A potent fighting force that changed the course of the Civil War, the Army of the Cumberland was the North's second-most-powerful army, surpassed in size only by the Army of the Potomac. The Cumberland army engaged the enemy across five times more territory with one-third to one-half fewer men than the Army of the Potomac, and yet its achievements in the western theater rivaled those of the larger eastern army. In Days of Glory, Larry J. Daniel brings his analytic and descriptive skills to bear on the Cumberlanders as he explores the dynamics of discord, political infighting, and feeble leadership that stymied the army in achieving its full potential. Making extensive use of thousands of letters and diaries, Daniel creates an epic portrayal of the developing Cumberland army, from untrained volunteers to hardened soldiers united in their hatred of the Confederates. In this never before published diary, 29-year-old surgeon James Fulton transports readers into the harsh and deadly conditions of the Civil War as he struggles to save the lives of the patients under his care. Fulton joined a Union army volunteer regiment in 1862, only a year into the Civil War, and immediately began chronicling his experiences in a pocket diary. Despite his capture by the Confederate Army at Gettysburg and the confiscation of his medical tools, Fulton was able
to keep his diary with him at all times. He provides a detailed account of the next two years, including his experiences treating the wounded and diseased during some of the most critical campaigns of the Civil War and his relationships with soldiers, their commanders, civilians, other health-care workers, and the opposing Confederate army. The diary also includes his notes on recipes for medical ailments from sore throats to syphilis. In addition to Fulton's diary, editor Robert D. Hicks and experts in Civil War medicine provide context and additional information on the practice and development of medicine during the Civil War, including the technology and methods available at the time, the organization of military medicine, doctor-patient interactions, and the role of women as caregivers and relief workers. Civil War Medicine: A Surgeon's Diary provides a compelling new account of the lives of soldiers during the Civil War and a doctor's experience of one of the worst health crises ever faced by the United States. 

Treasury of reminiscences includes battlefield correspondence, diary entries, journals kept on the homefront, stories told to children and grandchildren, more. Intimate, compelling record.

Alexander G. Downing enlisted in the Eleventh Iowa Infantry on August 15, 1861 and kept a diary of his life in the Army until he was discharged on July 31, 1865. The Eleventh Iowa Infantry was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee and became part of Crocker's Iowa
Brigade. This unit participated in several major battles, including Shiloh, Vicksburg and Corinth. They were eventually assigned to General William Tecumseh Sherman and took part in his famous "March to the Sea" where they fought in the Battle for Atlanta. As you read of this soldier's life during one of the most trying times in our country's history, you will gain an understanding of what it was like to be a soldier in that great war. Mr. Downing made entries for each and every day he served so you will find there were times of boredom as well as moments of terror and tragedy. You will find both humorous and sad entries as well as the inner feelings of this truly remarkable American patriot who experienced so much in the four years he served his country. This book is part of the Historical Collection of Badgley Publishing Company and has been transcribed from the original. The original contents have been edited and corrections have been made to original printing, spelling and grammatical errors when not in conflict with the author's intent to portray a particular event or interaction. Annotations have been made and additional contents have been added by Badgley Publishing Company in order to clarify certain historical events or interactions and to enhance the author's content. Photos and illustrations from the original have been touched up, enhanced and sometimes enlarged for better viewing. Additional illustrations and photos have been added by Badgley Publishing
Company. "Taken together, the diary, newspaper letters, and other documents tell a coherent story from the viewpoint of an educated private soldier in the Army of the Potomac. Not only did Perkins provide detailed, accurate reports of the battles and camp life of his service, but he also criticized top Army leadership and offered commentaries on major personal and national issues, including his notions of the nature of courage, political issues such as the treatment of draft dodgers, and the effects of slavery."--Book jacket.

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1882 edition.

