

The only civil office ever held by General Chambers was that of clerk of the court in Kent County, to which he was appointed by the governor and which he held for many years. At that time the clerks of the courts were appointed by the governor of the state and were not, as at present, elected by the popular vote. Men of the highest character were selected to fill the office, which was regarded as a position of honor and trust. For decision of character and good judgment he was noted. He took an active interest in every enterprise which was calculated to promote the public welfare. Through his long and useful life he enjoyed the respect and confidence of the community in which he lived.

General Chambers died January 10, 1816, leaving the following children: Augusta, who married James Houston, judge of the United States district court; Thomas Marsh, Ezekiel Forman, James, David, Benjamin Lee, Elizabeth Caroline, who married Col. Joseph Wickes, and William Henry. Two other children, Benjamin and Margaretta, died in the lifetime of their father.



**HON. EZEKIEL FORMAN CHAMBERS.** Maryland boasts of many distinguished men in the annals of her history, and among these Judge Chambers bears no inconspicuous place. He was born in Chestertown, Kent County, February 28, 1788, being the son of Gen. Benjamin and Elizabeth Chambers and a grandson of Ezekiel and Augustine (Marsh) Forman. His great-grandfather, Thomas Marsh, was a lineal descendant of Augustine Herman. When he was a boy Washington College was one of the most prominent seats of learning in the country, and in that institution it was his privilege to receive his education. Immediately after graduating he began the study of law in the office of James Houston, who was subsequently appointed United States district judge. In 1809 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession, in which he soon acquired a large practice and gained a great reputation as

a trial lawyer. During the war of 1812 he raised a volunteer company, of which he was commissioned captain. With his company he participated in the battle of Caulkfield in the summer of 1814, and his coolness and bravery were so conspicuous that he was specially commended by Colonel Reed, the commanding officer, in his official report of the battle.

February 11, 1817, Judge Chambers married Sarah J., daughter of Maj. James Bowers, of Kent County. He continued in the active practice of his profession and soon became one of the most distinguished lawyers of the state. In 1826 the legislature of Maryland elected him to the United States senate to fill the unexpired term of Edward Lloyd, who had resigned. He served five years of Mr. Lloyd's unexpired term, and in 1831 was re-elected. Having been appointed in the year 1834 a judge of the court of appeals of Maryland, he resigned his seat in the senate and entered upon the judicial career in which he subsequently became so eminent. At the time he was elected to the United States senate he was in the state of New Jersey with two other commissioners to represent Maryland in settling with the authorities of New Jersey, a question then pending between the two states. In those days gentlemen who aspired to the high position of United States senator did not make a personal canvass in Annapolis among the members of the legislature, much less descend to those low and degrading schemes which have more recently characterized such contests. Many of the most distinguished men of the country were members of the senate at the time he was a member of that body; among them, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Thomas H. Benton and John Randolph. He took an active part in the deliberations of the senate and in debate was regarded as one of the most ready and able members of that body. He began his judicial career in 1834 and remained on the bench until 1851, when a new constitution was adopted, under which the judges were elected by the popular vote. He was a member of that convention in which were assembled many of the most eminent men of the state. He took an

active part in its proceedings and without detracting from the merits of his associates he was conceded to be more able in debate than any members of that body. There he made his great argument upon the tenure of the judicial office. The question before the convention was the election of judges by the popular vote for a term of years, they to be eligible for re-election. Although he considered the election of judges by the people an unwise provision, he considered the tenure by which they would hold the office, if elected, by far the most objectionable feature of the proposed system. He argued with great force the paramount importance of preserving the absolute independence of the judges; and that to elect a judge for a term of years with the right to be a candidate for re-election, would present a temptation calculated to influence him in the discharge of his official duties and to weaken the confidence of the people in his integrity and impartiality. That speech was never successfully answered and was at that time and has been since, considered as strong a presentation of the question as has ever been made in this country.

The ability of Judge Chambers as a judge of the court of appeals of Maryland is attested by the numerous opinions he delivered during the seventeen years he held the office. Those opinions are published in the reports of the cases argued before that court and are characterized by clearness of analysis and strength of argument rarely met with in judicial opinions. Under the system then existing he was also one of the judges of the circuit court in the judicial circuit in which he resided, with two associates, Judges Eccleston and Hopper. As a *nisi prius* judge, he was ready and prompt in the trial of cases and in the facility with which he dispatched the public business he was not excelled by any judge in the state.

