

## Civil War Commenced!

It will be seen by the dispatches in to-day's paper, that hostilities between the North and South have actually commenced; and where and when it will end, it is hard to tell.

This news, to the people, will be very unexpected, after the daily assurances from President Lincoln that he would not attempt to coerce the seceding States, or force the collection of the revenues, in them. He has stated time and again that he had no authority to use force against the seceding States; that it was a question for Congress to settle. His Attorney General has decided that he cannot collect the revenue, in the seceded States by force, under the present revenue laws. Yet, we now find him declaring that he will not only collect the revenue, but that he will retake the forts, &c. By what authority is he plunging the country into a civil war? He has repeatedly said Congress was the only power that could declare war against them.

He cannot justify his course by saying that the Southern States commenced the hostilities, for Mr. Lincoln sent a messenger to Gov. Pickens, informing him that Major Anderson would be reinforced and supplied with provisions, peaceable if they could, if not, by force. At the same time this news was sent, several war vessels were near Charleston harbor, showing clearly that he had ordered an attack on them.

The Southern authorities had notified the Government at Washington, time and again, that any attempt to reinforce Fort Sumpter, would be considered as a declaration of war against them, and that they would immediately proceed against the fort. Consequently, President Lincoln knew well that his movement would bring on a collision.

What the end of this will be, no one can tell. That the great mass of the American people are opposed to a civil war, there is no doubt. They are opposed to a coercive policy being pursued by Lincoln; and never will agree to sustain him in such a course.