

The Confederacy held firm possession of almost every rood (sq) of territory which it claimed.

Fortress Monroe in Virginia, Forts Pickens in Florida, Taylor on Key West and Jefferson on the Tortugas were all that remained to the Union within the bounds of the Confederate States. With the exception of the few hundred acres within the walls of these fortresses a narrow strip on the Potomac and the northwestern corner of Virginia not a rood remained to the Union of nearly eight hundred thousand square miles within the eleven seceding states.

These four fortresses were indeed of inestimable value.

Monroe commanded Hampton Roads, the only good harbor on the Atlantic coast south of the Delaware; had that fallen into the hands of the enemy, we should have had no place on the Southern coast for a rendezvous for our naval expeditions.

Pickens commanded Pensacola the only good harbor and naval depot on the gulf of Mexico. Taylor and Jefferson commanded the throat of the Gulf; every vessel entering or leaving it must pass within sight of both. The other fort, a score in number which had been built by the United States at a cost of ten millions of dollars and were mounted with more than 1500 guns had been seized by the states in which they were situated and turned over to the Confederacy. Besides these was the great Arsenal at Norfolk with 2,500 guns (great guns) in store, and various other arsenals containing some hundreds of cannon and small arms sufficient for ~~100~~ 150,000 men...

war...Harper's outlay before onset..

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Richmond---it was so far inland it could be assailed only by a force vastly superior to the defenders. It was connected by a system of railways with the extreme south and southwest which would enable the whole force of the Confederacy to be speedily concentrated for its defense.

If the system of Southern railways had not been constructed especially for military purposes it could hardly have been better contrived.

One line, commencing in Central Georgia, follows the general run of the coast, touches at Savannah and Charleston, then striking into the interior reaches Richmond.

Another line, starting at New Orleans, runs northward, parallel with the Mississippi, to the neighborhood of Memphis; then turning almost due east traverses the very heart of the South through Tennessee and Virginia to Richmond.

These two great trunk lines are connected by branches reaching into every portion of the Southern States, and from Richmond sending offshoots to the Potomac. Thus, if Richmond were threatened, troops and supplies could be hurried by rail from the far south and southwest. If Charleston or Mobile were threatened, forces from Virginia, Mississippi and Tennessee could be hurried by rail from the far south and southwest. If Charleston or Mobile were threatened, forces from Virginia, Mississippi and Tennessee could be concentrated there. If Tennessee or Georgia were menaced from Ohio or Kentucky all the available force of the Confederacy could be dispatched by short routes to the point assailed. A careful study of the general map of the Southern State will show that the South had a great advantage in position for carrying on a war of defense. It occupied the center of a circle, around the circumference of which the North must move. The advantage was hardly less for an offensive movement.

If our armies on the Potomac were weakened to support those in the Valley of the Mississippi the Confederacy could speedily concentrate its armies in Virginia and hurl them in a mass upon Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The Union had to maintain two great armies, one upon the Potomac and the other upon the Mississippi and its great affluents which must act in a measure independently of each other on account of the long distance which separated them, while the Confederacy would at pleasure throw its whole force upon either. Thus it happened that while the armies of the Union in the aggregate far outnumbered those of the Confederacy, the latter might be able, as they did, to confront their opponents at almost any given point with equal or superior strength.

The Confederacy thus entered into the contest with a strength altogether beyond that indicated by its population. It had, indeed, two weak points, closely connected with each other. The accumulated capital of the South was mainly invested in slave. If a Southern gained money he invested it in negroes. The value of an ordinary field hand had trebled in a few years in consequence of the regular demand for and high price of cotton. The If the production of cotton were permanently suspended, slave would lose their value. A long war of necessity depended upon positive law. If the federal government should pass an act of emancipation with the power to enforce its execution, the wealth of the slaveholders would be swept away at a blow....

Thus during the spring of 1861 the Union and Confederacy stood fairly opposed to each other; all attempts at conciliation had failed... the confederate government had established itself at Richmond and had pushed its outposts so far northward that they could see the dome of the federal Capitol across the Potomac. ...the first military operations commenced almost simultaneously near the close of May 1861.

...Fortress Monroe is, strictly speaking, the only fortress or fortified enclosure in the United States.

