

oath of allegiance to the United States, and the officers of his staff have followed his example. He first took the oath when he entered the service, and the second occasion was when he assumed command of Fort Moultrie, in nullification times.

THE PEOPLE GOVERN.

It is frequently alleged that ours is a government of the people; and when the people don't like it, they will no longer submit. True; and it is no less so of all governments. When the people will the overthrow of the British throne, it will be hurled into the dust; but whenever a minority seeks to overturn that throne because they happen not to like the sovereign, the strong arm of the government will be wielded to make them obey the constituted authority.

It must be plain to all that if factions can control the government, and bid defiance to it at will, then there can be no security or stability for either life or property. General Washington, the revered Father of his country, said:—

If any have just cause to complain of grievances, we should redress them; but if complaints are inconsistent with the principles of freedom and constitutional liberty, we should show them that there is no remedy, and use the powers of the government to suppress any passionate manifestations of their dissatisfaction, in violations of the public peace and constitutional law.

And, again:—

If the laws are to be trampled on with impunity, and a minority, a small one, too, is to dictate to the majority, there is an end put, at one stroke, to republican government.

This is the doctrine of the Fathers, and is the only one upon which a sound and stable government can rest. Jefferson Davis, however, in his late address to the Confederate Congress, scorns this doctrine, as follows:—

So utterly have the principles of the constitution been corrupted in the Northern mind, that in the Inaugural Address delivered by President Lincoln in March last, he asserts as an axiom, which he plainly deems to be undeniable, that the theory of the constitution requires that in all cases the majority shall govern.

Not only are the people of the North corrupted, on this theory of Mr. Davis, but thousands of true-hearted men at the South to-day are affected in like manner; and are actually willing to redress all grievances at the ballot box and in a legal manner.

GENERAL JAMES' PROJECTILE.

In our editorial comments upon cannon shooting, published on page 297 of the present volume of our paper, we referred to the fact that objection had been raised to the Armstrong projectile, and also to that of General James, from the "leaden bands flying obliquely from the shot," thus endangering the soldiers of the army by whom the gun is used. Our attention has since been called to the official report of Captains Maynadier, Thornton and Anderson, of the trial at Watch Hill, in November last. Upon this point, they use the following language:—

It has been urged as an objection to this kind of projectile, that the packing separates from it on its leaving the bore, and scatters fragments which may prove hurtful to men in front or near the guns. The observations of the Board on this point lead them to the conclusion that there is no more force in this objection than will apply, for the same reason, to the sabots of fixed ammunition or the junk wads of heavy cannon.

We certainly had no intention of doing any injustice to the value of General James' invention, but our information was obtained from one who was present at the trial. What we want to get at, and as speedily as possible, is which projectile is most efficient for all the purposes of war. We care not whether it be James', Armstrong's, Hotchkiss', or any other less humble man. Give us the best, by all means.

True Honor.

Some apprehension is expressed at the South lest the banks in the free States may dishonestly refuse to honor drafts on the balances left in their drawers. The following dispatch has been addressed by the president of one of our leading banks here to a firm in New Orleans:—

New York, May 4, 1861.

MESSENGERS.—New Orleans—Gentlemen: I have yours of ——. I telegraph you to-day (according to your request) as follows:—Under no possible circumstances will balances due you be confiscated here.

You say in your letter you know nothing of our political sentiments. On that subject, it is perhaps only necessary to say we have not forsaken our principles, our country, or our God. Yours, with respect.

FORTRESS MONROE.

At the present time the following description of Fortress Monroe, which we find in the *Norfolk Day Book*, will interest many readers:—

Fortress Monroe is a strong fortified garrison situated on that point of land formed by the extreme western bank of the Chesapeake, and the extreme eastern bank of Hampton Roads, and at the junction of the two waters. It was discovered, during the war of 1813-14, that Chesapeake Bay was the key of all the waters of Virginia and Maryland, and all who are at all familiar with the history of the country, will remember that British vessels came into Hampton Roads, and not only took the town of Hampton but threatened to apply the torch to Norfolk, that, phoenix-like, had sprung from the ashes of a former war with that power. Peace was declared in 1815, and when the next Congress met they took into consideration the subject of coast and harbor defenses; accordingly a Board of engineers was appointed, and an appropriation made for the prosecution of such plans as might be decided upon.

About this time the grand army of Napoleon was quiet, and several of his principal officers made our republican country their home; among them was General Bernard, an experienced soldier, and one of the most skillful engineers then existing. He was accordingly invited to assist in the work of arranging our system of coast and harbor defense, and in 1816, in company with several American officers, projected Fortress Monroe and Fort Calhoun, more generally known as the "Rip Raps." The work was laid off and both forts commenced in 1819. From that time up to this there has been more or less work going on at Fort Monroe, and while that work is sufficiently advanced to be placed in a state of defense, it is far from being finished. The extent of the work may be judged from the fact that it is over a mile around the ramparts; the wall covers a space of twenty or twenty five acres, and there are about fifteen acres inside of the garrison.

