuate Williamsburg, and to retreat on Richmond. The Federals followed, fighting one of their minor actions on the way. By May 30 the Union front was at Seven Pines and Fair Oaks, within a few miles of Richmond. On that day two important events occurred. Observing that the Union army was divided by the Chickahominy General Johnston, in command of the Confederates, decided to move out and destroy the Federal troops on the Richmond side of the river. While this movement was under way the Federal General Sumner completed a bridge across the Chickahominy that the soldiers called "the grapevine bridge," and that was to be instrumental in saving a part of McClellan's army during the battle of the morrow.

The battle of Fair Oaks, as it is called in the north, or Seven Pines, as it is known in the south, was the result of Johnston's advance. It was fought on May 31 and June 1 and was fearfully bloody for the number of troops engaged. In the beginning the Confederates had all the best of it, taking some guns and many prisoners. At one time the Union left seemed in danger of annihilation or capture, being disorganized and pressed back upon a swamp. It was at this critical juncture that General Sumner's fresh troops that had advanced over the "Grapevine" bridge went into the fight and saved the day.

The Coming of Lee.
While the losses on each side were about equal at Fair Oaks, the battle was in effect a northern victory. Johnston had failed of his purpose of crushing the left wing of the Union army, and retreated back to Richmond. There was one most important result of the fight. General Johnston himself was wounded, and this brought General Robert E. Lee, then a brigadier, to the front. Lee's chief of staff, into the field. It was after Fair Oaks that McClellan lay so long in sight of Richmond without making a move.

While McClellan was advancing toward Fair Oaks General Wood moved against Norfolk and compelled the evacuation of that city. The Confederates not considering themselves strong enough to remain and give battle. This in turn compelled the southern naval fleet to retreat toward Richmond and led to the blowing up of the famous Merrimac on May 11. The south had planned great faith to the Merrimac, expecting her to take Washington and lay other northern cities waste. Her destruction occasioned fierce criticism at the time, but subsequent investigation showed it to have been necessary.

When the northern army embarked upon the peninsula campaign McClellan expected McDowell to join him, but this was made impossible by a move of the enemy. General "Stonewall" Jackson was sent down the Shenandoah with 17,000 or 20,000 troops, thus threatening Washington. On May 27 part of Jackson's men under Ewell fought an engagement with the Union force at Winchester, compelling General Banks to retreat rapidly down the valley. Jackson had more than twice the force of Banks at this time and expected to crush the little Union army. There are some cases in which a retreat is equal to a victory, and of these the escape of General Banks was a brilliant example. On May 30 Banks was safe at Williamsport, and Jackson himself was in flight from an impending movement against him by General McDowell's entire army. The Confederate general had won a strategic point, however, even if he had failed to crush Banks. He prevented McDowell from joining McClellan.

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The Cloth of Billiard Tables.

In the county of Gloucestershire, England, there lives a family of weavers who for generations have manufactured a cloth known as the west of England cloth, whose fineness of texture and evenness of surface have never been equaled despite thousands of dollars used for machinery in an attempt to duplicate this product. The secret of this Gloucestershire family has been well kept, and they are the buyers of the finest grade of wool that the market is able to produce. Months of hard labor and energy is spent in the manufacture of 100 yards of the material, and compensation for its ownership is rare among the buyers, owing to the limited quantity available. All professional billiard players, both in Great Britain, where their game demands a higher degree of accuracy than that of the United States, and the American players usually carry along their own cloth, which is placed on the tables before every important game. *New York Sun.*

Some Secret Burials.

Alaric, king of the Visigoths and their victorious leader, was buried about 1,500 years ago by his soldiers in the bed of the river Busseto, in southern Italy. They first turned the waters into another channel and, after burying their chief and his treasures, let them flow back again. His grave was dug by prisoners, who were all afterward put to death, so that the Romans might never find his grave. Attila, king of the Huns, was buried A. D. 453 on a wide plain in three coffins, one of gold, one of silver and the third of iron. In his case too, all the prisoners who were compelled to dig his grave were immediately killed. Another secret burial in later history was that of Fernando de Soto, the discoverer of the Mississippi, whose coffin was sunk at midnight in the middle of the broad stream to conceal his death from the natives, who had been told that he was an immortal child of the sun.

