



The following description of this celebrated building, is from a Washington letter in the N. Y. Herald:—
"We visited the celebrated Arlington House, the residence of Mr. Robert Lee, (the commander of the rebel forces in Virginia,) formerly that of George Washington. Parks Custis. It is now the headquarters of Gen. McDowell, commanding the Department of Fairfax county. The situation is a splendid one, commanding the whole city and a wide sweep of the Potomac. The Eighth New York Regiment, Colonel Lyons, is quartered here. They have their battery of light artillery.

"But the mansion is the memorable object. It is of the old Revolutionary style of architecture—solid, wide spread and low. The flying family have left but little in it, but, as if trusting to our reverence for their family ancestor, Washington, they have left many pictures and relics of him and of the Revolution. Hanging in the entry are the paintings of Revolutionary scene, painted in his old age by George Washington Custis himself. They are very spirited.
"The dining room is adorned with, among other things, three deer's heads, preserved from deer actually killed by George Wash-

ington. A fine engraving of the Duke of Wellington confronts a full length oil painting of "Light Horse Harry," as he was called, the father of Gen. Lee. A few books and letters lie about marked with the familiar and eminent names of Lee and Custis.
"When I thought how often Washington had walked on this noble portico, and enjoyed these lovely grounds, I felt sad to think it had become the duty of the soldiers of the republic to occupy it in the name of the republic and against the will of his disloyal heirs."

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1861.

THE REBEL EARTHWORKS ON MUNSON'S HILL



Munson's Hill is probably the highest eminence within ten miles of the Potomac, immediately opposite Washington. It is about six miles from the Capital, the intervening space being covered with a succession of gentle rolling hills, crowned principally with forest trees, although here and there dotted with churches, farm houses, and country villages. The streams are unimportant, and the roads dusty.
The Hill presents its most abrupt side toward the National Capital, and unlike those around, has but few trees upon its summit. Many of those which originally existed have, no doubt, been felled while the entrenchments were in progress. At present, an immense Rebel flag, the red, white and blue stripes in which are at least five feet wide each, is the most prominent object upon the top of the eminence. Two of the trees which have been allowed to remain, were used at the time our sketch was taken, as an observatory. In the picture they are plainly visible.
The Rebel defenses are constructed entirely of earth, fifteen feet being the highest elevation. They were not started even a moderate cannonade, if a favorable point could be found from

which to make an attack. The number of guns which have been mounted is not definitely known. Ten sloping hillsides in front of the fort is cleared of underbrush or trees, and is suitably extended to allow three thousand men to parade without inconspicuous. The ground is firm, however, and in the event of an effort to storm the earthworks, would give good footing to our advancing volunteers. The distance from the cover of the woods to the summit of the hill, is not so great, but that a quick movement would drive the enemy from their guns with very little loss of life.
The flank defenses of the Fort consist of three batteries, designated in the engraving. It is a raised and believed that earthworks have been thrown up on another portion of the hill, (invisible from the North), commanding the road to Fairfax Court House. The fort is intended more particularly to command the road leading from Alexandria to Falls Church, the road from Washington to Fairfax, just mentioned, the railroad from Alexandria to Vienna, and the position of Bailey's Cross Roads.
HUNTER'S Chapel, designated by a building in the foreground of the picture, is on an air-line

from the Capitol Dome at Washington to the Rebel Fort. It is about three miles this side of Munson's Hill. Near it are two United States camps, which must be plainly visible, without a glass, from the earthworks on the summit of the eminence. The Hill itself, with its fortifications and its Secession flag, can be seen from the Dome of the Capitol, although the sketch which we give was taken from the upper story of a deserted house near Bailey's Cross Roads, and within rifle shot of the enemy. In further explanation of the engraving we give the following description:—
A. Tripod with glass of Rebel Engineers.
B. Two trees, with boards arranged for an observatory.
C. Encampment of Rebel regiment in orchard.
D. Dense woods.
E. Parade ground, on sloping hillside.
F. Horses picketed.
G. Squad of men.
H. At this point, to the extreme left of the earth works, the embankment is 8 feet high.
I. Embankment 15 feet high.
J. Old peach orchard.
K. Height of embankment 9 feet.