

WAR BEGUN!

Civil war has been commenced. The forces of the seceding States have attacked Fort Sumter. Without waiting even for an attempt to supply the Fort with provisions, they have begun a conflict which may last for years.— They have determined that no peaceful separation shall be made. Without provocation, with no motive but the humiliation of the National Government, they have attacked our fort, and by to-morrow may massacre Major Anderson and his garrison. They have gathered nearly 10,000 men to attack 70.— They have erected miles of batteries against a single fort. They have multiplied the means of attack till a fight has become hardly better than a murder. And feeling themselves strong enough to overpower the little force that has waited patiently in maintenance of the honor of the nation in their dangerous position, they have begun the war. They have not been assailed. They have not been threatened. No coercion has been employed, or even menaced. Nothing was asked but that provisions should be sent in for the sustenance of starving men. Humanity would allow a little band of seventy soldiers the means of preserving life, when duty and honor forbade their deserting their post. But humanity, peace, and national duty, have all been unavailing to avert a mean and murderous attack. The little fort and its handful of men are standing alone against thousands.— This is the honor of traitors, the humanity of seceders. The news we have received makes it sadly probable that before twenty-four hours have passed the national troops in Fort Sumter will be either murdered or prisoners. If the result fulfills this apprehension there will be a terrible reckoning for those who have provoked the conflict. Traitors here may glory in the defeat of their Government and the murder of the defenders of their honor, but the time of settlement will come. We heard more than one or two or three men last night rejoicing in the prospect of the massacre of Major Anderson and his band.— They were already laying out a plan of submission to the seceded States, and the adoption of their government. They made no concealment of their satisfaction that the nation was to be beaten, dishonored and broken. Such men are traitors, and the meanest of traitors. It should be the duty of the people to protect themselves and their government against such men. If we must fight the seceding States let us at least have no traitors at home. If Anderson holds out, as the latest news indicates he may, and the reinforcements of the government can effect their purpose, we shall have a chance to learn such infernal scoundrels that fighting their own country is not a pleasant operation.— They need the lesson badly, and we trust they may learn it speedily.