

slaves with that of a large part of the English laboring population, as the fullest argument in defense of Southern slavery. They attracted wide attention in Europe. These, with essays on the same subject, were published in book form with the title "The Pro-Slavery Argument" (Charleston, 1853). He attended the first session of the Southern states convention at Nashville, Tenn., in 1850. In November, 1857, without his knowledge, he was elected to the United States senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Andrew Pickens Butler, and served from Dec. 7 until Nov. 11, 1860. His first speech was on Mar. 4, 1858, in reply to one on the previous day by William H. Seward on the admission of Kansas. In this he remarked that "in all social systems there must be a class to do the menial duties and perform the drudgery of life. That is, a class requiring a low order of intellect and but little skill. Such a class . . . constitutes the very mudsills of society and of political government." Continuing, he said that a similar class existed at the North, for it was found everywhere, but that he would not characterize them as slaves. In the same report Mr. Hammond declared "We (the South) have kept the government conservative to the great purposes of the Constitution. We have placed it and kept it upon the Constitution, and that has been the cause of your peace and prosperity," and again, "You dare not make war on cotton. No power on earth makes war upon it. Cotton is King!" His remark about mudsills was misinterpreted by Northern newspapers, as a slur upon the working class of the North, and the nickname of "Mudsill Hammond" was frequently applied to him. Sen. Hammond did not return to Washington to the session of 1860-61, but awaited at home the action of the state convention, and when it passed the ordinance of secession (which he had advised against), telegraphed his resignation. He was too infirm to take an active part in the war, but in July, 1861, went to Richmond to lay before the administration a plan to maintain the financial stability of the Confederacy, by prohibiting the private export of cotton, paying for it in Confederate bonds and holding it at home and abroad as a basis of credit. He was married in 1831 to Catherine E., daughter of Christopher Fitzsimons and younger sister of the wife of Col. Wade Hampton. He died at his home, Redcliffe, Beech Island, S. C., Nov. 12, 1864.

AIKEN, William, thirty-third governor of South Carolina (1844-46), was born at Charleston, S. C., Jan. 12, 1806, son of William and Henrietta (Wyatt) Aiken, and grandson of Peter Wyatt, who emigrated from Shropshire, Eng., to Charleston about 1760. He was educated at the Hurlburt School and at the South Carolina College, being graduated at the latter in 1825. He engaged in raising rice on Johnssee island, near Charleston, in 1828, and became one of the most successful rice planters in the state. He was a member of the state legislature in 1838, 1840, and 1842. During 1844-46, he was governor of South Carolina. He was a representative in congress from that state during 1851-57, and was one of the candidates for the speakership of the national house of representatives immediately following the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. He was defeated by Nathaniel P. Banks, by only three votes, after a memorable contest in which 133 ballots were taken. Although a Democrat, he was thoroughly opposed to secession. When the civil war broke out, he would neither side with his state, nor take an active part against her, and when he was invited by the Federal government to be present at the raising of the national flag over Fort Sumter after

the surrender, he declined the invitation. Shortly afterward he was arrested by order of the secretary of war, and was sent to Washington under guard. Upon his arrival, he went at once to see Pres. Johnson, who promptly ordered his release. They had been intimate friends when both were members of congress. Gov. Aiken was appointed by Hon. George Peabody one of the original trustees of the Peabody fund. He was noted for his liberality and benevolence and culture as a scholar. In February, 1831, he was married to Harriet, daughter of Thomas Lowndes, of Charleston, S. C. They had one daughter, Henrietta A., who became the wife of a Mr. Rhett. Gov. Aiken died at his summer home at Flat Rock, N. C., Sept. 7, 1887. Aiken county and its county seat were named in his honor.

JOHNSON, David, jurist and thirty-fourth governor of South Carolina (1846-48), was born in Louisa county, Va., Oct. 3, 1792, son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Dabney) Johnson. His father, who was a Virginian by birth, removed in 1789, with his family and slaves, to South Carolina, and settled in Spartanburg county, where he became a Baptist preacher. The son attended a classical school in York county, and subsequently studied law under Judge Abraham Nott, who eventually admitted him to partnership. After serving as ordinary and commissioner, he was a member of the legislature in 1812, and solicitor of the middle circuit, Union district, in 1812-15. In the latter year he became circuit judge. This position he held until 1824, when he was elected judge of the state court of appeals. While presiding over that court the nullification agitation of 1832 began, and with Judge O'Neal, constituting a majority of the court, he decided that the law passed by the state legislature was unconstitutional. The legislature, which was powerless to impeach him, removed him from the bench in 1835, by making him chancellor



David Johnson

of the state. He held this office until 1846, when he was elected governor by a unanimous vote of the legislature as an emphatic indorsement of a long and faithful public service. He organized and dispatched the Palmetto regiment under Col. Pierce Mason Butler for service in the Mexican war. Gov. Johnson commanded the love and respect of all who knew him. Gov. Manning, of South Carolina, said of him that "his mind was like his person, grand in every way." He was married in Newberry county, S. C., to Barbara, daughter of Benjamin Herndon, by whom he had five sons and three daughters. He died at Limestone Springs, S. C., Jan. 7, 1855.

SEABROOK, Whitmarsh Benjamin, thirty-fifth governor of South Carolina (1848-50), was born on Edisto island, S. C., June 30, 1792, son of Benjamin Whitmarsh and Mary (Wilkinson) Seabrook, the latter a native of St. Paul's parish, Colleton co. His earliest ancestor in this country was Capt. Robert Seabrook, of Somerset, Eng., who emigrated to South Carolina about 1682, and was prominent in the affairs of the colony, helping in 1706, with his company, to defend Charleston against a formidable attack made by the French and Spanish. Whitmarsh Seabrook was graduated at the College of New