

A BRIEF RETROSPECT

OF

THE HISTORY OF MARYLAND'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE GREAT CIVIL WAR, A. D. 1861 TO 1865.



THE State of Maryland responded promptly to the call for the preservation of the Federal Union. While her people were divided in sentiment, many of them being connected by social and business ties with the Southern States, which attempted to divide the Union and set up a separate Confederacy, nevertheless the dominant sentiment was in favor of the Union. The Union people, especially in the western section of the State, in the early days of 1861, without waiting for the authorities to act, took initiatory proceedings to form military organizations to protect themselves and preserve order.

They subsequently, upon the call of the proper authorities, enlisted regularly in the Army or Navy of the United States.

A considerable number of the people of Maryland who sympathized with the Southern Confederacy, and who had the courage of their convictions, promptly left the State and joined the Confederate troops.

Maryland was on the border land, and in the early days of the Civil War, before the Government was apparently making any serious effort for its own maintenance, and while Confederate troops were stationed on the banks of the Potomac (on her borders), with a full knowledge that her territory would become, in part, the seat of war, her people did not hesitate as to their duty.

They enlisted in the regular Army or Navy of the United States, and in regiments from other States of the Union. They formed military organizations, and the Union Home Guards, of Western Maryland, armed and equipped, protected, confirmed and strengthened the Union sentiment in that section of the State. No appeal made to them, even when their territory was occupied by Confederate armies, or their fair fields desolated by contending hosts, property seized, appropriated, consumed, burned or destroyed, could make them waver in their allegiance to the Union.

The sacrifices made by the people of Maryland for the preservation of the Union have never been properly understood or appreciated.

The first naval contingent which manned the fleet of Commander Foote, in the year 1861, on the Mississippi, and which did such splendid service, was composed in part of Baltimore sailors, descendants of that gallant body of men who carried the American flag to victory on the high seas in the famous Baltimore privateers during the war of 1812-1815.