

“ ‘When the ship was under way, Captain Lawrence had the crew called to their quarters, and told them if there were any amongst them who were disaffected, or one that had not rather sink than surrender to the enemy, with gun for gun, that he should be immediately and uninjured landed and sent back in the pilot-boat. The reply was, fore and aft: “Not one.”’

“The like enthusiasm and bravery prevailed on board the entire squadron.

“The anchors were heaved, and with Stars and Stripes vigorously flying at the masthead of each, led by Commodore Rodgers' vessel, the *President*, they sailed down the bay in search of the enemy. \* \* \* \*

“At about five o'clock p. m., the commodore passed the light-house off Sandy Hook, and joined those there, and all proceeded to sea, having under his command the frigates *President*, 420 men, *United States*, 410 men; and *Congress*, 400 men, and the sloops-of-war *Hornet*, 150 men, and *Argus*, 130 men.”

“There were two forts or batteries in the city. \* \* \* \* The Southwest Battery (now Castle Garden) was the head-quarters of the military commander of this district from the time of its completion as a fort. The site of it was ceded to the United States government by the city corporation about 1807, and the fort built upon it as a battery. \* \* \* \*

“Up the Hudson River, off Hubert Street, about two hundred yards from the shore, to which was a draw-bridge thirty feet wide, was the North Battery. \* \* \* \* It would cross fire with the Southwest Battery so as to render it impossible for an enemy's ship to lie off the city in the North River. \* \* \* \*

“There were several forts outside the city. The principal works were on Governor's Island. At a point on the island, projecting westward to the edge of the channel, stood Castle Williams. \* \* \* \* Fort Columbus, situated on Governor's Island, near the middle towards the southern and eastern side of it, was built on the site of Fort Jay in 1807.

“On Bedloe's Island, lying nearly opposite Governor's Island, and to the west of Castle Williams was a mortar battery called Fort Wood. \* \* \* \*

“On Ellis or Oyster Island was an inclosed circular battery of masonry.

“On the east side of Staten Island, at Signal Hill, Fort Richmond, Fort Morton, Fort Hudson were batteries erected for occupation. \* \* \* \* Fort Tompkins commanded these, but was not yet completed above the foundation.”

There was no fort on the east side of the Narrows, neither at Sandy-Hook, nor at Hell-Gate in the East River.

The total number of guns in the forts was two hundred and eighty-four.

Under the call of President Madison for one hundred thousand men from