

AN INCIDENT OF THE AMERICAN WAR.

BY COUNSEL WEGHRIC.

The affair to which we refer, under the above heading, was one of those local triumphs which never reached the pages of State or National history. It was, however, one of those little advantages gained by the Confederate authorities, which encouraged them in the prosecution of the Rebellion, for such we must now call it, and led them ultimately to that disastrous war which has stamped its impress for many years upon the country and its inhabitants. Many of our readers will remember the taking of Fort Sumpter by Beauregard, and the astounding effect it produced upon the Southern States. Such rejoicings, such interchanges of congratulation, such boasting! None were louder in their boasting than Governor J——, who announced to all the world, at all interested, that every square foot of his State was "Sacred soil," which could not, under any circumstances, tolerate the dictatorial tread of Yankee footsteps, or the domination of the Federal government. Unfortunately, however, for this public manifesto, the "Stars and Stripes" were quietly waving over a small arsenal or fort in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and before the eyes of the magnate who had issued this important announcement. This circumstance was, of course, at once pointed out, and he magnanimously resolved that this blot upon their escutcheon should be wiped out; the miserable "rag" of Yankeedom should be lowered, and the foreigners sent home.

The arsenal in question was situated upon a hill about a mile and a half from the town, and was garrisoned by a few United States soldiers, under the command of a lieutenant. More singular still, this very garrison, of some forty or fifty soldiers, had been sent, in answer to an earnest petition of the town authorities, to act as a protection against an apprehended rising of the "niggers" about a year before. This insurrection among the negroes had not occurred, but in place of it, a rising among their masters; and so far from the garrison being wanted now, as a protection, the trouble was, how they could most speedily rid themselves of it. The fear now was, that the blacks and the "Yanks" would unite and make common cause together. It was plain something must be done, and done speedily! Had any one been bold enough to hint that their own violence would precipitate the emancipation of their slaves, he would probably have been regarded as either a lunatic, or a very dangerous citizen, and treated accordingly.

The Governor said something should be done, and done speedily; so he invested Colonel Puffpouch with plenary powers to raise a