

LATEST FROM CHARLESTON.

FORT SUMTER RETURNS FIRE.

SULLIVAN AND MORRIS ISLAND
BATTERIES AT WORK.

BREACH MADE IN FORT SUMTER.

War Vessels Reported Outside.

[By the Southwestern Line.]

CHARLESTON, April 12.—The batteries of Sullivan's Island, Morris Island and other points opened fire on Fort Sumter at half past four o'clock this morning. Fort Sumter returned the fire. A brisk cannonading is being kept up.

There is no information from the seaboard. The military are under arms. The whole population is on the streets, and the harbor is filled with anxious spectators.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

The floating battery is doing good service. Up to eleven o'clock there has been no loss on our side.

Fort Sumter replied at 7 o'clock this morning, and has kept up an astonishing fire ever since.

Stevens's battery is slightly injured. Three shells are fired per minute. Four hundred, in all, have fallen.

A breach is expected to be made in Fort Sumter to-morrow.

Major Anderson's fire is principally directed against the floating battery.

War vessels are reported outside the harbor. Only two soldiers are wounded on Sullivan's Island.

The range is more perfect from the land batteries. Every shot tells. It is thought from Major Anderson's fire that he has more men than was supposed.

Fort Sumter will succumb by to-morrow. It is raining at Charleston, but there is no cessation of the batteries. A continuous steady fire on both sides is being kept up.

The cutter Harriet Lane, and the steam gun boat Crusader, are reported off the bar, but have not entered the harbor.

The War Department have as yet no official dispatches.

Gen. Beauregard was at the batteries all day.

The Government expects Fort Sumter to succumb to-morrow.

[THIRD DISPATCH.]

The firing continued all day. Two of Fort Sumter's guns are silenced, and it is reported a breach has been made through the southeast wall.

No casualty has yet happened to any of the forces.

Only seven of the nineteen batteries have opened fire on Fort Sumter. The remainder are held ready for the expected fleet.

Two thousand men reached the city this morning and immediately embarked for Morris Island.

FOURTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 11 P. M.—The bombardment of Fort Sumter is going on every twenty minutes from the mortars.

It is supposed Major Anderson is resting his men for the night.

Three vessels of war are reported outside the bar. They cannot get in on account of the roughness of the sea.

No one has as yet received any injury.

The floating battery works admirably well. Every inlet to the harbor is well guarded.

Our forces are having a lively time of it.