It was at first constructed for the protection of Gosport Navy Yard and at the beginning of the war it had cost the government two and a half millions of money. Its area embraces about seventy-five acres, finely shaded with live-oaks. It is a bastioned work, ~~map~~ heptagonal in form; its walls which are of granite rise to the height of thirty-five feet; and about the entire work a moat extends, from seventy-five to a hundred and fifty feet wide with faced and dressed granite. On the side facing the sea there is a water-battery of forty-two embrasures, the slope of which covered with a green turf affords a favorite promenade. Fortress Monroe has been the final headquarters of all the military and naval expeditions that have been sent to the Southern coasts. So completely does its possession control the commerce of Virginia that it almost supersedes the necessity for a blockade along the coast of that state. Governor ~~Letche~~ Letcher was at an early period, fully aware of the importance of its capture, but this was an undertaking which like the seizure of Washington required a stronger force than could be marshaled together previous to the secession of Virginia.

The Confederacy had no Navy and the land approach to the fortress was exceedingly difficult, the only access being by means of a strip of beach not over forty rods in width. After Virginia had finally seceded, this strong-hold stood in great peril but was promptly reinforced.

On the 22d of May General Butler, whose decided policy in Maryland had saved that state to the union arrived at Fortress Monroe and there assumed the command of a new department, the main object of which was a military occupation of the Atlantic coast.

On precisely the same day that Mansfield occupied Alexandria, Butler made a reconnoissance in force toward Hampton, a little village just north of Fortress Monroe. The confederate troops stationed there retreated as soon as they were aware of his approach, and, having made their escape across Hampton Creek into the town, attempted to burn the bridge in their rear which they partially succeeded in doing. General Butler immediately established a camp near Hampton and another eight miles further west at Newport News; in these two encampments together with the troops inside the fortress, Butler had in the early part of June about 12,000 men.

On the 10th of June the battle of Big Bethel was fought. The enemy had a strong position at Yorktown, about twenty five miles from Fortress Monroe and on the opposite side of the Peninsula....

(Theodore Winthrop, with the New York 7th, was killed in the battle of Bethel. He was a major. Winthrop was shot by a North Carolina drummer boy while standing upon a log brandishing his sword. He was in the act of rallying his men for a fresh encounter.)

Winthrop wrote Canoe and Saddle, which was not published until after his death. He came through Yakima Valley and much of it Canoe and Saddle, is about the Yakim Valley.

...(Robert Selden Garnett) .. In the latter part of June we have McClellan personally at the head of the Union Army in Western Virginia and General Garnett commanding the Confederate forces.

The former had about 20,000 men and his communications open and easy; while the confederate general had an inferior force, and, although posted in a position highly advantageous so far as fighting was concerned, was yet completely isolated from any possible basis of military operations.

To have held this position for a single day after the battle at Philippi, unless it were with a force so overwhelming to make defeat impossible, was simply a military blunder. Yet Garnett held it even when he knew that McClellan was moving steadily on and rapidly increasing in the number of his command.

This position of the confederates was some twenty or thirty miles southwest from Philippi at Rich Mountain, a gap in the Laurel Hill Range, where the Staunton and Weston Turnpike crosses it, about four or five miles from Beverly. The road which runs along its western slope was the only possible line of communication between the position and Garnett's base. This road ran through Beverly, and to hold the latter place was effectually to intercept the possibility of the enemy's retreat.

Here at Rich Mountain, Garnett had posted Colonel Pegram with 3,000 men, while he himself, with about 8,000 occupied Laurel Hill, fifteen or sixteen miles farther westward. The fortified position at this latter point was very strong.

Having ordered General Morris to occupy Garnett's forces by a direct attack, McClellan himself, with the main body of his army, passed around the Buckhannon to the rear, that is to the western slope of

Rich Mountain. Here he divided his force into two columns and giving one of these to Colonel Rosecrans he sent the latter to the rear of Pegram, while he remained in the front ready to attack simultaneously. Rosecrans obtained the rear, sent a courier back to McClellan to give the signal, and went to work. The messenger missed his way and passed into the encampment of the enemy, thus giving them full information of the movement. Meanwhile McClellan awaited the signal and the enemy acquainted with the peril of his position made his way toward Laurel Hill.

Garnett, also, had been warned of the danger, and hastily leaving his intrenchments proceeded southward hoping to reach Beverly before McClellan, but on his way thither he met the fugitives of Pegram's army, and learned that Beverly was already in the possession of Union forces. Thus all retreat to the southward was cut off.

