

Transcription

"What means this hot haste?"

EXCITEMENT IN NORFOLK—OPERATIONS AT FORTRESS MONROE.—The *Norfolk Day Book* of Saturday evening says.

A large force of men are now busily engaged in mounting large guns (thirty-two pounders) on the ramparts of this fort, all of which point inland and sweep the country for miles around. Eighteen of these guns are to be placed on that portion of the garrison that has no casemates, and doubtless they are to be left without shelter and ready for immediate action. They were to have been completed this week.

Did Virginia cede the ground on which this fort stands for the purpose of having its guns pointed inland, to menace a score or two of peaceful farmers, who till the soil under cover of its guns? And why is it that these "deep-mouthed dogs of war" are thus turned threateningly and frowningly upon the peaceful citizens of Virginia? Why is it that the taunt goes forth in the *New York Herald*, "Take if it you can—but I should like to see you try it?"

Were we not told a week or two ago that our master (?) at Washington had concluded to consent that all the forts in the Southern States should remain in *status quo* until the 4th of March?

We ask, again, what means this hot haste in mounting, at this date, long rows of thirty-two pounders, *pointing inland, and sweeping the farms of peaceful Virginians*? Is not this an open declaration of war? Does it not savor strongly of *coercion*? Can any one think that all this preparation is for nothing? Does any sane man believe that Virginia can secede after the 4th of March, with a standing army of the U. S. troops and threatening cannon closing up the only outlet to her commerce? Will our Legislature remain supine under this open declaration of war, and these pre-considered threats and acts of defiance? Thousands of indignant Virginians await an answer to this last question.

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