

**DESTRUCTION AND
RECONSTRUCTION:
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
OF THE LATE WAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649561360

Destruction and Reconstruction: Personal Experiences of the Late War by Richard Taylor

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

RICHARD TAYLOR

**DESTRUCTION AND
RECONSTRUCTION:
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
OF THE LATE WAR**

©

DESTRUCTION

AND

RECONSTRUCTION:

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF THE LATE WAR.

BY

RICHARD TAYLOR,

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,
549 AND 551 BROADWAY.
1879.

U.S. 6150.5
~~9362.60~~

1879. April 11,
Walker Fund,
1879.

COPYRIGHT BY
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,
1879.

P R E F A C E .

THESE reminiscences of Secession, War, and Reconstruction it has seemed to me a duty to record. An actor therein, accident of fortune afforded me exceptional advantages for an interior view.

The opinions expressed are sincerely entertained, but of their correctness, such readers as I may find must judge. I have in most cases been a witness to the facts alleged, or have obtained them from the best sources. Where statements are made upon less authority, I have carefully endeavored to indicate it by the language employed.

R. TAYLOR.

December, 1877.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE	8
CHAPTER I.	
SECESSION	9
Causes of the Civil War—The Charleston Convention—Convention of Louisiana—Temper of the People.	
CHAPTER II.	
FIRST SCENES OF THE WAR	15
Blindness of the Confederate Government—General Bragg occupies Pensacola—Battle of Manassas—Its Effects on the North and the South—"Initiative" and "Defensive" in War.	
CHAPTER III.	
AFTER MANASSAS	22
General W. H. T. Walker—The Louisiana Brigade—The "Tigers"—Major Wheat—General Joseph E. Johnston and Jefferson Davis—Alexander H. Stephens.	
CHAPTER IV.	
OPENING OF THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN	81
McClellan as an Organizer—The James River Route to Richmond—Army of Northern Virginia moved to Orange Court House—Straggling—General Ewell—Bugeaud's "Maxims"—Uselessness of Tents—Counsels to Young Officers.	

CHAPTER V.

	PAGE
THE VALLEY CAMPAIGN.	42
The Army moved to Gordonsville—Joseph E. Johnston as a Commander—Valley of Virginia—Stonewall Jackson—Bello Boyd—Federals routed at Front Royal—Cuirassiers strapped to their Horses—Battle of Winchester—A "Walk Over" at Strasburg—General Ashby—Battle of Port Republic.	

CHAPTER VI.

"THE SEVEN DAYS AROUND RICHMOND."	88
Clever Strategy—The Valley Army summoned to the Defense of Richmond—Battles of Cold Harbor, Frazier's Farm, Malvern Hill—Ignorance of the Topography—McClellan as a Commander—General R. E. Lee—His magnificent Strategy—His Mistakes.	

CHAPTER VII.

THE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.	99
General Bragg—Invasion of Kentucky—Western Louisiana—Its Topography and River Systems—The Attakapas, Home of the Acadians—The Creole Population.	

CHAPTER VIII.

OPERATIONS IN LOUISIANA AND ON THE MISSISSIPPI.	111
Federal Post at Bayou Des Allemands Surprised—Marauding by the Federals—Salt Mines at Petit Anse—General Pemberton—Major Brent Chief of Artillery—Federal Operations on the Lafourche—Gunboat Cotton—General Weitzel Advances up the Teche—Capture of Federal Gunboats—General Kirby Smith.	

CHAPTER IX.

ATTACKED BY THE FEDERALS—ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE VICKSBURG—CAPTURE OF BERWICK'S BAY.	129
Federal Advance against Bisland—Retreat of the Confederates—Banks's Dispatches—Relief of Vicksburg impracticable—Capture of Federal Post at Berwick's Bay—Attack on Fort Butler—Fall of Vicksburg and of Port Hudson.	

CONTENTS.

7

CHAPTER X.

	PAGE
MOVEMENT TO THE RED RIVER—CAMPAIGN AGAINST BANKS	148
The Confederate Losses at Vicksburg and Port Hudson—Federals beaten at Bayou Bourbeau—Trans-Mississippi Department, its Bureaux and Staff—A Federal Fleet and Army ascend Red River—Battle of Pleasant Hill—Success of the Confederates—Perilous Situation of Banks's Army and the Fleet.	

CHAPTER XI.

ESCAPE OF BANKS AND PORTER.	176
The Fleet descends Red River to Grand Ecore—Banks concentrates his Army there—Taylor's Force weakened by General Kirby Smith—Confederates harass Rear of Federal Column—The Federals cross the River at Monette's Ferry and reach Alexandria—Retreat of the Fleet harassed—It passes over the Falls at Alexandria.	

CHAPTER XII.

EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.	196
The Mississippi controlled by the Federals—Taylor assigned to the Command of Alabama, Mississippi, etc.—Forrest's Operations—General Sherman in Georgia—Desperate Situation of Hood—Remnant of his Army sent to North Carolina.	

CHAPTER XIII.

CLOSING OPERATIONS OF THE WAR—SURRENDER.	221
Fall of Mobile—Last Engagement of the War—Johnston-Sherman Convention—Taylor surrenders to General Canby—Last Hours of the "Trans-Mississippi Department."	

CHAPTER XIV.

CRITICISMS AND REFLECTIONS.	230
Gettysburg—Shiloh—Albert Sidney Johnston—Lack of Statesmanship in the Confederacy—"King Cotton"—Carpet-Baggers.	