

half an hour on board the schooner, and returned by way of Cummings' Point, reporting the vessel as driven in here by the stormy sea, her destination another port, her cargo consisting of ice, and the only injury a shot through her mainsail. It is a source of regret that Maj. Anderson obtained information, as to the character of the vessel, from which we are deprived except through him. The high waves, and the distance from our batteries, are all that saved her from being sunk. The firing was near our quarters, and we were present, enjoying it very much. Those colors have floated in our atmosphere too long already. Some of our men assisted to trail the guns at the Dahlgren battery. The Abbeville battery performed its part in the firing. The schooner left the harbor soon after the departure of Maj. Anderson's boat.

A squad of our men have been taking instructions in the Artillery drill. We are under many obligations to Lieuts. Waties, Carroll and Alexander, of the Columbia Artillery, for their instructions. We drill at the Abbeville battery. I like it very much. We may have a chance to test our skill in this line very soon.

It is said that Maj. Anderson's supplies from the city have been cut off at last. It is getting high time to stop his provisions if we are to starve him out. I can suggest no other plan.

Two new batteries have been erected at Vinegar Hill, about a quarter of a mile above the "Dahlgren" and "Star of the West" batteries. They command both the channel and land approaches. One of the batteries is on the top of the hill about twenty feet high, which gives it great advantages over the other batteries in commanding the channel. We never got the guns mounted there until last Thursday.

It is hoped, that since our entrance into the Southern Confederacy, a most vigorous course of measures will be adopted. Let us know whether we are to have war or peace.