Excerpt: his blanket and oil-cloth. It made the perspiration start on the brows of the boys to see the man's folly. Then taking off his shoes, he laid down on one edge, took hold of the blanket and oil-cloth, rolled himself over to the other side, and with a kind "good night" to the boys, began to snore. The poor boys stood like statues in the pit till broad day. In the morning the old soldier thanked them for not disturbing him, and quietly proceeded to prepare his breakfast. After the fight at Fisher's Hill, in 1864, Early's army, in full retreat and greatly demoralized, was strung out along the valley pike. The Federal cavalry was darting around picking up prisoners, shooting drivers, and making themselves generally
disagreeable. It happened that an artilleryman, who was separated from
his gun, was making pretty good time on foot, getting to the rear, and
had the appearance of a demoralized infantryman who had thrown away
his musket. So one of these lively cavalrymen trotted up, and, waving
his sabre, told the artilleryman to "surrender." But he didn't stop.
He merely glanced over his shoulder, and kept on. Then the cavalryman
became indignant and shouted, "Halt, d n you; halt." And still he
would not. "Halt," said the cavalryman, "halt, you d n s--of a; halt."
Then the artilleryman halted, and remarking that he did not allow any
man to speak to him that way, seized a huge stick, turned on the
cavalryman, knocked him out of his saddle, and proceeded on his
journey to the rear. This artilleryman fought with a musket at
Sailor's Creek. He found himself surrounded by the enemy, who demanded
surrender. He refused; said they must take him; and laid about him
with the butt of his musket till he had damaged some of the party
considerably. He was, An analysis of the Civil War, drawing on letters
and diaries by more than one thousand soldiers, gives voice to the
personal reasons behind the war, offering insight into the ideology
that shaped both sides. Reprint.Here is the adventurous, eloquent,
true story of David Carey Nancea young, northern-born Texas farmer who
opposed slavery but got caught up in the carnage of the Civil War as a
soldier in a Texas cavalry. After enlisting against his father's will,
Nance initially reveled in the camaraderie and excitement of military life, but his romantic concepts were quickly dashed by the grim realities of deprivation, sickness, and the horrors of armed combat. Fourteen years in preparation, THE RAGGED REBEL is a delightfully written, well-documented narrative, often in Nance's own words, about a sensitive and deeply religious farm boy's fight for survival amid wartime conditions in the frontier regions of the western Confederacy. It both reveals the day-to-day experiences of a common soldier in the core regiment of perhaps the most famous brigade in the Trans-Mississippi West and provides valuable insights into the military operations of mounted troops west of the river. Primarily describes events in Virginia, however from Feb.-May 1863 the author was in eastern North Carolina, including Kinston, New Bern, Washington, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Greenville, and Goldsboro. Civil War diary of Milo W. Scott beginning 19 October 1862 and ending 26 May 1865. Scott was a member of the Tennessee Light Artillery and was from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Whiting's Confederate division in the battle of Gaines's Mill, the role of artillery in the battle of Malvern Hill, and the efforts of Radical Republicans in the North to use the Richmond campaign to rally support for emancipation."--BOOK JACKET. Fighting for Defeat argues that the Union army’s lack of success in the eastern theater early in the Civil War was due largely
to its fear that the Confederate army was invincible. Certain to
arouse discussion, this study by Michael C. C. Adams combines probing
social and psychological analysis, blood-rushing description of
events, and candid pictures of President Lincoln, and Generals George
McClellan and Ulysses Grant, among many others. It was first published
in 1978 with the main title Our Masters the Rebels. General John A.
Wickham, commander of the famous 101st Airborne Division in the 1970s
and subsequently Army Chief of Staff, once visited Antietam
battlefield. Gazing at Bloody Lane where, in 1862, several Union
assaults were brutally repulsed before they finally broke through, he
marveled, "You couldn't get American soldiers today to make an attack
like that." Why did those men risk certain death, over and over again,
through countless bloody battles and four long, awful years? Why did
the conventional wisdom -- that soldiers become increasingly cynical
and disillusioned as war progresses -- not hold true in the Civil War?
It is to this question--why did they fight--that James McPherson,
America's preeminent Civil War historian, now turns his attention. He
shows that, contrary to what many scholars believe, the soldiers of
the Civil War remained powerfully convinced of the ideals for which
they fought throughout the conflict. Motivated by duty and honor, and
often by religious faith, these men wrote frequently of their firm
belief in the cause for which they fought: the principles of liberty,
freedom, justice, and patriotism. Soldiers on both sides harkened back to the Founding Fathers, and the ideals of the American Revolution. They fought to defend their country, either the Union--"the best Government ever made"--or the Confederate states, where their very homes and families were under siege. And they fought to defend their honor and manhood. "I should not like to go home with the name of a coward," one Massachusetts private wrote, and another private from Ohio said, "My wife would sooner hear of my death than my disgrace."

