

Captain CHARLES WILKES, whose name is now upon the lips of every American, is well known both in science and navigation. Born in the State of New York in 1805, he entered the Naval service of his country in 1818, being but thirteen years of age. He gave evidence of marked ability by scientific researches, and subsequently received at the hands of the American Government the command of a Naval Expedition, intended to explore the countries bordering on the Pacific and Southern Oceans. His command consisted of two sloops of war, a brig, and two tenders, and he himself had the grade of captain. He doubled Cape Horn, crossed over to Polynesia, Van Diemen's Land and Australia, advancing as high as the sixty-first degree of south latitude; he then visited the Feejee Islands and Borneo, and returned to New York in 1842, after having visited Singapore and the Cape of Good Hope. This memorable expedition of four years was fertile in useful observations, which Captain WILKES subsequently gave to the world in a very able work in five octavo volumes, entitled "A Narrative of the United



CAPTAIN CHARLES WILKES.

States Exploring Expedition."

Captain WILKES has published several works on geographical research, especially valuable for reference. The statistics, drawings, maps, &c., are of the highest order. The Geographical Society of London, in 1818, presented him with a gold medal, in appreciation of his labors. Capt. WILKES received his present commission in 1855, and stands, according to the last Navy List, No. 51 on the list of Captains. He has been in the service altogether about forty-three years, having been on shore and other duty twenty-seven years, and on sea service ten years, allowing but seven years of his term unemployed. His last duty at sea was in June 1842, and before being ordered to the *San Jacinto*, he was upon special duty at Washington, upon matters connected with his Exploring Expedition.

Returning from the Coast of Africa he found orders on his way home to look for pirates or vessels attempting to run the blockade, and has been performing that duty for the past six weeks. While engaged in this business he fell in with the vessel containing the two Rebel Ministers.