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DESERTION OF ALABAMA TROOPS FROM
THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

A STUDY IN SECTIONALISM

BY

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To
My MOTHER
MINNIE GORDON MARTIN

PREFACE

THIS study presents a phase of war which cannot be glorified, though it has its heroic aspects, and emphasizes a topic of military history which has been generally ignored. Desertion of Alabama troops in the Civil War was a manifestation of sectionalism in the state, due largely to the prevalence of poverty. Since similar conditions existed in the other parts of the South, desertion persisted as a dangerous weakness of the Confederate States and was one of the factors in the failure of their "war for independence."

In the preparation of this work, I have found a course on the social and economic bearings of the Civil War given by Professor William E. Dodd of Chicago University a helpful background. For the use of materials and for other courtesies, special thanks are due the publishers of the *Mobile Register* and of the *Montgomery Advertiser*, the Adjutant-General of the War Department and officials of the Confederate Section of the Old Records Division, and the authorities and staffs of the Mobile Public Library, of the Library of Congress, of the Library of Columbia University, and of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History. I am under obligation to Dr. C. P. Denman, former Professor of History in Baylor College, for the loan of the outline map, which was made from Colton's *Alabama, 1859* (Library of Congress), and to Mr. Peter A. Brannon, Curator of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History, for critical suggestions about the materials and the subject-matter of Alabama history.

Among those whose interest in this study I shall remember with appreciation are Dr. Thomas P. Martin, Acting-Chief of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, and Miss Mabel Bower, Associate-Professor of Philosophy in Judson College.

Above all, I am under deepest obligations to Professor David Saville Muzzey of Columbia University, under whose direction this study has been made. His standards of thoroughness, accuracy and fairness, his inspiring interest and stimulating criticism have been invaluable.

BESSIE MARTIN.

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