



C. P. Benjamin

the Orangemen of British North America in 1848, and retained that office for several years. When the project of annexing Canada to the United States was mooted, Mr. Benjamin issued a manifesto, in which he urged Orangemen to oppose it.

**BENJAMIN, John Forbes**, soldier, b. in Cicero, N. Y., 23 Jan., 1817; d. in Washington, D. C., 8 March, 1877. He received a common-school education, and, after three years spent in Texas, went to Missouri, where he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and began practice at Shelbyville in 1848. He was a member of the legislature in 1850 and 1852, and presidential elector on the democratic ticket in 1856. He entered the national army as a private in the Missouri cavalry in 1861, was made captain in January, 1862, major in May, and lieutenant-colonel in September. He resigned to become provost-marshal of the 8th district of Missouri in 1863. In 1864 he was elected to congress, where he served three successive terms, from 4 Dec., 1865, till 3 March, 1871. After this he practised law and was a banker in Washington until his death.

**BENJAMIN, Judah Philip**, lawyer, b. in St. Croix, W. I., 11 Aug., 1811; d. in Paris, 8 May, 1884. His parents were English Jews, who in 1811 sailed from England to settle in New Orleans. The mouth of the Mississippi being blockaded by the British fleet, they landed at St. Croix, where Mr. Benjamin was born. His boyhood was passed in Wilmington, N. C., and in 1825 he entered Yale, but left college three years later, without receiving a degree. He then studied law in

New Orleans in a notary's office, and was admitted to the bar 11 Dec., 1832. For some time he was engaged in teaching school, and in compiling a digest of cases decided in the local courts. This, at first only intended for his personal use, was subsequently enlarged and published as "A Digest of Reported Decisions of the Supreme Court of the late Territory of Orleans and of the Supreme Court of Louisiana" (1834). He soon rose to the head of his profession, and in 1840 became a member of the firm of Slidell, Benjamin & Conrad, having an extensive practice in planters' and cotton merchants' cases. He was a whig, and in 1845 a member of the convention held to revise the constitution of the state, in which body he advocated the addition of an article requiring the governor to be a citizen born in the United States. In 1847 a U. S. commissioner was appointed to investigate the Spanish land-titles, under which the early settlers in California claimed their property, and Benjamin was retained as counsel. On his return he was admitted to practice in the U. S. supreme court, and for a time much of his business was with that body at Washington. In 1848 he became one of the presidential electors at large from Louisiana, and was elected to the U. S. senate in 1852, and again in

1857, but on the secession of Louisiana he withdrew from the senate, with his colleague, John Slidell, 4 Feb., 1861. During his senatorial career he had attained pre-eminence in the southern wing of the democratic party. A sharp personal controversy between himself and Jefferson Davis seemed likely to cause a duel, when the latter apologized on the floor of the senate for the harsh language he had used. He advocated the Kansas-Nebraska bill of Mr. Douglas in 1854, but afterward insisted that the principle of popular sovereignty had been definitely set aside by the declaration of the supreme court in the Dred-Scott case, which, he contended, should be accepted as conclusive. His firm advocacy of the legal claims of slavery brought from Senator Wade, of Ohio, the remark that Mr. Benjamin was "a Hebrew with Egyptian principles." On the formation of the provisional government of the confederate states, he was appointed attorney-general, and in August, 1861, was transferred to the war department, succeeding L. P. Walker. Having been accused of incompetence and neglect of duty by a committee of the confederate congress, he resigned his office, but immediately became secretary of state, which place he held until the final overthrow of the confederate government. He had the reputation of being "the brains of the confederacy," and it is said that Mr. Davis was in the habit of sending to him all work that did not obviously belong to the department of some other minister. It was his habit to begin work at 8 A. M., and he was often occupied at his desk until 2 o'clock next morning. On the fall of the confederacy he fled from Richmond with other members of the cabinet, and, on becoming separated from the party, escaped from the coast of Florida to the Bahamas in an open boat, thence going to Nassau, and in September, 1865, reached Liverpool. He at once began the study of English law, and was entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn, 13 Jan., 1866. In the following summer he was called to the English bar, at the age of fifty-five. At first his success was slight, and he was compelled to resort to journalism for a livelihood. In 1868 he published "A Treatise on the Law of Sale of Personal Property," which is now the authority on this subject in English law (3d ed., London, 1883). His practice then grew rapidly, and in June, 1872, he was made queen's counsel, after which his business soon became as large and remunerative as that of any lawyer in the land. Among his many arguments, the one most generally known is that which he delivered before the court for crown cases reserved, on behalf of the captain of the "Franconia." His last great *nisi prius* case was that of Anson and others against the London and northwestern railway. After this he accepted only briefs upon appeal, and appeared solely before the house of lords and the privy council. Early in 1883 he was compelled by failing health to retire from practice, and a famous farewell banquet was given him in the hall of the Inner Temple, London, 30 June, 1883. He then withdrew to Paris, where his wife and daughter resided, and where his health rapidly failed until his death.

