who never forgot his friends nor forgave his enemies. He seemed determined to sustain Bragg at all events, though the feeling throughout the whole army, and, in fact, the South, was against that general. When Wilmington was known to be threatened and Bragg was sent there, the *Richmond Examiner* simply remarked, "Good-bye, Wilmington!" and the prediction was verified.

Whiting, after the first attack, wrote to Bragg, suggesting that in case of another attack, which would probably be made, to prevent surprise he would advise that Hagood's South Carolina brigade, numbering about 2,000 effective men, be thrown into Fort Fisher, the garrison of which consisted of one raw, inexperienced regiment, that had never smelled powder except in the first attack, and which did not number over 700 effective men. Hagood's troops were veterans, and had been in many a battle. He also advised that the three other brigades of Hoke's division be placed along about the spot where the Federals had first landed, and be intrenched so as to prevent a landing above the fort. Wise precautions, if they had been adopted. Bragg endorsed on the letter of advice from Whiting that he saw no necessity in carrying out those suggestions. It was the failure to carry out those suggestions that caused the loss of Wilmington. Had they been followed, Wilmington would not have fallen when it did, nor Fisher have been taken. Instead, Bragg brought Hoke's division up about half a mile back of Wilmington, over twenty miles from the Fort, and had a grand review there, in which he paraded himself in a new suit of uniform, presented to him by his admirers in Wilmington.

Whiting's prediction about a surprise was shortly to be verified. Thursday night, the 12th of January, 1865, the fleet again appeared off Fisher. This time, through Bragg's imbecility, it did its work effectually. Friday morning the citizens of Wilmington were aroused by the booming of Porter's cannon, a second time opening on Fisher. When the news came up at midnight that the fleet had again appeared, the band of Hoke's division was in town serenading, the officers were visiting, and the men scattered about—Bragg, no doubt, asleep in fancied security.

Of the capture of Fort Fisher, and the subsequent inevitable loss of Wilmington, I shall not speak. These events have passed into history. My purpose has been simply to portray the aspect of Wilmington when blockaded.

THE FIRST AND SECOND ATTACKS UPON FORT FISHER.

On the morning of December 20, 1864, a Federal fleet began to assemble at New Inlet. It bore the force General Grant had sent under Gen. B. F. Butler to reduce Fort Fisher, and the Federal Navy, under Admiral Porter, was coöperating with 52 warships, the greatest flotilla ever brought together in American waters. But General Butler hoped for the practical destruction of the fort by means of an explosion of powder on a vessel, the *Louisiana*. All being in readiness, on the night of the 23d the *Louisiana* was brought in, and at 1.52 a. m. the explosion occurred. To the amazement of Butler nothing happened. Colonel Lamb, the next morning, reported: "A blockader got aground near the fort, set fire to herself and blew up." So little was the explosion noticed that its purpose was not conjectured.

During the 24th a terrific bombardment was kept up by the Federal fleet, but without much damage, Colonel Lamb noting that the greatest penetration into his sand defenses was not more than five feet perpendicularly. On Christmas day, Sunday, a large force of infantry was landed at Battery Anderson, three miles up the beach. These, being unopposed by infantry and well beyond the fire of the fort, prepared for the assault. The beach was swept by the guns of the fleet and had there been an infantry force to attack the Federal troops it could not have approached them. At 4.30 p. m. the expected assault was made, but successfully repulsed; and the next morning, General Butler, admitting failure, withdrew his troops to his ships; and, although the bombardment continued, this first attack ended in disaster for the Federals, the defense being a glorious victory.

Admiral Porter and General Grant were much disappointed at Butler's fiasco, and they arranged to make another attempt. General Grant enjoined the utmost secrecy, and a new force was quietly collected under General Terry and transported to Beaufort. The Confederates were jubilant at the defeat of Butler, and General Bragg, who did not expect an early renewal of the attack, moved Hoke's division to Wilmington, en route to make an effort to capture New Bern. General Whiting, however, was of a different opinion and looked for the return of the Federal forces. On the 8th of January the new