

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

CHAPTER I.

THE CAUSES, AND THE OUTBREAK.

WHEN within a period of eighteen months a Dutch vessel entered James River with a small cargo of African slaves (1619), and the Mayflower landed at Plymouth, Mass., a company of seekers after liberty (1620), the prime conditions were established for one of the mightiest conflicts that the world has ever seen. In 240 years (1860) the descendants of these slaves, and of others who were imported subsequently, had increased to a servile population of 4,000,000, who performed most of the labor in the Southern States, and determined the character of their civil polity. On the other hand, the descendants of the Plymouth pilgrims had established common schools, a free press, the most democratic forms of government and society, and varied manufactures, all of which turned their civilization and their industrial and governmental ideas in a direction different from those of the South. The greatest of the few staples that were raised by slave labor was cotton, and the value of this crop had been enormously increased when Eli

Whitney, in 1793, invented the cotton gin, by which 3000 pounds could be cleaned of seed in a day, whereas before it had required a day's labor of a negro woman to clean one pound. This had increased the value of every slave in the country, and probably did more than any one thing toward determining the slaveholders to foster and perpetuate the institution, instead of trying to get rid of it. It became evident after a time to the wiser and more far-seeing men of our country that these two systems of labor could not endure forever under the same government. Abraham Lincoln expressed it tersely, three years before the war, in a speech in which he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved, I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided." There had been repeated threats of secession on the part of the South for about thirty years, followed by various concessions and compromises. By the Missouri Compromise of 1820, it had been agreed that all territories subsequently admitted to the Union north of the latitude of 36° 30' should be

free States, and all south of that line slave States. In 1854, by a bill introduced by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, this compromise was repealed, with the declared purpose of allowing the people of each territory to make such constitution as they pleased. This was looked upon by the greater part of the men in the North as an aggression on the part of the slave power, and an indication of a determination to carry slavery into all the territories; whereas they held that while it should not be meddled with where it was, it should be forbidden to spread any farther, with the expectation that ultimately it would die out, because they looked upon it as being both economically bad and morally wrong. Therefore all who concurred in this view formed at the North the Republican party, whose principal avowed purpose was to prevent the spread of slavery into the territories. Their first presidential candidate (1856) was John C. Fremont, who, though he made a powerful run, was not elected. It was believed that if he had been, the attempt at secession would have taken place then. In 1860 the candidate of this party was Abraham Lincoln, who was elected, and his election was followed



RECEPTION AT CHARLESTON, S. C., OF THE NEWS OF THE ELECTION OF LINCOLN AND HAMLIN, NOVEMBER, 1860.