

Scene from Fort Hamilton.
This ^{fortification} ~~fort~~ which is one the numerous ^{defences} ~~forts~~ that ^{protect} ~~defend~~ our harbor, and the Empire State, is situated about three miles from the City Hall of Brooklyn. It stands on an eminence about thirty feet from the water's edge and commands a beautiful view of Staten Island and the surrounding country. Let us turn our attention for a few moments to the Staten Island shore. On the east corner of it we may see a large white Light-house for the purpose of guiding the earnest mariner on towards shores, its high hills; its beautiful trees all wearing their most luxuriant foliage all present a pleasing sight to the eyes. In front of you flows the waters of the bay in great majesty; beneath you, but a short distance is Fort Lafayette in which prisoners that disdain our glorious Union are kept, a place too good for such wretches only death would give them what they deserve.

The exterior of Fort Hamilton is built of stone about eight feet thick; inside of this there are large guns each of which has a port hole; back of this again is built a brick wall not very thick. You enter the fort through two large iron gates. The interior of the fort is built up, that is on the inner side, with houses which are occupied by the soldiers. There is a paved walk on the inner edge and in the centre a large grass-plot. Large heaps of cannon ball ^{lie} ~~lay~~ here and there all around. Last time when I was down there the soldiers

were practising with a large cannon. The way they did it was they floated a buoy about ~~one~~ half way across the bay, and then tried to see who could hit the mark first; several came very near it but that was not the thing, they wanted to hit it. The fourth man that fired hit it right square in the top. Then the mark is moved a little closer and those who were unable to hit it last time now had another chance. If you want to enjoy a cool breeze some hot summer's day just take a trip down there, and seat yourself on the edge of the bank under a large umbrageous tree which hangs over the ~~bank~~ and you will be satisfied and rewarded for your trouble.

3 heads

Extra Composition

Exercise

By J. S. G. Sword

May 29th 1863.

A Visit To
Fort Hamilton

In Extra

Composition

Exercise

by J. S. G. Sword