

From "The Everyday Life of Lincoln" by Browne.

Visit to Petersburg.

On the 2d of April/ the stronghold of Petersburg fell into the hands of the Union troops. Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by Admiral Porter, visited the city. They joined General Grant, and sat with him for nearly two hours upon the porch of a comfortable little house with a small yard in front, and crowds of citizens soon gathered at the fence to gaze upon those remarkable men of whom they had heard so much. The President's heart was filled with joy, for he felt that ~~he was~~ this was "the beginning of the end." Admiral Porter says: "Several regiments passed us en route and they all seemed to recognize the President at once. 'Three cheers for Uncle Abe' passed along among them, and the cheers were given with a vim which showed the estimation in which he was held by the soldiers.

That evening, April 2d, continues Admiral Porter, "the sailors and marines were sent out to guard and escort in some prisoners, who were placed on board a large transport lying in the stream: There were about a thousand prisoners, more or less. The President expressed a desire to go on shore. I ordered the barge and went with him. We had to pass the transport with the prisoners. They all rushed to the side with eager curiosity. All wanted to see the Northern President. They were perfectly content. Every man had a chunk of meat and a piece of bread in his hand, and was doing his best to dispose of it. 'That's Old Abe,' said one, in a low voice. 'Give the old fellow three cheers,' said another; while a third called out: 'Hello, Abe, your bread and meat's better than pop corn!' It was all good-natured and not meant in unkindness. I could see no difference between them and our own men, except that they were ragged and attenuated, for want of wholesome food. They were as happy a set of men as ever I saw. They could see their homes looming up before them in the distance, and knew that the war was over. They will never shoulder a musket again in anger, said the President, and if Grant is wise he will leave them their guns to shoot crows with. It would do no harm."