The only way of escape left him was to follow the course of the Cheat River toward the northeast until he should find some outlet into the valley of Virginia. Then followed McClellan's or, rather Morris's forces, in swift and unrelenting pursuit, Captain Benham leading the advance. At a bend of the Cheat River, where it winds about a bluff of fifty or sixty feet high, the enemy made a stand and planting a cannon on the top of the bluff disputed the advance. It was an admirable position; but Benham led his men directly under the bluff and around to its left, where they could gain the road and as they appeared upon his flank the enemy fled, leaving one of his guns and a number of killed and wounded. About a quarter of a mile further on, where the stream made another turn, Garnett, with a few skirmishers, attempted to make another stand, and, while rallying his men, received a Minie ball which caused his death. This was called the battle of Carrick's Ford. In the mean time Pegram's force, finding escape impossible, had surrendered to the Federal success was complete.

The federal success was complete. Only a small portion of the enemy escaped, and all their material fell into Union hands. The immediate and natural result of this battle was the evacuation of Harper's Ferry, and the abandonment by the enemy of all Western Virginia.

In the meantime, while General McClellan was moving southward from the Ohio, along the Alleghany Ridge and driving the enemy before him General Wise, near the western and southern borders of the state was gathering together another confederate army. He had just been appointed a brigadier general with orders, first to clear Western Virginia of federal troops and keep it clear and secondly to occupy Wheeling, and disorganize the Union Legislature.....thus ended the month of July...

(northwestern Virginia, July 13, 1861, date of Garnett's death) —

General Lee assumed command of Garnett's scattered forces...

Active hostilities did not immediately commence, and the attention of both parties was chiefly turned to the attitude of the border states. With a population of five and a half million, rich, fertile and extending in a broad belt nearly two hundred miles wide at its narrowest part, between the insurgent slave states and the free, they held in their hands the immediate fate of the country.

Had they all remained heartily and firmly faithful to the cause of the republic, the preponderance of power would have been so overwhelming the advantage of position so great, that the rebellion would have had but a short life, and would have strangled upon the soil which gave it birth.

They did not take this position; and by their various policies, various in form, but little divergent in purpose, they swelled the proportions and prolonged the duration of war and brought its blood and its devastation home to their own fields and firesides.

Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri were the debatable ground of the first days and so of the whole war of the rebellion.

Both parties appreciated their importance and both sought to secure them; the one as usual by a cautious and the other by a daring policy.

Virginia, if not the most powerful from her situation the most important of them all, was, on the first assertion of national authority, and in spite of her previous denunciations of the course of South Carolina, at once thrown into the hands of the Our insurgents. North Carolina and Tennessee soon followed her. Kentucky and Missouri distracted between the loyalty of the large majority of their people and the strong disaffection of their leading politicians, nearly all of whom were ~~firmly~~ heartily in the interests of the rebel

factions, wavered and temporized and fell into civil commotion within their own borders; and Maryland was saved to the Union and from the fate of war only by the patriotism of her governor, and the sagacity and decision of his sometimes seeming opponent, but always co-worker, General Butler. Abandoning Virginia hopelessly to the insurgents, and passing her by until the beginning of active hostilities, I follow the immediate fortunes of the insurrection through the other five states upon the border.....

...His movement to and Baltimore was a signal for a rapid departure of the rebellious Marylanders of the neighborhood westward. They went with such arms as they could command; and , at the same time an attempt was made to send to Harper's Ferry, then in the possession of the insurgents, a steam gun, invented by a Mr. Winans of Baltimore, who expected to effect by it an entire change in artillery warfare.

But on the 10th (May) 1861--General Butler seized this much-talked of weapon on its passage, arrested those who accompanied it and placed it among the less pretending, but as it proved, more efficient batteries with which he commanded the important railway viaduct at what was known as the Washington Junction.

ON the 14th they entered the city of Baltimore ~~himself~~ itself with the Eighth New York Regiment, a detachment of the Very Sixth Massachusetts which had been attacked three weeks before, and a battery, and, marching through the city, undisturbed by the rebellious and cheered by the loyal, encamped upon Federal Hill, a high point of ground which commanded both Baltimore and Fort McHenry, where he fixed his headquarters. Having thus obtained quiet and absolute possession of this important city, he issued, on the same day, a proclamation setting forth to the Baltimoreans that he was among them to sustain the laws, local as well as national; that preferring to trust their good faith and loyalty he had come with little more than the guard suited to his rank; that no attempts to incite sedition or give aid and comfort to the insurgents would be permitted; and that the formation or drill of bodies of men not part of the enrolled militia of the state were forbidden. He invited the citizens to furnish rations for his command at fair prices, and promised that any outrage whatever upon person or property by those in his command should be visited with vigorous punishment.

