

K. C. B., included in the thanks of parliament; and was presented with the Cross of the Order of St. George of Russia, and the Insignia of the second class of the Order of the Red Eagle of Prussia. In November, 1841, after his return from the East, he was made a Naval Aid-de-Camp to Her Majesty. He was promoted, in 1846, to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the Blue; and in May, 1853, he attained his present standing of Vice-Admiral. A few prominent incidents in the life of Sir Charles, condensed from an address which was delivered at a dinner party in London, will, we believe, prove of interest to our readers. In 1833, he gallantly volunteered to serve the cause of the Queen of Portugal against the usurpations of Don Miguel, and while in command of a little squadron of frigates and corvettes, captured a squadron of far superior force, including two line of battle ships, on one of which he was himself among the first to board. While hanging in the shrouds, trying to get upon the deck, he was poked at by a Portuguese pike-man, and very nearly lost his life. After gaining the deck an officer rushed at him to run him through. Sir Charles quietly parried his thrust, and very coolly giving his assailant a hearty kick, sent him tumbling down the hatchway. The victory which he gained on that occasion decided the destinies of Portugal. It was during this war that the late Lord Wm. Russell, hearing that Sir Charles Napier was in the vicinity of Valencia, went with a friend to see him, and soon discovered a man dressed in a very "easy" costume, and accompanied by a marine, bearing two muskets on his shoulders. "Well, Napier," said he, "what are you doing here?" "I'm going to take Valencia," was the reply. "But," said Lord William Russell, "Valencia is a fortified town; and in order to take it, you must open trenches, make approaches, and establish batteries and breaches—which things take a great deal of time, and must be done according to rule." "O," said Sir Charles, "I have no time for that. I mean to take the town with a letter." He accordingly sent the governor a letter, telling him that it was much better to surrender at discretion. The governor, who was a man of prudence, surrendered, and Valencia was handed over to the queen. It has been said of Sir Charles Napier, that one great secret of his success is, that he calculates so many moves beforehand. The occasion of the departure of the fleet, of which Sir Charles is Admiral, for the Baltic, was of the most imposing character, the queen leading the fleet to sea, and many thousands of persons being congregated together to witness the important event. It is impossible to picture the excitement that prevailed in Portsmouth, or to give an estimate of the vast crowds who visited the port. Sir Charles Napier has had paid to him all the honor due to a hero and conqueror. The fleet under his command arrived in the Baltic on the 15th ult.



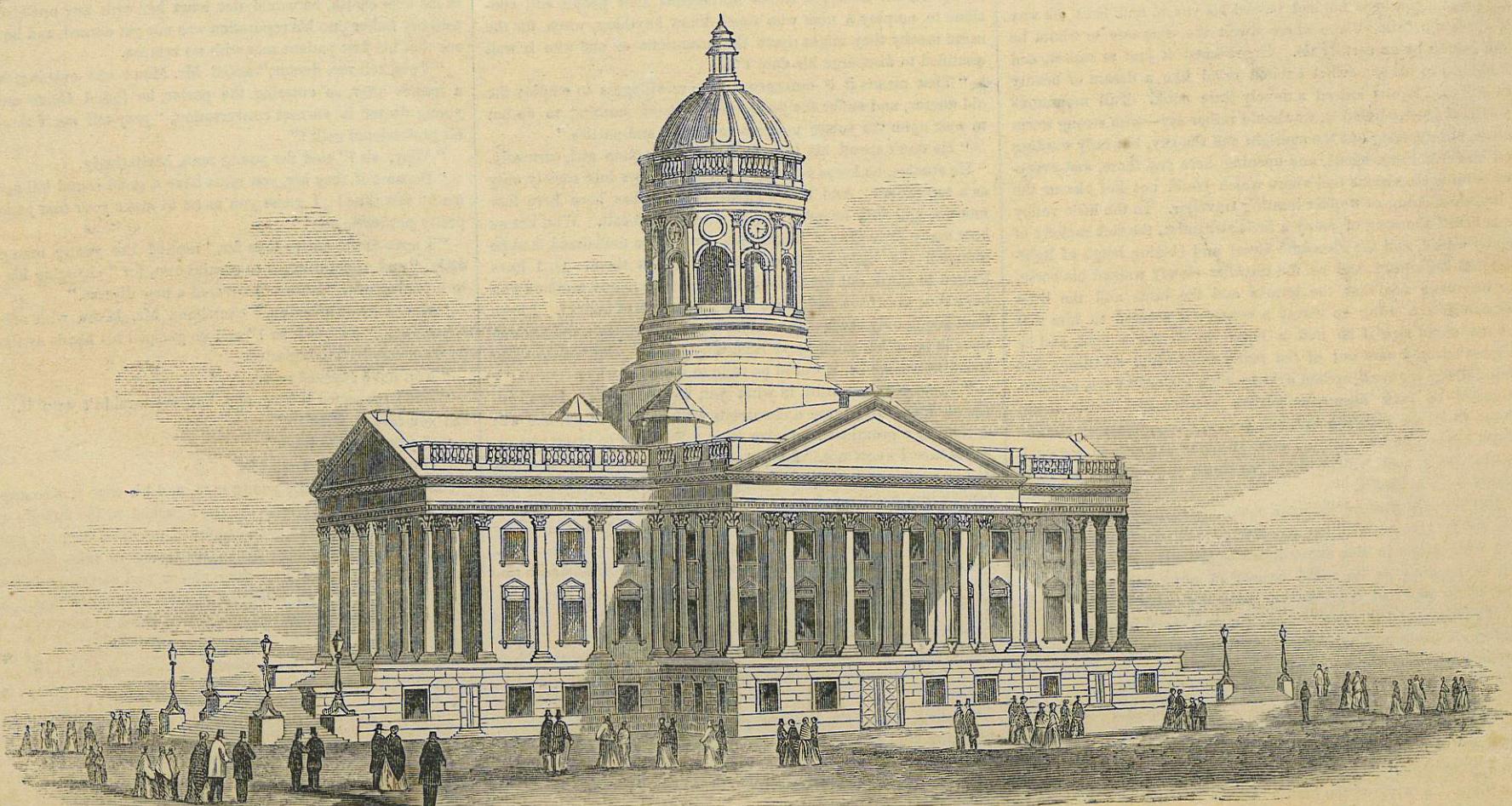
VICE-ADMIRAL SIR CHARLES NAPIER.

