THE EXPLODING SHELL

A wonderful war photograph preserved by the Daughters of the Confederacy of Charleston, S. C. The picture is fully described in Major John Johnson's authoritative work, "The Defense of Charleston Harbor," where a drawing based on the photograph was published. It is believed that the photograph itself has never been reproduced before its appearance here.

All during August, Sumter was subjected to a constant bombardment from the Federal batteries. On September 7th, Admiral Dahlgren sent to demand the surrender of Sumter. Major Stephen Elliott replied: "Inform Admiral Dahlgren that he may have Fort Sumter when he can take and hold it." That night the Admiral sent a boat party. It was disastrously repulsed. The very same night, under cover of the darkness, George S. Cook, a Charleston photographer, was being rowed across to Fort Sumter and the next morning set up his camera.

After securing what is probably the most daring photograph ever taken during the Civil War (see page 24), Cook proceeded to attempt some views of the interior of the fort and luckily caught a picture as could have been made by present day. We see centrally in the picture the gorge wall by the strain exposed, took a vigorous part in the engagement of Sumter in war-time.

NOTE.—The extraordinary conditions under which the artist to retouch slightly. The photograph shows the art that none of the illustrations in the illustrations on the opposite page and page 24. This one exception has in no way marred the thousands of scenes reproduced are from precipitation.