**BENJAMIN, Nathan**, missionary, b. in Catskill, N. Y., 14 Dec., 1811; d. in Constantinople, Turkey, 27 Jan., 1855. He was graduated at Williams, in 1832, and at Andover theological seminary in 1835, was appointed as missionary to Greece and Turkey by the American board, and went to Argos in 1836. He removed to Athens in 1838, and there labored for six years, chiefly in connection with the press. From 1843 till 1845 he was acting U. S. consul at Athens, and he then



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preme Court of the late Territory of Orleans and of the Supreme Court of Louisiana" (1834). He soon rose to the head of his profession, and in 1840 became a member of the firm of Slidell, Benjamin & Conrad, having an extensive practice in planters' and cotton merchants' cases. He was a whig, and in 1845 a member of the convention held to revise the constitution of the state, in which body he advocated the addition of an article requiring the governor to be a citizen born in the United States. In 1847 a U. S. commissioner was appointed to investigate the Spanish land-titles, under which the early settlers in California claimed their property, and Benjamin was retained as counsel. On his return he was admitted to practice in the U. S. supreme court, and for a time much of his business was with that body at Washington. In 1848 he became one of the presidential electors at large from Louisiana, and was elected to the U. S. senate in 1852, and again in



his life was conspicuous for acts of benevolence. He wrote much against war and African slavery, and bequeathed his estate, on the death of his wife, to the African school in Philadelphia. He died in Philadelphia, May 3, 1784.

**Benham, ANDREW ELLICOTT KENNEDY**, naval officer; born in New York, April 10, 1832; entered the navy Nov. 24, 1847. During the Civil War he served in the South Atlantic and Western Gulf squadrons, and took part in the battle of Port Royal and other engagements. In 1894 he commanded a squadron at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and forced the commander of the insurgent squadron to raise the blockade of the city and to discontinue firing upon American merchant vessels. Rear-admiral in 1890; retired in 1894.

**Benham, HENRY W.**, military officer; born in Cheshire, Conn., in 1817; was graduated at West Point, first in his class, in 1837. He served under General Taylor in the war with Mexico, and was wounded in the battle of Buena Vista. Early in the Civil War he was active in western Virginia, and afterwards on the South Carolina coast. He assisted in the capture of Fort Pulaski; and in 1863-64 he commanded an engineer brigade in the Army of the Potomac. He was brevetted brigadier-general for services in the campaign ending with the surrender of Lee, and major-general (March, 1865) for "meritorious services in the rebellion." He died in New York, June 1, 1884.

**Benjamin, JUDAH PHILIP**, lawyer; was born in St. Croix, West Indies, Aug. 11,



JUDAH PHILIP BENJAMIN.

1811; was of Jewish parentage, and in 1816 his family settled in Savannah, Ga. Judah entered Yale College, but left it, in 1827, without graduating, and became a lawyer in New Orleans. He taught school for a while, married one of his pupils, and became a leader of his profession in Louisiana. From 1853 to 1861 he was United States Senator. He was regarded for several years as leader of the Southern wing of the Democratic party; and, when the question of secession divided the people, he withdrew from the Senate, and, with his coadjutor, John Slidell, he promoted the great insurrection. He became Attorney-General of the Southern Confederacy, acting Secretary of War, and Secretary of State. After the war he went to London, where he practised his profession with success. He died in Paris, May 8, 1884.

