



A CONFEDERATE GIRL'S DIARY

Sarah Morgan Dawson

A Confederate Girl's Diary by Sarah Morgan Dawson (1842-1909)

Sarah Morgan Dawson was a young woman of twenty living in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when she began this diary. The American Civil War was raging. Though at first the conflict seemed far away, it would eventually be brought home to her in very personal terms. Her family's loyalties were divided. Her father, though he disapproved of secession, declared for the South when Louisiana left the Union. Her eldest brother, who became the family patriarch when his father died in 1861, was for the Union, though he refused to take up arms against his fellow Southerners. Sarah was devoted to the Confederacy, and watched with sorrow and indignation its demise. Her diary, written from March 1862 to June 1865, discourses on topics as normal as household routines and romantic intrigues to those as unsettling as concern for her brothers who fought in the war. In clear and inviting prose, she describes living through a bombardment, suffering a painful spinal injury when adequate medical help was unavailable, the humiliation of life under General Butler in New Orleans, and dealing with privations and displacement in a region torn by war.

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Read by Christine Dufour

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