The importance of the point ( illustrative) cannot be overstated — from here the whole coast of Virginia and North Carolina is within our reach — from a different position it might have been the base of operations of North Carolina — including many miles of the Atlantic coast — and after all, you've seen it the key to the Alleghenies.


“The situation of Western North Carolina would be the center of the Confederacy: we shall then have one of the most important points in the West, and a point of the utmost importance to the Confederacy. It will be the center of manufacturing for the Southern market. The people there will be closely connected with every part of the South. It will be the great axis of commerce, and we are probably made ripe for the same purpose."

William H. Thomas to his wife, June 15, 1861.