**Bennet, or Bennett, RICHARD**, colonial governor; was appointed one of the Virginia commissioners to reconcile Virginia to the administration of Oliver Cromwell in 1651. In 1654 the Maryland royalists, under the instigation of Lord Baltimore, revolted, and intercolonial hostilities followed, resulting in a victory for the Virginians under Governor Bennett. During the night of March 25, 1655, many prisoners were taken, including the royalist Governor Stone. Some of these were afterwards executed.

**Bennett, JAMES GORDON**, founder of the New York *Herald*; born in New Mill, Scotland, Sept. 1, 1795; died in New York, June 1, 1872. Intending to enter upon the ministry in the Roman Catholic Church, he studied theology in Aberdeen some time, but, abandoning the intention, he went to British America, arriving at Halifax, N. S., in 1819, where he taught school. He made his way to Boston, where he became a proof-reader, and in 1822 he went to New York, and thence to Charleston, where he made translations from the Spanish for the *Charleston Courier*. Returning to New York, he became proprietor (1825) of the New York *Courier*, but did not succeed. After various editorial and journalistic adventures in New York and Pennsylvania, Mr. Bennett, in May, 1835, began the publication of the New York *Herald*. His method was a "new departure" in journalism.



JUDAH PHILIP BENJAMIN.





JUDAH P. BENJAMIN, CONFEDERATE ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
UNTIL SEPT. 17TH, 1861; SECOND SECRETARY OF WAR;  
THIRD SECRETARY OF STATE. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.



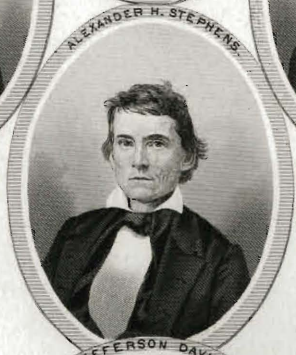
JUDAH P. BENJAMIN



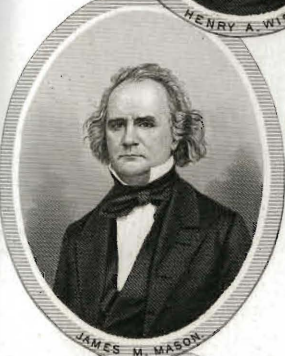
HENRY A. WISE



R. BARNWELL RHETT



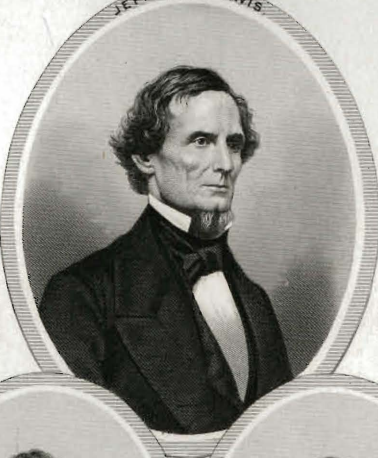
ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS



JAMES M. MASON



JOHN B. FLOYD



JEFFERSON DAVIS



JOHN SLIDELL



WILLIAM L. YANCY



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# CONFEDERATE CHIEFTAINS



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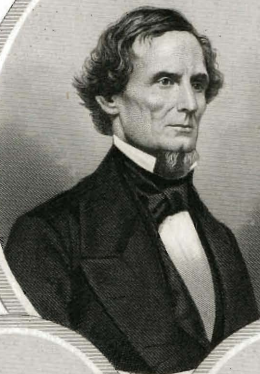
JUDAH P. BENJAMIN.



