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Southern History of the War: 2 Vols. in One

E.A. Pollard

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E.A. Pollard : Southern History of the War: 2 Vols. in One before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southern History of the War: 2 Vols. in One:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Edward C.BoultonA different view.10 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A Southern partisan opinion of the warBy Annie Van AukenAccording to 's info, SOUTHERN HISTORY OF THE WAR is 598 pages. I believe this to be a miscount. The 1300-plus page Pollard tome I read reverts back to page 1 midway through the book, that is, after you complete the year 1862 - '63. The last two years covered total in fact 598 pages.My copy of this massive book was an incredibly SLOW read, due to the author's penchant for frequent digressive and lengthy footnotes (of infinitesimally small font size). Additionally, there were numerous letters and words that didn't print clearly or were missing entirely, as if damaged 19th Century plates had been used in the reprinting.Pollard's four volumes appeared in successive years, with each covering roughly a 12-month span, starting with spring of 1861 and the events that led up to it. Three of his works were issued during the war's progression. At first it was fascinating to "hear" the words of the RICHMOND EXAMINER's editor and his reactions to unfolding history. Unfortunately, Mr. Pollard proves to be anything but an impartial observer. An extreme pro-South bias permeates almost every page of his writings.Examples: Consistently, according to Pollard, if Union men retreated after an armed encounter they were a panicked mob, while the Confederates always did so "in good order," facing the enemy. His casualty figures are ridiculously skewed: when a hundred or more Union soldiers fell in battle, only a handful of Confederates would join them in death. Pollard even audaciously claimed Gettysburg as a Southern victory! His only complaint was that Lee didn't make a stand in Maryland on his retreat south, instead of

continuing on into Virginia. Finally, the author blamed the war's outcome solely on Jefferson Davis, a man he clearly had no tolerance for. Unique as an extensive contemporary observation of a war-in-progress, E.A. Pollard's SOUTHERN HISTORY OF THE WAR greatly fails the test of time, accuracy and thus credibility.

This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1864. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION. The author, in presenting to the public a second edition of his work, has taken occasion to correct some errors, to make material annotations, and to add a supplementary chapter, tracing the progress and developments of the war from the concluding point of the first year of its history to the period of publication. He desires to make his grateful acknowledgments for the favor with which his work has already been received by the public) for Humorous kind notices of the newspaper (truss, Himi for wntiU of Mipoiimijuiflwit spoken by ninny whom he U proud In mil his friends, The, success with which his work has so far met, being unprecedented, he believes, In the literary enterprises of the South, has surprised and gratified the author, he protests, however, that, under any circumstances, he has but little literary vanity to be inflated; that he composed his work in haste, with neither time nor purpose to polish his style, or to captivate the taste of readers, and that he is content to ascribe the success of his book to the fact that, though rudely written and imperfect in many particulars, it is, as he believes, honest, fair, independent, and outspoken. While such has been the general character of the reception given his book by the public, the author is sensible that some attacks have been made upon it from malicious and disappointed sources, and that the honest record which he has attempted of the truth of history, has been encountered by many unjust, ignorant, and contemptible criticisms, emanating mainly from favorites of the government and literary slatterns in the Departments. The author has made no attempt to conciliate either these creatures or their masters; he is not in the habit of toadying to great men, and courting such publ...