Even after three years of bloody battles, more than half of the Union soldiers reenlisted voluntarily. "While duty calls me here and my country demands my services I should be willing to make the sacrifice," one man wrote to his protesting parents. And another soldier said simply, "I still love my country." McPherson draws on more than 25,000 letters and nearly 250 private diaries from men on both sides. Civil War soldiers were among the most literate soldiers in history, and most of them wrote home frequently, as it was the only way for them to keep in touch with homes that many of them had left for the first time in their lives. Significantly, their letters were also uncensored by military authorities, and are uniquely frank in their criticism and detailed in their reports of marches and battles, relations between officers and men, political debates, and morale. For Cause and Comrades lets these soldiers tell their own stories in their
own words to create an account that is both deeply moving and far
truer than most books on war. Battle Cry of Freedom, M cPherson's
Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the Civil War, was a national
bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in The New York Times, called "history
writing of the highest order." For Cause and Comrades deserves similar
accolades, as M cPherson's masterful prose and the soldiers' own words
combine to create both an important book on an often-overlooked aspect
of our bloody Civil War, and a powerfully moving account of the men
who fought it.

This journal records the Civil War experiences of a
sensitive, well-educated, young southern woman. Kate Stone was twenty
when the war began, living with her widowed mother, five brothers, and
younger sister at Brokenburn, their plantation home in northeastern
Louisiana. When Grant moved against Vicksburg, the family fled before
the invading armies, eventually found refuge in Texas, and finally
returned to a devastated home. Kate began her journal in May, 1861,
and made regular entries up to November, 1865. She included briefer
sketches in 1867 and 1868. In chronicling her everyday activities,
Kate reveals much about a way of life that is no more: books read,
plantation management and crops, maintaining slaves in the antebellum
period, the attitude and conduct of slaves during the war, the fate of
refugees, and civilian morale. Without pretense and with almost
photographic clarity, she portrays the South during its darkest
Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command is the most colorful and popular of Douglas Southall Freeman's works. A sweeping narrative that presents a multiple biography against the flame-shot background of the American Civil War, it is the story of the great figures of the Army of Northern Virginia who fought under Robert E. Lee. The Confederacy won resounding victories throughout the war, but seldom easily or without tremendous casualties. Death was always on the heels of fame, but the men who commanded -- among them Jackson, Longstreet, and Ewell -- developed as leaders and men. Lee's Lieutenants follows these men to the costly battle at Gettysburg, through the deepening twilight of the South's declining military might, and finally to the collapse of Lee's command and his formal surrender in 1865. To his unparalleled descriptions of men and operations, Dr. Freeman adds an insightful analysis of the lessons learned and their bearing upon the future military development of the nation. Accessible at last in a one-volume edition abridged by noted Civil War historian Stephen W. Sears, Lee's Lieutenants is essential reading for all Civil War buffs, students of war, and admirers of the historian's art as practiced at its very highest level.

Robert Patrick Bender is a history instructor at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. He is the author of Like Grass Before the Scythe: The Life and Death of Sgt. William Remmel, 121st New York Infantry.

LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an
an affluent slave-holding family in Macon, Georgia. After a horrific leg injury left him an invalid, the educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty 12-year-old began keeping a diary in 1860—just as secession and the Civil War began tearing the country and his world apart. He continued to write even as his health deteriorated until both the war and his life ended in 1865. His unique manuscript of the demise of the Old South—lauded by the Library of Congress as one of its premier holdings—is published here for the first time in The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865. LeRoy read books, devoured newspapers and magazines, listened to gossip, and discussed and debated important social and military issues with his parents and others. He wrote daily for five years, putting pen to paper with a vim and tongue-in-cheek vigor that impresses even now, more than 150 years later. His practical, philosophical, and occasionally Twain-like hilarious observations cover politics and the secession movement, the long and increasingly destructive Civil War, family pets, a wide variety of hobbies and interests, and what life was like at the center of a socially prominent wealthy family in the important Confederate manufacturing center of Macon. The young scribe often voiced concern about the family’s pair of plantations outside town, and recorded his interactions and relationships with “servants” Howard, Allen, Eveline,
and others as he pondered the fate of human bondage and his family’s declining fortunes. Unbeknownst to LeRoy, he was chronicling his own slow and painful descent toward death in tandem with the demise of the Southern Confederacy. He recorded—often in horrific detail—an increasingly painful and debilitating disease that robbed him of his childhood. The teenager’s declining health is a consistent thread coursing through his fascinating journals. “I feel more discouraged [and] less hopeful about getting well than I ever did before,” he wrote on March 17, 1863. “I am weaker and more helpless than I ever was.” Morphine and a score of other “remedies” did little to ease his suffering. Abscesses developed; nagging coughs and pain consumed him. Alternating between bouts of euphoria and despondency, he often wrote, “Saw off my leg.” The War Outside My Window, edited and annotated by Janet Croon with helpful footnotes and a detailed family biographical chart, captures the spirit and the character of a young privileged white teenager witnessing the demise of his world even as his own body slowly failed him. Just as Anne Frank has come down to us as the adolescent voice of World War II, LeRoy Gresham will now be remembered as the young voice of the Civil War South. Numerous eyewitness, and often heartrending accounts of battlefield scenes, hardships faced in camp, on the march, or in prison—this collection even includes a diary of a Virginia cavalryman held in a Federal military prison. An
articulate and vivid artist, Randolph describes action in key areas of the eastern theater—northern Virginia, Charleston, and Richmond and its surrounds. His record of the Peninsula Campaign, the siege of Charleston, and finally the Bermuda Hundred and Petersburg Campaigns offers a rare look at the role which common soldiers played in master strategies. A former theology student and an unusually thoughtful man, Randolph questions the military predation of civilian property and condemns the racial prejudices of his fellow soldiers. In addition to the immediacy of the diary, readers will appreciate the informative commentary and annotations supplied by Civil War historian, Stephen R. Wise. Harriet Ryegate, the proper daughter of Massachusetts Puritans, is the first white woman to go far into the wilderness beyond the upper Missouri. With her husband, a Baptist minister, she seeks to convert the Blackfoot Indians to Christianity. But it is the Ryegates who are changed by their "journey into strangeness." Marcus Ryegate returns to Massachusetts obsessed by a beautiful Indian woman. For sermonizing about her, he pays a heavy price. Harriet, one of Mildred Walker's most fully realized characters, writes in her journal about "the effect of the Wilderness on civilized persons who are accustomed to live in the world of words." If a Lion Could Talk reveals the tragic lack of communication that stretches from Massachusetts to Missouri and beyond in the years before the Civil
War? and the appalling heart of darkness that is close to home. Only rarely does a Civil War diarist combine detailed observations of events with an intelligent understanding of their significance. John Campbell, a newspaperman before the war, left such a legacy. A politically aware Union soldier with strong moral and abolitionist beliefs, Campbell recorded not only his own reflections on wartime matters but also those of his comrades and the southerners—soldiers, civilians, and slaves—that he encountered. Campbell served in the Fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry from 1861 to 1864. He participated in the war’s major theaters and saw early action at Island No. 10, Iuka, and Corinth. His diary is especially valuable because he viewed the war as both a field-commissioned officer able to make intelligent comments about combat and as a former enlisted man with a feel for the soldier’s life. He was present during Grant’s campaign at Vicksburg and depicted the bloody failure of the May 22 storming of Confederate fortifications in unsparing terms; he then went on to fight at Chattanooga and took Gen. William T. Sherman to task for his poor leadership at Missionary Ridge. The Union Must Stand contains more than Campbell’s journal. Editors Mark Grimsley and Todd Miller have written an introduction that provides background information and places the diary in the context of current debate over the ideological commitments of Civil War soldiers. An appendix reproduces fifteen of
Campbell's letters to his hometown newspaper, in which he shared his impressions of both war and slavery. With its unique point of view, valuable insights into the conduct of various campaigns, and some of the most vivid depictions of Civil War combat ever set to paper, Campbell's diary offers both a wealth of new primary material for historians and exciting reading for enthusiasts. Combining a journalist's accuracy with a zealot's idealism, it makes a forceful statement about why one man went to war. The Editors: Mark Grimsley is an associate professor of history at the Ohio State University and the author of The Hard Hand of War: Union Military Policy Toward Southern Civilians, 1861-1865. Todd D. Miller is a history teacher and an independent researcher for Time-Life Books' Civil War series. He lives in Ashland, Ohio.

