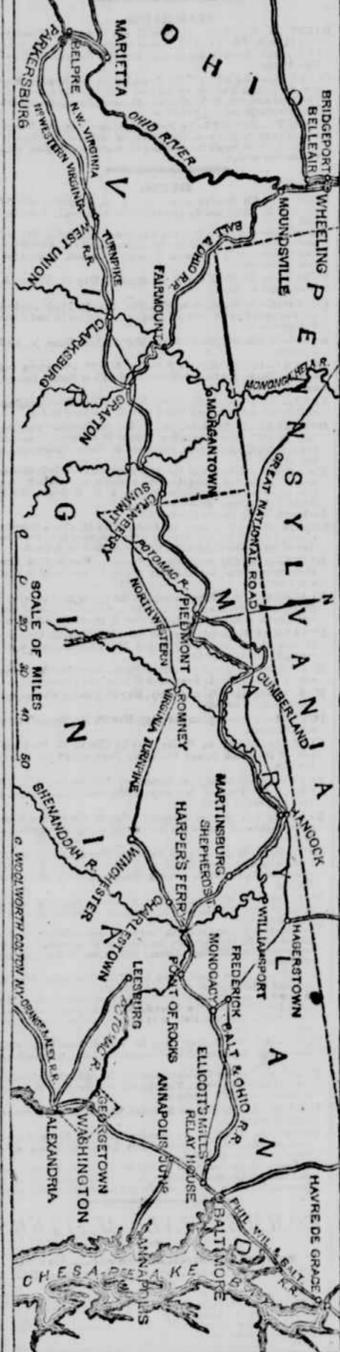


and fled; but a third soldier, a powerful man, clinched him from behind, and, after a brief but fierce struggle, he was hopelessly a prisoner. He retained his presence of mind, and by ready wit and fertility of invention saved himself from personal violence, and ultimately, by his own stratagem and the diplomacy of his brother, he slipped his neck out of the halter. He was carried back to the hotel, his captor proving to be the proprietor and the captain of a large organized guerrilla band of horsemen, ready to act upon the slightest provocation of the "Skinners" and "Cow-Boys" of the Revolution, when hostilities commenced along the border. He was a good-natured man, and was so pleased with the general manner of his prisoner, and was lost in admiration of his daring exploit, and of the sublime confidence expressed by him in the power of his friends in Washington, especially of his brother, to release him, that he was treated with "distinguished consideration," and permitted to go to his room on his parole not to escape. Every seductive art was tried to induce him to become a Secessionist, but Mr. Fuller said he "would rather swing for it than prove false to the Old Gridiron." His captor told him he "was a good sight too smart for a miserable Yankee," but he had done more than a regiment of them could accomplish, by hauling down his flag. Mr. F. tried to bribe him, and to buy the flag, but was told that it could not be bought for \$10,000—that "old Lincoln had threatened to take it down, and he wanted to see him do it." After a night of anxious unrest, Mr. F. came down to breakfast, and found that every body was observing him and pointing him out as the "d-d Yankee" who had hauled down the flag. He sauntered through the city, made small purchases of tobacco, &c., in the deserted stores, and went to a Secession meeting at night. One of the speakers alluded very feelingly to the imperishable glory which covered the Stars and Stripes and related with thrilling pathos how his father, a veteran of eighty years, still clung to them. At this point, when Mr. Fuller's patriotic feeling had overcome his prudence, he clapped his hands loudly in applause, when the whole meeting, excited by the speaker, applauded to the echo. But the exaltation of Mr. F. caused the crowd to glow at him so ferociously that he was the rankest sort of Secession lying and ferocity. The audience were told that the troops were all Northern braves, who only wanted beauty and booty. "Yes," exclaimed the orator, almost drunk with passion, "they only want to ravish our wives and steal our property," and much more both of the same kind. Toward night Mr. Fuller's brother, thoroughly alarmed for his safety, took a carriage, rode down to Alexandria, succeeded in laying plans that resulted in his release the next day. As the safety of other parties (Union men) would be involved, I cannot reveal the nature of these negotiations, other than to hint that the guns of the Pawnee and the movements of troops contributed largely to the result. Arrangements had been thoroughly made to assault and burn the city, had the soldiers been detained after to-day. Several companies of the Massachusetts 5th took a solemn vow that they would take the city, "orders or no orders," and Ellsworth's "boys" were "in the ring." But the orders would have been given. Last night Mr. F., sure of cooperation by water, again tried to take the flag, but it was guarded by two soldiers, sleeping in the attic, and watched incessantly by sentinels outside. So he contented himself with taking the flag which hung up in the hall, which he wound round his person, and which he succeeded in bringing here with him. It was exhibited at the quarters of the Massachusetts troops in the Treasury building to-night, where it was received with immense cheering; and the detachment which went down to Mr. F. last night returned sincerely that they had not a hand in its capture.

Had it not been for the red-tape and meddling interference of the Captain (Rowan) and First Lieutenant (Lowry) of the Pawnee, the larger flag would have been taken the first night. The plan was a bold one, but, with the firm nerves of those engaged in it, would have succeeded. Mr. Fuller, the elder, who commanded the detachment of twelve soldiers from Capt. Wardwell's company, under Lieutenants Stoddard and Williams, determined to go round the Pawnee, and then pull straight to shore, answering any hail with—"boat from the Pawnee." He knew the focus of the city, troops and all, that her guns could level the place in thirty minutes. He intended to take half his men, seize the sentries, march openly to the hotel, demand the flag, his brother, and the unconditional surrender of the troops and the city. He says he would have pledged his life that the "big scare" which is on them, in reference to the Pawnee's gun, would have made all the Virginia troops take to their heels, and have left him with a big elephant on his hands in the shape of a captured city. He trusted to finesse and firmness, and neither himself nor one of his men had any doubts or fears as to the result. The nautical *quidnuncs* of the Pawnee, however, thought that the "attack on the city would precipitate hostilities, irritate Virginia, and be an invasion of her soil." Lieut. Lowry was very emphatic in his denunciations of the "demagogues who had brought on this war"—Senators going about the country like the "Committee of the Directory in the French Revolution"—"inciting the people to war," and all that sort of thing. He added that they had brought this war upon us, and now they had got to go by the board, and the war be conducted by naval and military rule, etc., etc. In fact, he was so imprudent, arrogant, and abusive, that Mr. Fuller thinks these peripatetic Senators should look after him.

P. S. This letter should have got off by last night's mail, but it was just as well, for it enables me to add an interesting postscript. The very man who was Mr. Fuller's captor—Captain Jackson, the proprietor of the hotel—was the cowardly wretch who shot Colonel Edwards in cold blood at the very door which Mr. F. opened with his false keys, for which act of atrocity he was instantly riddled by the bayonets of the Zouaves. Mr. F. and his brother are again in Alexandria with the troops. They can "spot" a large number of the leading Secessionists there, and will be sure to do it.

SEAT OF WAR IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.



DISTANCES.

From Baltimore	Miles	From Harper's Ferry	Miles
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Harper's Ferry	17
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Washington	31
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Leesburg	39
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Front Royal	41
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Warrenton	43
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Winchester	45
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Staunton	47
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Shenandoah	49
Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Front Royal	51
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Baltimore to Relay House	17	Relay House to Winchester	55
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