

# Ovation

## **\*\*Ovation, The Demon of Unrest - Summary\*\***

On the morning of April 18, aboard the *\*Baltic\** off Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Capt. Gustavus Fox and Major Anderson reflected on the recent events surrounding Fort Sumter. Anderson, with a sense of resignation, dictated a summary to Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, describing the dire state of the fort after a 34-hour defense. He outlined the destruction suffered, lacking provisions, and the subsequent decision to evacuate under terms offered by General Beauregard. On April 14, the evacuation was completed with colors flying and drums beating, having salvaged company and private property.

As *\*Baltic\** entered New York Harbor, cheers erupted from passing vessels, mirroring the enthusiasm seen in Charleston after the fort's surrender. President Lincoln formally expressed gratitude to Anderson's team through the War Department, followed by a personal letter aimed at showing appreciation and clearing any misunderstandings. Two months later, Lincoln would express the immense trials faced during this period in Washington.

Meanwhile, General Beauregard celebrated the success of his soldiers and proclaimed their potential for invincibility against opposing forces. Mary Chesnut captured her thoughts in her diary, emphasizing the significance of the siege.

On April 19, with Virginia having seceded, Edmund Ruffin marked the end of his self-imposed exile, declaring satisfaction as the nation moved toward war. Crowds amassed to read news of Northern troop movements and the ensuing violence in Baltimore. As Confederate forces captured strategic sites, Ruffin felt compelled to join preparations for the anticipated conflict, traveling to Richmond where he witnessed a fervent atmosphere filled with volunteers, including President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee.

War appeared imminent as Ruffin's sons enlisted, with expectations of a swift Southern victory. He was particularly proud when his son Charles sought to join the Palmetto Guard, cherishing the hopes that this decision would lead to the boy's redemption and honor. By the end of May, despite lacking military experience, Charles was in camp with the Guard near Manassas Junction, setting the stage for the conflict ahead.