The casemates commence in the vicinity of the postern, behind the water battery, and extend, with little intermission, to the arched doorway. On either side of that entrance are casemates, which are used as quarters for the officer of the day, guard house, and barracks for the guard. Those nearest the portcullis have embrasures, which are intended to protect that point from attack. Indeed all the casemates are supplied with embrasures, behind which are mounted forty-two pounders.

On the ramparts, at those points where there are no casemates, are mounted guns upon wooden carriages, whose saucy-looking muzzles are plainly to be seen above the green turf that caps the fortification. At the extreme southern bastion floats the Stars and Stripes, while just below it, on the inside of the garrison, is a neat little Episcopal church, where the chaplain, Mr. Cheevers, still continues to offer up his prayers for the Union and the President. A deep moat surrounds the whole work; this moat is supplied with water from Mill creek, and while the gates are open ebbs and flows with the tide.

The water battery, like all the masonry on this fort, is a beautiful piece of work; it is built of stone, and is sufficiently thick to withstand any shot that may be projected against it from the bay beyond. It is finished with casemates, the arches of which are turned with brick and rest upon granite columns in the rear. This battery has forty-two embrasures, and is supplied with a like number of forty-two pounders, which, like all the rest of the guns in the garrison, are fully mounted and ready for action. It covers all that face of the garrison that fronts upon the channel of the bay, and is only intended as a means of offense and defense when attacked by a force on the water.

This portion of the work, like the ramparts, is covered with a green turf, and presents a beautiful and pleasant promenade in the summer afternoons.

At the upper or northern extremity of this battery commences a redoubt or breastwork which extends around to the point of the bastion where the magazine is situated; in the middle of this redoubt is a sally-port or postern that leads out to an outer work (not yet finished) that is intended to protect the fort on the land side. From the water battery to the magazine is decidedly the weakest portion of this fortress, and a well-organized force of one thousand men could readily carry the fortifications at this

point. Besides the fact that there are no casemate guns on these two faces, the gates that supply the moat with water are on this side, and at low tide might be closed, to prevent the water from coming in on the change of the tide, and thus could a land force reduce the draft of water to such an extent as to enable them to wade across and scale the walls, which, of course, could only be done under a murderous fire. The gun from only one shoulder could be brought to bear upon the scaling party, and that one, or even two, would be so depressed as to render their effect doubtful. Besides this, a storming party could reduce the garrison to submission in a short time, unless the elements conspired to furnish them with water, for there is not a spring, or a well, or a pump on the works, but, like the good people of Norfolk, the soldiers at Old Point have to depend on the clouds for their drink.

We were led to the above remarks because of the fact that Fortress Monroe is considered impregnable, but such is not the fact; it lacks much of it as it now stands, and even if it was completed, we give our idea of the work when we remind our readers that Sevastopol and Gibraltar fell before a resolute enemy.

Cavalry Grapnel.

This is a newly-invented weapon of warfare, and is designed to render cavalry vastly superior to infantry. It is an admitted fact in the science of war that infantry formed into a square, or in mass, and standing firm and unbroken, can defeat an equal number of cavalry, each being armed with the ordinary weapons. This fact being fully demonstrated upon many a well-fought field in the last half century, the most notable of which was the battle of Waterloo, where the French cavalry repeatedly charged the squares of English infantry, and were uniformly repulsed, the squares standing firm and unbroken. This firm stand of the infantry and the uniform repulse of the cavalry were doubtless the main cause of the defeat of the French at that celebrated battle, contested between the best cavalry and infantry of any age, and commanded by the greatest generals of the world. A man and horse, acting as one, have the strength and speed of several men, and ought, if properly armed, to be competent to the defeat of several men. The cavalry grapnel is a new weapon adapted to this superior strength and speed, and a regiment of horse armed with this destructive weapon, and well skilled in its use, can easily defeat four times their number of infantry, mowing them down like grass before a scythe. This weapon can also be used by cavalry against cavalry, and even infantry might use it against infantry with great destruction. The grapnel was invented in one of our Northern States, and 100,000 have been recently manufactured for a European government, for the arming of cavalry. The present widespread rebellion in our own country caused the inventor to offer them to our government. They were submitted to the proper department and approved of, and purchased. It is expected that the President will shortly call into the service of the United States 50,000 cavalry, to be furnished with the grapnel as an additional arm. With this destructive weapon, they will be able to cut up or annihilate 200,000 of the best infantry that ever entered a field.

[We copy the above from one of our daily papers; it appears to be going the general rounds as something wonderful for war purposes. It is something wonderfully ridiculous. A regiment of well-drilled rifle infantry could annihilate any regiment of cavalry before the latter could come up and throw their clumsy grapples among them! We recommend the lasso as a substitute for the grapnel, or, what would be equally effective, blacksmiths' tongs.—Eds.]

MAJOR ANDERSON.—This distinguished officer, whose fidelity to the old flag has been so signally displayed in his gallant defense of Fort Sumter, will, it is said, be assigned to the command of the Kentucky troops mustered into the service of the government. Major Anderson has been promoted to the rank of Colonel, and will probably be appointed Brigadier General.

GOVERNOR MORGAN has appointed Hon. John A. Dix, of this city, Major General of the State forces. General Dix is a noble man, and has the advantage of a thorough military education, being a graduate of the West Point Military Academy.