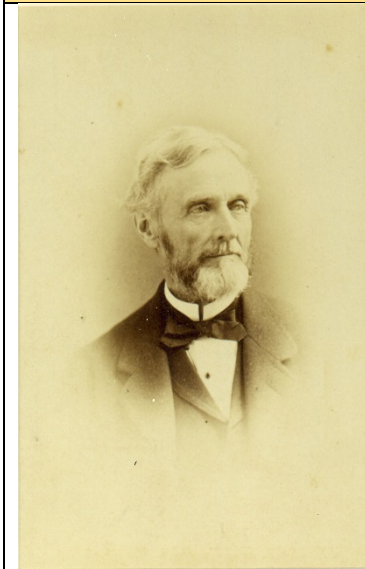


## Chapter 309 – CSA President Jefferson Davis Stalls For Time On Ft. Sumter



**Dates:**  
February 11, 1860

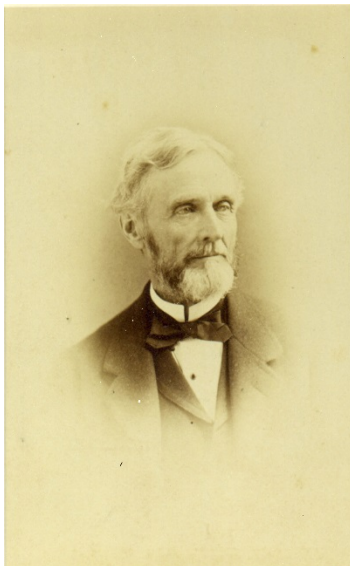
**Sections:**

- Governor Pickens Hands The Sumter Dilemma Over To The New Confederation

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Date: February 11, 1861

### Governor Pickens Hands The Sumter Dilemma Over To The New Confederation



With his “messenger,” Isaac Hayne, back from the latest rebuff in Washington, pressure builds on Governor Pickens to launch an attack on Sumter.

All of Charleston is eager to strike, spurred on by the South Carolina fire-eaters, the likes of Edmund Ruffin, Lawrence Keitt, R.B. Rhett and William Porcher Miles.

But then pleas to the contrary pour into Pickens’ office from outside the state – from Georgia’s Robert Toombs, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, and even Virginian, John Tyler.

The Governor now feels like he is caught in the middle and looks for a way to squirm out.

Jefferson Finis Davis (1808-1889)

On Tuesday, February 12, he tries to force the issue by notifying Howell Cobb that:

*I hope to be ready by Friday night, and I think I am prepared to take the fort or to silence it.*

This tactic has the effect he now wants, as Cobb replies that the decision on what to do about Ft. Sumter now rests with President Davis and his new Confederate States of America cabinet.

In the end, the once bellicose Pickens seems relieved by yet another delay in the action.

On February 19 he assures John Tyler that he has called off any attack on Sumter.