

A Touching Incident.

[From the Charleston Mercury, April 24.]
Miss Anna Pickens, the daughter of our former Governor, never consented to leave the city. Despite the representation of Gen. Beuregard, she remained, braving shells and Greek fire, tending the wounded, and cheering all with her presence. Among the wounded officers under her ministering care was Mr. Andrew DeRochelle, a descendant of one of the noblest Huguenot families of this city.— This young man was full of the liveliest gratitude for his fair nurse; gratitude gave birth to a more tender sentiment; his suit was listened to; Governor Pickens gave his consent, and the marriage was fixed for yesterday, the 23d of April.

Lieutenant DeRochelle was on duty at Fort Sumter in the morning, and it was determined that the ceremony should take place at the residence of General Bonham, in the evening, at 7 o'clock. At the moment when the Episcopal clergyman was asking the bride if she was ready, a shell fell upon the roof of the building, penetrated to the room where the company were assembled, burst and wounded nine persons; and among the rest Miss Anna Pickens. We cannot describe the scene that followed. Order was at last re-established, and the wounded were removed, all except the bride, who lay motionless upon the carpet.— Her betrothed, kneeling and bending over her, was weeping bitterly and trying to staunch the blood that welled from a terrible wound under her left breast. A surgeon came and declared that Miss Pickens had not longer than two hours to live. We will paint the general despair.

When the wounded girl recovered her consciousness, she asked to know her fate, and when they hesitated to tell her—"Andrew," she said, "I beg you to tell me the truth. If I must die, I can die worthy of you." The young soldier's tears were his answer, and Miss Anna, summing all her strength, attempted to smile. Nothing could be more heart-rending than to see the agony of this brave girl struggling in the embrace of death and against a terrible mortal pang. Gov. Pickens, whose courage is known, was almost without consciousness, and Mrs. Pickens looked upon her child with the dry and haggard eye of one whose reason totters. Lieutenant DeRochelle was the first to speak. "Anna," he cried, "I will die soon, too, but I would have you die my wife. There is yet time to unite us." The young girl did not reply; she was too weak. A slight flush rose for an instant to her pale cheek; it could be seen that joy and pain were struggling in her spirit for the mastery. Lying upon a sofa, her bridal dress she had never been more beautiful.

Helpless as she was, Lieutenant DeRochelle took her hand and requested the Rev. Mr. Dickinson to proceed with the ceremony.— When it was time for the dying girl to say yes, her lips parted several times, but she could not articulate. At last the word spoken, and a slight foam rested upon her lips. The dying agony was near. The minister sobbed as he proceeded with the ceremony. An hour afterward all was over, and the bridal chamber was the chamber of death.

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