



## FLAG-OFFICER STRINGHAM,

COMMANDING THE ATLANTIC BLOCKADING SQUADRON

Commodore SILAS H. STRINGHAM, whose portrait we publish above, is a native of the State of New York, and was born near Newburgh, Orange county. He has been connected with our navy and in active service since the 15th of November, 1809, when he entered as midshipman, at the age of eleven. His present commission bears date September 8, 1841, and since then he has been at sea nearly five years. Since his entrance in the navy he has passed twenty-two years at sea. In 1830 he commanded the *Falmouth*, attached to the West India Squadron. In 1835 he sailed in the *John Adams*, from New York, to join the Mediterranean Squadron, and returned in 1837. The same year he took command of the *Porpoise*, to go in search of a pirate on our coast. In 1842 he commanded the *Independence*, attached at that time to the Home Squadron, and in 1847 he had charge of the *Ohio*, which was sent to Brazil on special service, for the purpose of conveying to that country the American Minister and suite. His advancement has been by the regular course of promotion. The Department at Washington have always had the fullest confidence in his ability, as is shown by the many and important commands in which he has been placed. Since holding his present rank he has successively been Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, followed by a cruise to the Brazil, then Com-

mandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, then a cruise as Commodore of the Mediterranean Squadron, from whence he returned in July, 1855; was soon ordered to the Charleston Navy Yard as Commandant, holding that position some four years. Upon leaving there he was the recipient of various testimonials of esteem and regard from those under his command.

Upon the incoming of the present Administration he was early ordered to Washington on special duty, and upon deciding to blockade all the Southern ports, he was ordered to his present command, reaching from Key West on the south to Cape Charles, at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, on the north, with the *Minnesota*, a forty gun steamer, as the flag-ship, and some twenty-five vessels in all, manned by 3500 sailors and marines. The fleet is the most important ever put in commission by the Department (although not yet as large as it should be to be entirely effective.)

In person the Commodore is of medium height and a compact, athletic frame, of manly bearing and frank demeanor; in manner, a pleasing mixture of gentleman-like refinement and sailor-like frankness, with a character of high moral tone, "without fear and without reproach." No officer is more beloved and respected by those who serve under him than Commodore STRINGHAM, and the flag of our Union is in safe keeping while under his care.