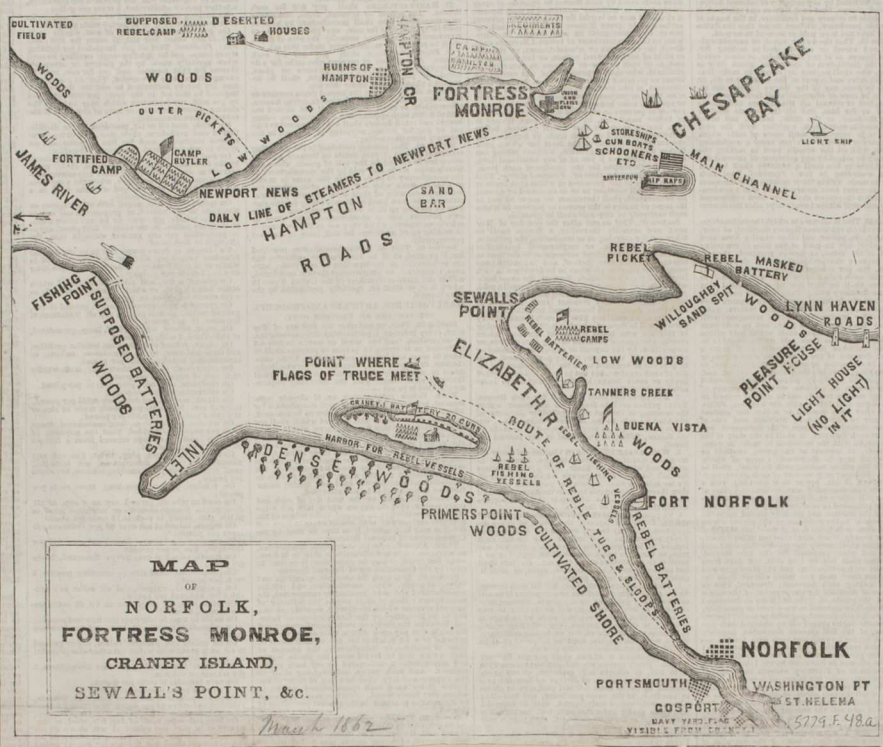


THE VESSELS AND SCENE OF CONFLICT IN HAMPTON ROADS.



PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1862.

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New Madrid is the capital of New Madrid county, Missouri. It occupies a very commanding position on the Mississippi river about twenty-seven miles south-southwest from Columbus, Kentucky, in an air-line, but much farther by the winding course of the river. It is two hundred and eighty miles southeast of Jefferson City, and before the outbreak of the Rebellion did a large business in shipping corn, lumber and cattle for Southern markets.

base of the operations of Jeff. Thompson and others, northward and westward into Missouri, which, it will be remembered, gave the Federal officers much trouble. The town was greatly injured by an earthquake in 1811, and, on account of the frequency of these disturbances, and its liability to them, the houses are mostly built of wood. It was founded in 1780.

Memphis, a flourishing city, and part of early of Shelby county, Tennessee, is beautifully situated on the Mississippi river, just below the mouth of Wolf river, and on the Fourth Chickasaw bluff, four hundred and twenty miles below

St. Louis, and two hundred and nine miles west-southwest from Nashville. It is the most populous and important town on the river between St. Louis and New Orleans, and occupies the only eligible site for a commercial depot from the mouth of the Ohio to Vicksburg, a distance of six hundred and fifty miles. The bluff on which it stands is elevated about thirty feet above the highest floods, and its base is washed by the river for a distance of three miles, while a bed of sandstone projects into the stream, and forms a convenient landing.

New Madrid was the point at which Pillow

several times landed large forces in July and August last, and from which he threatened Irons, Cairo and St. Louis, at the same time that Pakenham and McCulloch menaced Lyons at Springfield. The possession of this point by the Rebels gave a great deal of trouble to General Farnsworth at the most critical period in the war. On the first of July, Pillow had eleven thousand men there protected by entrenchments. Although upon comparatively low ground, and surrounded by a swampy country, New Madrid is well situated for either offensive operations into the interior of Missouri or for the defence of the Mississippi and the cities below. Memphis is about one hundred miles south of Madrid.