

BRATTON, JOHN (Mar. 7, 1831-Jan. 12, 1898), Confederate soldier, the son of Dr. William Bratton, Jr., and his second wife, Isabella Means, was born at Winnsboro, S. C. After preparation at Mount Zion Academy he entered the South Carolina College from which he was graduated in 1850. Three years later he received a "medical diploma" from the South Carolina Medical College and shortly afterward began the practise of medicine in Fairfield County. In 1859 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Theodore S. Du Bose. He continued in his profession with

moderate success until the beginning of the Civil War when he entered the military service of South Carolina as a private in the 6th Regiment of Volunteers. He was almost immediately promoted captain. Twice subsequently, however, he reenlisted as a private at the expiration of periods of enlistment when his regiment was reorganized. In 1862 he was elected colonel of the 6th Regiment which had become a part of Micah Jenkins's Brigade, Longstreet's Corps. After the death of Jenkins, during the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864, "Old Reliable," as Bratton was now known to his men, was appointed brigadier-general (June 27, 1864). He was several times cited for gallantry and was twice wounded. On one occasion (Battle of Seven Pines, May 31, 1862) being wounded, he was taken prisoner and was held in Fortress Monroe until exchanged several months later. Of the brigades which composed the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, his was the most completely manned and was the only one which left the field as an organized unit (*Official Records*, ser. I, *passim*).

After the war Bratton did not resume the practise of medicine but became a farmer and was soon drawn into active public life. He did not seek political office but was from time to time pressed into service as a member of the constitutional convention in 1865, as state senator (1865-66), and as congressman (1884-85). He was a delegate to all the Taxpayers' Conventions, was chairman of the delegates from South Carolina to the national Democratic convention of 1876, was chairman of the state Democratic committee in 1880, and was elected by the legislature to fill the vacant office of state comptroller in 1881. In politics he adhered to the conservative party which under Wade Hampton [*q.v.*] delivered the state from Republican rule in 1876. Though a farmer he did not support the Farmer's Movement in South Carolina. His feeling against this "class movement," as he characterized it, was such that he was led to become a candidate for the governorship in 1890 in op-

position to B. R. Tillman [*q.v.*], the Farmers' leader. His dignified campaign, conducted amidst all manner of political excess and extravagance, won the admiration of all classes but was at no time formidable. Like many conservatives, he retired from politics after the victory of the Tillmanites. He died at Winnsboro, Jan. 12, 1898.

[Brief but accurate sketches of Bratton's life appear in the *Confed. Mil. Hist.* (1899), V, 378-80; the *Cyc. of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas* (1892), I, 433-36; *News and Courier* (Charleston, S. C.), Jan. 13, 1898. A few of Bratton's letters in

manuscript are contained in the W. G. Hinson Collection owned by the Charleston (S. C.) Lib. Soc. This also includes a scrapbook of clippings from leading newspapers of the state relating to the gubernatorial campaign of 1890.]

J. H. E.—y.