

little prospect of success: he sent message after message, but whether stipulative or seductive, commanding or entreating, pacific or threatening, all were alike unproductive, so far as concession and surrender were concerned. The lieutenant was calm, provokingly polite, stubbornly indifferent. He obeyed orders, but not those of the furious Governor, nor of the redoubtable Colonel.

The authority he recognized was that of the Federal government; and to show his utter disdain of self-constituted command, he lowered the flag and replaced it with one much larger, accompanying this daring feat with the loud beating of drums, the shriek of fifes, and all the grand display of a salute of seven guns. Some volunteer in attendance upon the Colonel, saw them in the act of lowering the smaller flag,—he rubbed his eyes, yes it is coming down, he rushed into the office crying, "Down comes the flag, they surrender." Colonel Puffpouch heard the shout, and ran to the window just in time to see it disappear. He marched out into the anteroom, where his clerk was questioning the subaltern, "So," said he, rubbing his hands, "The 'rag' is down at last, the fellow has thought better of the matter." The cry was taken up "the rag is down," and all the town turned out to see and satisfy themselves. Out marched Colonel Puffpouch, and, as he stepped leisurely along, the overjoyed citizens gave him an ovation of congratulatory shouts, which the Colonel, to do him justice, received with great and becoming equanimity.

The garrison were expected to appear shortly. All were on the *qui vivu*, but lo! instead of a surrender, instead of a dejected humbled lieutenant, at the head of his men, coming in sight, up slowly, but surely, goes another flag, larger, more conspicuous than the former; the wind opens out its voluminous folds, and the stars and stripes float in serene grandeur on the breeze. Then a puff of smoke is seen, bang! another puff, bang! and the rolling thunder of seven reports ran reverberating among the surrounding hills. The Colonel was highly indignant, he was disgusted with the fellow's impudence; of course some one was behind the scenes, giving him his instructions; no matter, they must be taught better, every one knew how patiently he had borne with the man's obstinacy. Now, now! another plan must be tried without delay. We must appeal to the patriotism of our young men. "Citizens, I appeal to you in this emergency, to rally round me, and *vi et armis* we will drive these hirelings from our soil." The speech was received with shouts of applause, immense enthusiasm prevailed; the volunteers flocked in from the country, in fact the excitement became so intense, that the Colonel's friends prevailed upon him to limit his call for volunteers to the county, or the whole State would rise and eat up and out the whole town.

As it was, some fifteen hundred men were selected and organized. Such drilling, such swearing! such eating, drinking, smoking and chewing, we leave these details to the imagination of our readers. Such terrible preparations could not possibly escape the notice of the lieutenant; he quietly but vigilantly kept watch upon all their movements. One of his men, dressed for the purpose, occasionally went down at night to obtain all necessary informa-