

**EWELL, Benjamin Stoddert**, soldier and educator, b. in Washington, D. C., 10 June, 1810. He is a grandson of Benjamin Stoddert, first secretary of the navy. He was graduated at the U. S. military academy in 1832, and assigned to the 4th artillery. He served in the military academy as assistant professor of mathematics in 1832-'5, and as assistant professor of natural and experimental philosophy in 1835-'6, when he resigned. From 1836 till 1839 he was one of the principal assistant engineers of the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad. He was professor of mathematics at Hampden-Sidney from 1840 till 1846, when he was elected to the Cincinnati professorship of mathematics and military science in Washington college, Lexington, Va., which office he held two years. In 1848 he was elected professor of mathematics and acting president of William and Mary, and became president in 1854. He held this office till the beginning of the civil war, when the college was suspended. He then served in the Confederate army as colonel of the 32d Virginia regiment in 1861-'2, and afterward was appointed adjutant-general to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, when he commanded the departments of Tennessee and Mississippi. He was again elected president of William and Mary in 1865, and still (1887) retains the office. The degree of LL. D. was conferred on him from Hobart college in 1874. He was made an honorary member of the Royal historical society of Great Britain in 1880. Dr. Ewell urged the election and re-election of Gen. Grant to the presidency because of his moderation and magnanimity at the close of the civil war. He was opposed to secession in 1861, thinking it unnecessary and unconstitutional, and resisted the measure until war was waged. Since 1865 he has exerted himself to foster harmony between the north and the south, and loyalty to the National government. He spoke in the house of representatives at Washington on 1 April, 1874, and again on 25 Jan., 1876,

in support of the petition of William and Mary college for an appropriation on account of the destruction of its buildings and property during the civil war.—His brother, **Richard Stoddert**, soldier, b. in Georgetown, D. C., 8 Feb., 1817; d. in Springfield, Tenn., 25 Jan., 1872, was graduated at the U. S. military academy in 1840. His first experience of actual warfare was obtained in Mexico, where, in August, 1847, he was engaged at Contreras and at Churubusco. He was promoted to captain, 4 Aug., 1849, and in June, 1857, won distinction fighting against the Apaches in New Mexico. When the civil war began, he resigned his commission, entered the Confederate army, and was actively engaged throughout the war. He was promoted to the rank of major-general, and fought at



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Blackburn's Ford, 18 July, 1861, and at Bull Run, 21 July. In the following year he distinguished himself under Jackson, by whom he was greatly trusted, and took an active part in the various movements preceding the second battle of Bull Run, losing a leg at Warrenton Turnpike on 28 Aug., 1862. He took part also in the Maryland cam-

campaign. When Gen. Jackson was fatally wounded at Chancellorsville, Ewell, at his request, was promoted to lieutenant-general, and assigned to the command of the 2d corps. At the head of Jackson's veterans he fought valiantly at Winchester, at Gettysburg, and at the Wilderness on the Confederate left. He was captured, with his entire force, by Sheridan at Sailor's Creek, 6 April, 1865. After the war he retired to private life. Gen. Grant says in his "Memoirs": "Here" [at Farmville] "I met Dr. Smith, a Virginian and an officer of the regular army, who told me that in a conversation with Gen. Ewell, a relative of his" [who had just been made a prisoner], "Ewell had said that when we had got across the James river he knew their cause was lost, and it was the duty of their authorities to make the best terms they could while they still had a right to claim concessions. The authorities thought differently, however. Now the cause was lost, and they had no right to claim anything. He said further, that for every man that was killed after this in the war, somebody is responsible, and it would be but very little better than murder. He was not sure that Lee would consent to surrender his army without being able to consult with the president, but he hoped he would." Grant says this gave him the first idea of demanding the surrender.—Another brother, **Thomas**, was killed at the battle of Cerro Gordo, Mexico, in 1847.