

ment was the work of slaves.

Southern men freed from the necessity of manual labor, sought activity in social and political life, the professions, and greatest of all was the lure of the army. While northerners were establishing themselves in constructive work, the Southern man entered West Point. Furthermore the Mexican War, which had not long preceded the Civil War, had attracted the service of Southerners, who were bringing into the Union additional slave territory, so that at the opening of the Civil War, by far the larger part of the ~~trained~~ military men of the country were from the South.

When war was declared a large majority of these trained officers forgot their loyalty, forgot their oath of allegiance to the United States, and joined the confederacy.

Robert E. Lee, a member of a distinguished family, was trained at West Point. He had been made a member of General Winfield Scott's staff, during the Mexican War, was a Colonel of Cavalry, and had served as Superintendent at West Point, yet when Abraham Lincoln offered him the command of the Army of the United States, he refused, and accepted the command of the Rebel forces.

So the North had to try first one inexperienced leader after another, and it was not until General Grant assumed command that the Union Army had competent leadership.