(Proclamation issued , Department of Annapolis, Federal Hill, Baltimore, May 14, 1861, published on page 101 of Harper's pictorial. Benj. F. Butler, Brig. Gen. Com. Department of Annapolis, E. G. Parker, lieutenant colonel, aid-de-camp)

His tone was forbearing, courteous and kind, but unmistakably firm and earnest. At this proclamation the small minority of bitter and desperate secessionists muttered threats and treason between their teeth; but there was general acquiescence and in some quarters outspoken approbation. The course which it marked out was followed with comparative ease; for a great change had taken place in Baltimore and its neighborhood since the attack upon the Massachusetts men. In spite of the activity, the virulence and the audacity of the secessionists, the loyal citizens found that they were largely in the majority, and that although the greater part of the wealthy and cultivated people, being all slaveholders and closely connected with the corresponding class in Eastern Virginia, were (102) disaffected, a very large and influential minority even of these, including men eminent for their talents no less than from their social position, were strenuous upholders of the Constitution of the Union. In Western Maryland the national flag was raised at Frederick City, atagerstown, and elsewhere with due honors and loyal defenders thronged around it. On the 13th of May a train from Philadelphia passed through Baltimore with the flag displayed; and the same token of devotion to the unvidieed reepublic was raised upon many public and private buildings.

On the morning of the 14th, the day of General Butler's arrival, a Pennsylvania regiment, in complete array, passed unmolested and even with some tokens of welcome, over the very route which three weeks before had been the scene of bloody conflict.

Resolution passed in the Maryland Legislature May 10 (1861)

Whereas the war against the Confederate States is unconstitutional and repugnant to civilization, and will result in a bloody and shameful overthrow of our institutions; and while recognizing the obligation of Maryland to the Union, we sympathize with the South in the struggle for their rights--for the sake of humanity, we are for peace and reconciliation, and solemnly protest against this war and will take no part in it;

Resolved That Maryland implores the President, in the name of God, to cease this unholy war at least until Congress assembles; that Maryland desire and consents to the recognition of the independence of the Confederate States. The military occupation of Maryland is unconstitutional, and she protests against it, through the violent interference with the transit of federal troops is discountenanced; that the vindication of her rights be left to time and reason, and that a Convention, under existing circumstances, is inexpedient.

(General Legislature met at Frederick City, west of Yankee muskets, Governor's message opposed secession as unprovoked and unjustifiable and advised that the army should array itself on the side of the Union and peace. In spite of efforts of an active and disaffected minority the Legislature decided by vote of 53 to 13 that that body had not the right to pass an Ordinance of Secession. Legislature adjourned May, 14, 1861; all efforts to bring about a convention of the people and to place the military affairs of the state in the hands of a Board of Safety (both of which were pressed by the sympathizers with the insurrection), failed; and no more disloyal measure was exerted than a strong condemnation of a war of subjugation, and a protest against

On the mean time troops rapidly concentrated under the command of General Butler (Benj. F) , and on the 5th of May he advanced a force within a few miles of Baltimore, and took possession of Relay House, an important relay station which commanded both the passage southward toward Washington, and that westward toward Harper's Ferry.

While here he met constant manifestations not only of a rebellious, but a bloodthirsty and vindictive spirit. Two of his officers arrested a man who openly justified the murderous onset upon the Massachusetts regiment in Baltimore, and according to his official statement he found well authenticated evidence of an attempt to poison his soldiers by persons who obtained admission to his camp in the disguise of pie-peddlers. Upon this discovery he threatened the rebels with the swiftest and most condign punishment for such barbarity; and he , who had on the score of humanity, withstood the remonstrance of his own governor against his offer to put down a threatened insurrection of the slaves, reminded his rebellious enemies in a general order (from Relay House) that they were teaching him a dangerous lesson, and that with a word he could mingle death in the food of their every household. .."

(Resume p 101...His movement toward Baltimore was the signal etc.)

Maryland: Census

According to the census of 1860 Maryland had a white population of 516,128, and 87,188 slaves. Tennessee a white population of 826,828 and 275,784 slaves; and North Carolina a white population of 631,489 and 331,081 slaves.