The Civil War Experiences of Captain John Valley Young and his Family Company G, 13th and 11th Regiments West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865 The story of Captain John Valley Young personifies the body of rugged Union Army volunteers from West Virginia during the Civil War: highly resilient, stubbornly independent, and fiercely patriotic. Using Captain Young’s wartime letters to his wife, Paulina Franklin Young, and his daughters, Sarah and Emily Young, along with his diary and numerous other original soldier accounts, this book reveals the experiences of a Union soldier and his family who were truly willing to “Sacrifice All for the
Young, a farmer and Methodist-Episcopalian minister prior to the Civil War, during April 1861 raised a company of Union volunteers at the strongly pro-Southern village of Coalsmouth, Virginia, (modern St. Albans, West Virginia). He was adamantly opposed to slavery, yet often expressed a bitter ire at having to fight a violent civil war because his beloved nation had thus far failed to eradicate the awful practice. While he displayed an unshakeable desire to preserve the Union, Young’s convictions were severely tested as he and his family faced constant dangers from guerillas and Confederate raids in the Kanawha Valley. Captain Young also participated in more than one hundred skirmishes and eleven major engagements in the bloody Shenandoah Valley, and at Petersburg, and Appomattox; more than any other Union officer from West Virginia. He died from tuberculosis in 1867, a sad irony after surviving some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. “... Stand firm to the good old Cause. I have just come from Charleston, and found while there that there will be a change of Commanders in the Department of [West] Virginia. The authorities feel determined that we shall have protection. But if we cannot have better protection than we have had, the country is ruined. But I assure you there will be a change for the better. I don’t know how you will get up to see me now. Well, we must bear it the best we can. Sacrifice All for the Union.” - Captain John Valley Young, Letter to his wife,
February 3, 1862

This book tells the story of how Confederate civilians in the Old Dominion struggled to feed not only their stomachs but also their souls. Although demonstrating the ways in which the war created many problems within southern communities, Virginia's Private War: Feeding Body and Soul in the Confederacy, 1861-1865 does not support scholars who claim that internal dissent caused the Confederacy's downfall. Instead, it offers a study of the Virginia home front that depicts how the Union army's continued pressure created destruction, hardship, and shortages that left the Confederate public spent and demoralized with the surrender of the army under Robert E. Lee. This book, however, does not portray the population as uniformly united in a Lost Cause. Virginians complained a great deal about the management of the war. Letters to the governor and to the Confederate secretary of war demonstrate how dissent escalated to dangerous proportions by the spring and summer of 1863. Women rioted in Richmond for food. Soldiers left the army without permission to check on their families and farms. Various groups vented their hatred on Virginia's rich men of draft age who stayed out of the army by purchasing substitutes. Such complaints, ironically, may have prolonged the war, for some of the Confederacy's leaders responded by forcing the wealthy to shoulder more of the burden for prosecuting the war. Substitution ended, and the men who stayed home became government growers who distributed...
goods at reduced cost to the poor. But, as the case is made in
Virginia's Private War, none of these efforts could finally overcome an
enemy whose unrelenting pressure strained the resources of Rebel
Virginians to the breaking point. Arguing that the state of Virginia
both waged and witnessed a "rich man's fight" that has until now been
downplayed or misunderstood by many if not most of our Civil War
scholars, William Blair provides in these pages a detailed portrait of
this conflict that is bold, original, and convincing. He draws from
the microcosm of Virginia several telling conclusions about the
Confederacy's rise, demise, and identity, and his study will therefore
appeal to anyone with a taste for Civil War history--and Virginia's
unique place in that history, especially. “I think that we can hold our
position here against any force that the enemy can bring against us,
as we have an admirable position & are all ready. I can give you no
idea when the general attack will take place. It may be this evening,
tomorrow or at any moment as both parties are apparently ready & we
have nothing to do but pitch in.”—Captain Charles C. Blacknall,
“Granville Rifles,” Company G, 23rd North Carolina Troops, Yorktown,
Virginia, April 22, 1862 This work is a compilation of letters and
diary entries (and a few other documents) that tell the Civil War
experiences of soldiers and citizens from 29 North Carolina counties:
Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham,
Read Online A Soldiers Diary 1861 65 Expanded Annotated Civil War Letters
Diaries Book 26

Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Union, and Yadkin. The book is arranged chronologically, 1861 through 1865, and a chart at the beginning of each chapter tells the date, subject, document type (letter, diary entry, or other), author, recipient, and the home county and unit of soldiers.

Publisher Description

"There are many collections of letters and Civil War memoirs available today, but very few offer in-depth information about the medical treatment of wounded soldiers. In Repairing the "March of Mars": The Civil War Diaries of John Samuel Apperson, Hospital Steward in the Stonewall Brigade, 1861-1865, editor John Herbert Roper provides an important supplement to this largely ignored aspect of the Civil War."

"Apperson's diary is a sensitive and painstaking observation of the details of medical treatment during and after battle. For all periods of the war, his detailed personal records supplement and correct official army hospital records, and for certain periods, his diary provides the only medical information available. For example, Apperson was present at the amputation of Stonewall Jackson's arm, and his diary shows that Jackson died of postoperative pneumonia, and not of a botched surgery." -- BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This book is the
author's Civil War diary from February 18, 1861, to June 26, 1865. She was an eyewitness to many historic events as she accompanied her husband to significant sites of the Civil War. All for the Union is the eloquent and moving diary of Elisha Hunt Rhodes, featured throughout Ken Burns' PBS documentary The Civil War. Rhodes enlisted into the Union Army as a private in 1861 and left it four years later as a twenty-three-year-old colonel after fighting hard and honorably in battles from Bull Run to Appomattox. Anyone who heard these diaries excerpted in The Civil War will recognize his accounts of those campaigns, which remain outstanding for their clarity and detail. Most of all, Rhodes's words reveal the motivation of a common Yankee foot soldier, an otherwise ordinary young man who endured the rigors of combat and exhausting marches, short rations, fear, and homesickness for a salary of $13 a month and the satisfaction of giving "all for the union." Offers a look at Culpeper County, Virginia, during the Civil War, through the diaries and papers of residents and correspondence of Robert E. Lee, Walt Whitman, Ulysses S. Grant, and others. Here is a personal account of the Civil War when young men were forced to kill their own countrymen. Harmon Camburn signed up for duty as a Union soldier two weeks after the first shots were fired in the Civil War. He served for the next three years, fighting in both Battles of Bull Run and other skirmishes of the War Between the
States. His tour of duty ended with a shot through his lung and
capture by Confederate soldiers. Fortunately, he survived his wounds
and wrote about his time in the Union army. His great granddaughter,
Patricia Camburn (P.C.) Zick, presents this journal along with
additional annotations about the war in general. The journal weaves a
tragic and compelling tapestry of war from the view at its center. Mr.
Camburn's sardonic and realistic view of war is worth remembering.
From the day of his enlistment in the Army in April 1861 in Adrian,
Michigan, to his final days in the service of the army near Knoxville,
Tennessee, the journal provides insight into the minutiae of a
soldier's life, from what they ate to the somewhat unorthodox method
of obtaining food. It shows the horror of the battlefield to the joys
of simply having the sun shine after days of rain. The descriptions of
the landscape are beautifully crafted, just as the scattered bodies on
the battlefield are ghastly reminders of the cost of war. "I wonder if
the new year is to bring us new miseries and sufferings," seventeen-
year-old Emma Le Conte wrote in her diary on December 31, 1864. In
fact, the worst was yet to come. Her later entries portray the city of
Columbia, South Carolina, like much of the South, under the grip of
Sherman's army. No reader of this diary is likely to forget the
defiant, well-bred Emma, who describes a family's anxieties and brave
attempts to get on with life while the Civil War rages around them.