

steamer soon departed, and so did the *Columbia*, leaving the stars and stripes still floating to the breeze, but the friends under its folds so surrounded by our batteries and in so crippled a condition as to be unable to fight their way out, or protect their friends coming in.

The evacuation of Fort Sumter has attracted our attention towards Fort Pickens, and a good deal has been said within the last few days relative to our lending a helping hand to our Florida friends. Our volunteers are not willing to go on the terms that would be required. The term of service would be extended to twelve months, and our Regiment being composed of young men who do not intend to make arms their profession, are not willing to leave their native State, liable to be absent for so long a period, when in fact their services might be needed at home. But they never for a moment wish to leave the camp while a federal soldier is quartered on their own soil.

It is expected that the Convention, which meets to-morrow, will disband us during the session, in case Fort Sumter is evacuated. Our Regiment was created by the Convention for a temporary purpose, and that purpose having been accomplished, it is hardly necessary to keep us idle in the field at such a great expense. The Regulars already here are sufficient for all military purposes.

One of the reporters of the *New York Herald* was here last Friday. We may soon expect to hear of our military arrangements as seen by him.—Some of our Abbeville friends are with us now, and among them Thomas B. Crews, of the *Banner*. The time passes rapidly and pleasantly away during the sojourn of our friends. We regret to see the hour of their departure arrive.

Yours truly,

B.

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