

G. EN. CLEMENT A. EVANS, who is author of the chapter in this work on the military history of Georgia, cites with some pride his nativity as a Georgian and the occurrence of his infancy amidst the terrors of the Creek Indian war in southwestern Georgia, in 1836. Coming from an ancestry that participated in the revolutionary struggle and in the various wars of the Union, he entered life in Stewart county, at a time and place, where his people were in battle with the Indians and where no family was entirely safe from savage hostility. His father was a farmer and his first years were spent upon the farm. Early, however, a move was made to Lumpkin, the county town, for the purpose of educating the children of the household, and in that delightful place, whose inhabitants were noted for refinement, hospitality and wealth, he received his early education. After his graduation from the law school of Judge William Tracy Gould, in Augusta, which was at that time the resort of young students, ambitious to obtain education for the bar, he was admitted to the practice of law just before he had attained the age of nineteen years. Returning to his native county, he opened his office among those who had known him from his boyhood, and with very little delay obtained an excellent business. The bar at that time in southwestern Georgia, was composed, as it is now, of some of the finest lawyers in the state. Many of them were, in fact, noted jurists. Among the nestors of the profession were Seaborn Jones, Alfred Iverson, Hines Holt, and Judge Wellborn; and, somewhat younger, although not less noted, were Benning, Blanford, Worrill, Tucker, Perkins, Wimberly and many others. Among the yet younger were Sloan, Clarke, Douglas, Harrell and the like. After entering this field, when the conflict was sharp, and meeting cordial treatment and achieving success, Mr. Evans was invited to a co-partnership with his former preceptor, Col. Worrill, which he accepted. After that his life as a lawyer was spent in the firm of Worrill & Evans until, obtaining the ready and generous consent of his partner to conduct the business alone, he entered the Confederate army in the first year of the war, having been engaged in active practice eight years. The confidence shown in his general ability by his county people is shown by his election soon after he was twenty-one years of age to the office of judge of their county court, which was a court of extensive jurisdiction in civil suits, and involved the care of the county business in general. The service of his county being well rendered in this position, he was again soon honored by election, at the age of twenty-six, to the senate of Georgia, at the gravely important period when the questions which resulted in the Confederate war, agitated the whole country. In those questions he took what was called the "southern rights" side, and was placed upon the electoral Breckinridge ticket as an alternate during the warm political canvass of 1860. Although young, he had been trained in political debate, and went ardently into the canvass espousing the fortunes of the Breckinridge democratic party, although he had deplored the division of his party at Charleston, and its breach into the two factions of Breckinridge and Douglas. After the election of President Lincoln, he first favored what was termed the co-operative movement, which was designed to effect a union of all the southern states in a congress, and a separation from the United States, introduced in the legislature solutions to that end. But

becoming quickly satisfied that this movement could not be made practicable, he advocated separate state action. Immediately after it became evident that war would ensue, Evans offered his services as a soldier. His tastes were military, and had been gratified in peace by active connection with the volunteer companies of his town, and through these he had acquired knowledge of military tactics and discipline, which prepared him, as well as inspired him to enter upon the duties of a Confederate soldier. In all that was required of such a soldier he devoted himself from the beginning to the close of the long bloody struggle. His first promotion was to the rank of major, and next to colonel of the Thirty-first Georgia regiment. Then he was commissioned brigadier-general, succeeding Gen. Gordon to the command of his brigade, and after Gordon was assigned to the command of a corps, he was assigned to the command of the division composed of the Virginia brigade of Gen. Terry, containing the old Stonewall brigade, and the brigades from Louisiana of Stafford and Hayes, commanded by Col. Waggoman; and, also, his own Georgia brigade. In these several positions he served in the commands of Stonewall Jackson until his death, and then with Ewell, Early and Gordon, all in the army of Lee, sharing with his men the dangers of the great battles, the many skirmishes and the increasing privations of the famous war, receiving several severe wounds, and surrendering under Lee at Appomattox, with guns still hot from firing at the latest hour. Fully recognizing that the issue made had been settled, Gen. Evans returned home and advocated the restoration of his state at once to all its former position in the Union, and urged such progressive measures as would make the Union valuable to the state. His addresses were all in advocacy of honorable assent to the arbitrament of the sword without any servile concessions; of cordial invitation to capital and immigration; of general improvement in all material development and of full confidence in the recuperation of the south. Gen. Evans has been a member of the Methodist church from his youth, and accustomed to take public part in the work of religious bodies, but after the close of the war he joined the Georgia conference, in which as a minister, he was placed in charge of several important positions, and has now the management of two valuable financial interests of his conference. In his business life, before and since the war, he has had the management of several large enterprises, which have been successfully conducted, and has uniformly taken a conspicuous part in all public affairs. He organized, and as president, guided to success the Augusta Real Estate and Improvement company, and also the Augusta and Summerville Land company, and was an active director in the Augusta Exposition company, and the Cotton States and International Exposition company of 1895. His political life consisted of an open and active espousal of the democratic party and advocacy of its candidates, without seeking office himself, until, in 1894, he was then, for a time, a candidate for nomination by the democratic convention for the office of governor, and discussed throughout the state the leading issues of the day, but perceiving that his party was threatened with disruption into factions, he withdrew by a notable public letter, and afterward canvassed the state in behalf of party principles and harmony, contributing very greatly to the success which followed. Gen. Evans has been widely known for his patriotic acceptance of the true results of the late war. His address as early as 1875, at the laying of the corner-stone of the splendid Confederate monument in Augusta, Ga., was copied extensively by the press of the United States. He is also thoroughly devoted to the comradeship and cause of the Confederate states. He was the first president of the Confederate Survivors' Association of South Carolina (1895), and afterward president of the Confederate Club in Atlanta. He is now major-general, commanding Georgia division, United Confederate Veterans, and actively interested in collecting Con-