

## LETTER FROM CHARLESTON.

MORRIS' ISLAND, Merch 18, 1861.

DEAR HERALD:—At the first blush of the telegraphic news, announcing the speedy evacuation of Fort Sumter, it inspired us with a ray of hope that it was the harbinger of peace. But when we reflect that the Administration is only making a virtue of necessity, it dispels our most sanguine expectations. Whilst Lincoln and his cohorts of co-

our Confederacy, it is hardly probable that Maj. Anderson will be allowed the privilege of leaving Fort Sumter, otherwise than as a prisoner of war. Their vacillating course has only increased our vigilance. No confidence whatever is to be placed in their professions of peace, so long as they refuse to ~~recognize the independence of the Southern States~~ is the impression here.

We are still engaged in preparing for the defence of our harbor entrances. Batteries are erected as if by magic. The approach of hostile vessels would now be exposed to a raking fire from a string of batteries lining the shores of Morris' Island. The heavy Columbiads are planted so as to bear either upon sea or land. One of the new batteries was erected by our company, and is known as the Abbeville Battery. Four of the companies composing Col. Gregg's Regiment, are to be converted into Artillerists, of which ours will be one. We are very willing for the change, wishing to see all the sights.

The Light House is two miles above our camp. Its top is one hundred and fifty feet high, and affords a fine view of the surrounding waters and adjacent Islands. The magnificent lamp cost sixteen thousand dollars. One of our companies is stationed here. The flag of the Confederate States floats from a staff at its base.

The Rhett Guards have removed to Secession-