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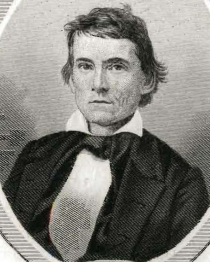




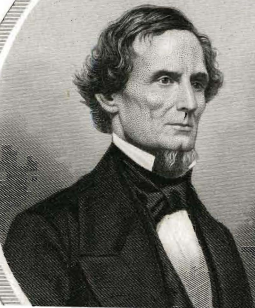
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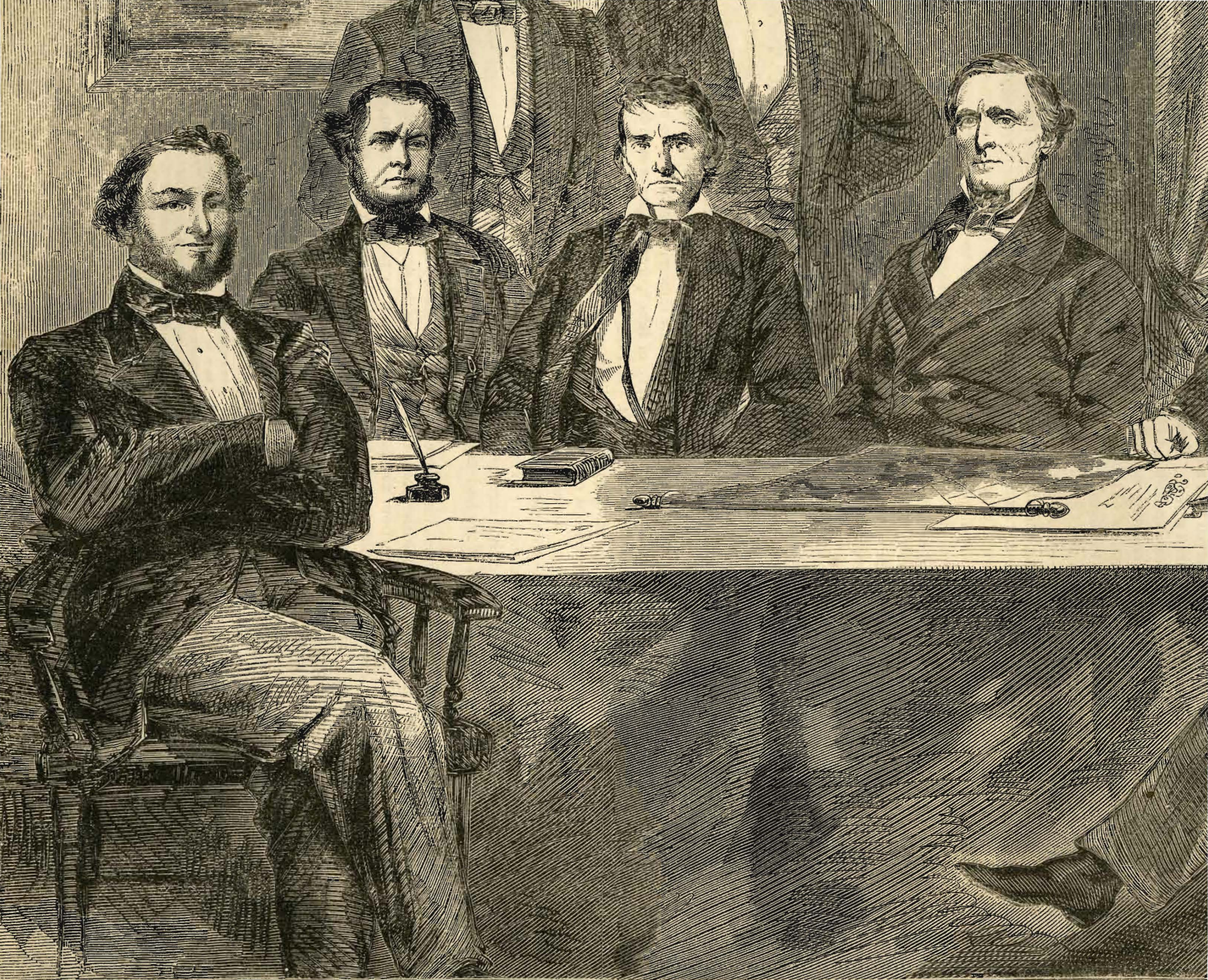






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