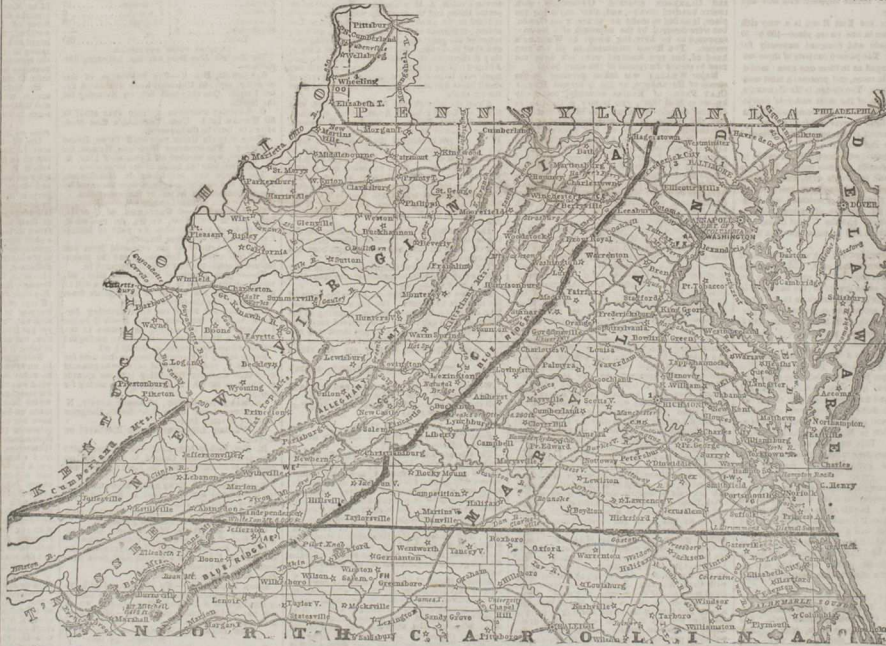


THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND DELAWARE.



The Secretary of War, in his recent report, made the following important proposition:—
 "The geographical position of the metropolis of the nation, situated by the Rebels, and required to be defended by thousands of our troops, induces me to suggest for consideration the propriety and expediency of a reorganization of the boundaries of the States of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. By reference to the map published in this morning's Inquirer, it will be seen that the proposed lines are great natural boundaries, and that, if the suggestion of the Secretary is carried out, the 'Old Dominion' will cease to exist as a State, and her citizens will once again be under local jurisdiction.
 The Blue Ridge is now the eastern boundary of Kentucky (Western Virginia), and the two Maryland counties of Allegany and Washington, now lying between Pennsylvania and Virginia, are to be added to the new State, so as to run the territory straight to the Pennsylvania line. But, as a recompense to Maryland for this cession of territory, that State is to have its territory extended westward throughout Eastern Virginia till it meets the Blue Ridge, which is proposed as its western boundary. This will enlarge Maryland into a populous State, which will include Norfolk, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Richmond and all the tobacco growing region. Delaware is also to

come in for a share of the Rebel States, and is to have the two peninsular counties of Accomac and Northampton, now in possession of our troops. The portion of Virginia thus proposed to be ceded to Maryland, is known in the local geographical distinctions in the State as the Tidewater district and the Piedmont district. The former contains thirty-seven counties, bordering on the Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay, and the latter thirty-two counties. The tidewater lands are supposed to have increased in value \$17,000,000 in twelve years. It is by far the wealthiest portion of the State, producing the great bulk of the tobacco crop, which is Virginia's principal staple. The chief manufactures of the State are comprised within this region.
 The counties of Accomac and Northampton form the southern portion of the peninsula, lying between Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic, of which the northern counties constitute the State of Delaware. They belong geographically to that State, and should be annexed to it. They contain, together, some 25,000 inhabitants, and are principally valuable for their fisheries.
 On the other hand, Allegany and Washington counties, which are located between the northern boundary of Virginia and the southern boundary of Pennsylvania, belong geographically to Vir-

ginia. The former has an area of 800 square miles. Its extreme length is sixty-five miles, its breadth varying from seven to thirty-five miles. It is principally adapted to grazing and dairy farms; but it has great natural wealth in the celebrated Cumberland coal mines. Its population is about 25,000, including some 700 slaves. Washington is a great wheat growing county, having an area of about 250 square miles. Its annual product of wheat averages about a million bushels. Its principal minerals are iron and limestone. There are several cotton factories located on its streams. Its population is some 31,000, of which over 1000 are slaves.
 Under the proposed change, not only would the Rebel capital be placed within the limits of Maryland, but, with one or two exceptions, all the important cities and towns in the State. The large accession of area to the three States of Maryland, Western Virginia and Delaware cannot fail to make the suggested change acceptable to the citizens of those States. In its present form it is merely a suggestion; but as it is the movement, above all others, which will tend to humble the pride of the 'F. V. S.' now in arms against the Government, Congress will, doubtless, consider well the advantages of the proposition, and act accordingly.