

II.

Virginia.

(SECOND PAPER.)



WAR at any time is a terrible calamity. A civil war such as rent the United States of America can only be realised by those who saw it. Four years of constant fighting would try the very strongest people in the world ; nay, would so level and demoralise them that at least half a century would require to elapse before their recovery. Not so with the Americans. Ten years have passed, and the war in most parts of it is a matter of history. But on approaching Virginia visible traces crop up of the great struggle. It was destined, from what cause it is hard to explain, to be the great battle-field, the arena where brother was to rise up against brother. The thousands of graves that cover the mortal remains of many a brave and patriotic man, the battered houses, the ruins of splendid mansions, the unfenced state of the land, the once rich and fruitful clearings now covered with pine growth are terrible monuments of the death-struggle the American people engaged in from 1860 to 1864. On every class