## CUSTOM HOUSE, CHARLESTON, S. C.

Below we give a representation of this edifice as it will appear when completed. It will be a most imposing structure, unsurpassed in beauty by any similar building in the United States. It is situated on East Bay Street. The building, by being recessed about one hundred feet from the line of the street, will present a fine view both from the harbor and the city. A stone quay will be built on the river, and the market on the east further removed, so that an extensive area will be obtained on all sides, which, laid out in walks, and ornamented with trees, will render its neighborhood highly agreeable. The custom house will be constructed in the form of a cross. Its extreme length from east to west will be 259 feet, and from north to south 152 1-2 feet. It will be three stories in height. The basement is principally intended for storing heavy goods, and the two upper stories for offices. The style is a rich Roman Corinthian, and the order will extend uninterruptedly

through the two upper stories, and elevated upon a rusticated basement. Each of the four fronts will be decorated with a Corinthian portico of six fluted columns, and enriched windows. Broad, massive steps will ascend from the ground to the porticos both east and west. The entire pile will be surrounded with a Corinthian dome, the highest point of which will be 160 feet above the level of the street. The building will be entirely fire-proof—the masonry of the exterior of imported granite or marble; basement covered with granite masonry; arches resting on piers; the other floors a combination of iron girders and brick arches. The roof will be metal. The principal apartment in point of magnitude and decoration is in the centre of the building, under the dome, extending through the two upper stories, and covered by a hemispherical vaulted ceiling, which will be enriched with sunken panels and tracery, and supported upon twelve marble Corinthian columns. The principal light to this apartment will be given from above, by passing from openings through the dome through rich stained glass in the centre of the ceiling. The foundations are now in progress of construction, and the mode of construction is such as to insure entire solidity, which is of the highest importance, when the cost and magnitude of the work is considered. Numerous borings have been made to the depth of fifty feet or more, which penetrated the alluvial and *post phocene* stratas, and were arrested by the marl of the *cocene* formation, in consequence of which piles are being driven to the depth of forty feet, where they rest securely upon a compact bed of sand ten feet in thickness. Upon the heads of the piles, after having been cut off to grade, a grilage of square timber is laid, and a thick bed of concrete is completely rammed down, and upon this the masonry of the foundation is laid. All the operations of piling, pumping, excavating, lifting and hauling of

lumber and blocks, and other heavy materials, are performed by steam power. The yard workshops are not only objects of interest to all who may desire to pay a visit, but are, moreover, a school of instruction for persons who desire to become architects, or builders, or both. The number of piles in the foundations has reached to nearly four thousand. Four driving machines were constantly in use, worked by steam. By a steam engine the piles were also drawn out of the dock in the rear, and hauled to their proper place in the foundation. Another steam engine about the middle of the yard was used exclusively for pumping the water out of the excavation below the piles. The last Congress made an appropriation of \$100,000 for the continuance of the work. When the structure is completed, it will be a work of elaborate architectural skill and taste, and an ornament which will add greatly to the beauty of our southern sister city, already abounding in tasty and beautiful edifices.



THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.