The Lovers' Leap.

Sappho leaped herself by jumping from the Lovers' Leap, a Leucadian cliff. This leap was often taken by lovers whose passion was so intense that if they survived the fall they would be effrightened by a hopeless passion. The leap was a feat witnessed by crowds of spectators, and the would-be suicides were not interfered with by the state. Sappho was in at the time, and she picked up the leapers if they came to the surface of the sea after the fall. Sappho had a passion for a young man who did not return her love and leaped from the cliff in order to be cured. She perished in the fall. So also did Artemesia and many other celebrities. *Times.*

Old World Armors.

In modern times the armor's work was not of great importance, but in the past it was the sign of a knightly wrought workmanship. The various pieces of a suit fit into their positions as a matter of course, and as a rule very little that is merely decorative work. Fashion and reputation have left their ball mark on the armor of each period, and, like most other industries, it had its distinguished masters. The name of Jacob Topf is, for example, still famous in England, and such names as those of Lorenzo Colman of Augsburg, a German armorer of the sixteenth century; Lucio Pincino, a Milanese, and the Wolfs of Landshut, a family

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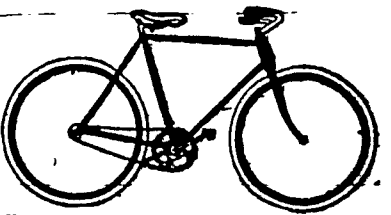
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of armorers that are supposed to have worked for Philip II. of Spain, are celebrated in their own countries.—*Argonaut.*

A "Fowl" Ball.

A ball game between two semipro teams, one colored, was played on the north side and attracted a numerous following of negroes, who went a long way to root for their team. They occupied a section by themselves, says the Chicago Post. A fowl ball went in among them and that's all we sell. Standard Makes Names that stand for something and have responsible makers back of them. **Columbia, Cleveland Racycle, Pierce, Rambler, and Lenox**

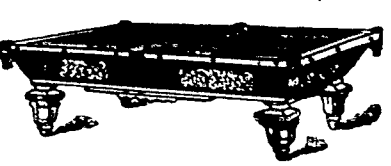
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Stung.
"Yes, Wally, appearances is deceitful! Here I fished a guy who looked like a millionaire ten blocks to get clear but he ain't nuthin' but a two fer after all!" *New Orleans Picayune.*

Sarcastic.
Cholly: You know I'm sometimes inclined to think Clara (encouraging Billiard and Pool Supplies for sale. Why don't you do it. Cholly? It's not such a difficult thing if you really try. Plain and Fancy Cues.)

Life is too short for stupid quarrels.
—Philip Gibbs.

Tact.
"How shall I close this letter to you?—yours truly or respectfully?"
"Say 'respectfully' but add, in parentheses, 'for the last time.'"—*File gende Blatter.*

Great men should think of opportunity and not of time. Time is the excuse of feeble minded and puzzled spirits.—*Disraeli.*

Solving a Difficulty.
John—As our engagement is to be a secret, I won't give you an engagement ring at present. Joan—Oh, I could wear it on my right hand!

Self Deception.
Of all solitaire games the soonest learned is self deception. The dullest mind can grasp it. The wisest have ever enjoyed it. We all find solace in its blandishments. No sweeter substitute for courage, conscience and self denial is yet discovered.—*Pandora's Box.*

Wackiw.
Frank Whittle, Dunlavin, has been elected school attendance officer of the Dunlavin district at a salary of £35 per year.

On April 5, William Ignatius Headen, son of W. P. Headen, ex-inspector of National schools, was fatally injured in a collision with a motor car driven by Dr. T. Rice, Portarlington, while cycling out of Crowe Lane. The unfortunate young man succumbed to his injuries on April 7.

Died.—April 5, Colonel Fitzgibbon Trant, Thurles.—April 12, Thomas Dwyer, Commons House, Thurles.—Recently, Mrs. Winchester, Clonmel, April 10, Mrs. J. Power, Figlash.—Recently, Mrs. Johanna Kent, Crough.