



FRONT ROYAL, VA.—BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS IN THE DISTANCE.—THE FEDERAL ARMY ENTERING THE TOWN.—FROM A SKETCH BY EDWIN FORBES.

Front Royal was held by the Union and Confederate armies alternately during the war. On May 22, 1862, the first Maryland Volunteers, Colonel John Kenly, made a masterly defence of the passes at this place. Banks' Union army lay at Strasburg, with a secondary base at Winchester. Stonewall Jackson's entire army of 8000 men stealthily withdrew from the front of Banks at Strasburg, and struck Front Royal. The aim of Jackson was to thrust his force between Banks and Winchester. Kenly had about 800 infantry and two guns posted to defend the bridges across the Shenandoah. He knew that every moment of delay he could cause Jackson would be a boon to the army at Strasburg, and determined to make a forlorn stand. By a skillful manipulation of his men, exposing them to view so as to impress the enemy with an idea of numbers, he held the pass over two hours. He then crossed the river and fired the bridges. Falling back slowly, Kenly disputed every foot of ground, and finally made a second heroic stand at the crossing of two main highways. Meanwhile Jackson's able cavalry leader, General Turner Ashby, had galloped with a large column of troopers on a wide circuit that brought him upon Kenly's rear. Ashby led his men without counting the cost, charging madly against the barriers sheltering his foes. Finding his men between two fires, Kenly divided them into detachments facing both ways, and kept up a resistance until all were run down and overpowered.