In the year 1864, during the Civil war, the federal soldiers had control of Maryland. A constitutional convention was assembled for the avowed purpose of abolishing the constitution of 1851 and adopting another. The members who constituted the majority of that body had been elected by the influence of the military. Judge

Chambers was also a member of that convention, having been elected by the conservative voters of his native county. The most ultra propositions, which attacked not only the rights of private property, but also the right of the citizen to vote, were introduced in the convention. Judge Chambers, although opposed to the secession of the southern states, being of the opinion that the step was not justified by any act of the Federal government, protested against those revolutionary measures and used every effort in his power to defeat them. His opposition was unavailing, as neither argument nor a sense of justice could influence those who had control of that convention and who intended by such means to perpetuate their power.

Judge Chambers was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church and had been one of the vestrymen of the church in Chestertown for more than thirty years. He took an active interest in every matter which concerned the welfare of the church and was for many years a delegate to its general conventions. His profound knowledge of the constitution and canons of the church gave him great prominence in those conventions, and the influence of his opinions was always felt and acknowledged. For many years previous to his death he was president of the board of visitors and governors of Washington College, his alma mater, and uniformly manifested a deep interest in its success and welfare. When he retired from the bench in 1851 he resumed the practice of his profession to the extent of participating in the trial of cases, and the same vigor and ability for which he had been distinguished in early life were again displayed. He possessed a vigorous intellect, with quickness of perception which amounted almost to intuition, combining a remarkable power of analysis and irresistible logic. As a speaker he was calm and unimpassioned, addressing himself to the judgment and reason of his audience. He never indulged in declamation and lightly esteemed that style of oratory. He deservedly ranked among the most distinguished men of Maryland and was so regarded by his contemporaries.

He died February 28, 1867, leaving the follow-

ing children: James B.; Laura, who married George L. Davis; and Caroline, wife of George W. T. Perkins. Four of his children died while he was living, namely: Elizabeth Augusta, who married Rev. Dr. Jones; Sarah Maria Louise, who was the wife of Rev. Mr. Owen; Helen and Mary Clare. He was buried in the cemetery near Chestertown, where a suitable monument to his memory has been erected.



**H**AMPDEN POLK DASHIELL, of Princess Anne, is one of the active and progressive business men of the Eastern Shore and represents a family well known in Maryland history. When about twenty-one years of age he embarked in the mercantile business with his father, and when the latter retired after six years he turned his attention to the insurance and steamboat business. Through his efforts in 1888, a bill, which had been several times defeated, was passed, appropriating different sums, amounting finally to \$25,000 for the dredging of the Manokin River. As manager of the Manokin Steamboat Company he ran a steamboat that connected with the Baltimore steamers at Deal's Island in Tangier sound. The consolidation of other companies into the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic Railway Company forced him out of the business, and he then became engaged in insurance, representing eight companies as their solicitor and their adjuster in cases of fire in his territory.

The grandfather of our subject, Seth Dashiell, M. D., was born on the Eastern Shore, where he spent the greater part of his life and engaged in the practice of medicine. He died when advanced in years. His father, Arthur Dashiell, was prominent in Maryland during the latter part of the eighteenth century. Our subject's father, Hampden Haynie Dashiell, was born in Accomac County, Va., but when an infant was brought to Somerset County, Md., where he continued to reside until his death. His education was received in country schools and the Washington Academy at Princess Anne, after which he read

medicine under his father's supervision, and also took two courses of lectures. The profession, however, was not suited to his tastes, and believing he could succeed better in other lines, he turned his attention to business pursuits.

The family owned a large tract of timber land, and his first business enterprise was the construction of a large sailing-vessel, which was one of the largest on the Chesapeake Bay. He took part in the organization of the Wilson-Small Steamboat Company (of which he was an owner and director), which was afterwards merged into the Maryland Steamboat Company. On coming to Princess Anne, he formed a partnership with Col. William J. G. Polk and inaugurated a mercantile enterprise that became the most important of that time of any concern on the Eastern Shore. For about thirty-five years he was connected with this business, and its success was largely due to his energy and ability. The money gained in commercial transactions he invested in land and at one time was the second largest tax payer in Somerset County. However, the Civil war and depreciation in land values brought him reverses, as it did to most of the southern slave owners and planters, and his financial losses were very heavy. He believed that small fruit could be cultivated successfully on the Eastern Shore and, acting on this belief, he engaged in the business, of which he was a pioneer on the shore. In 1878 he sold out his mercantile establishment and in 1879 he was elected on the Democratic ticket register of wills of Somerset County and served one term of six years, at the expiration of which time he was re-elected with the largest majority ever received by any candidate in the county. During the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago he was a member of the board of managers for Maryland. In 1894 he was appointed collector of revenue for the first district of Maryland at the port of Crisfield, which is the third largest port of the United States in the number of vessels registered, though not in the tonnage. This position he held until the time of his death, which occurred suddenly on June 15, 1895, being caused by apoplexy. He was a man of unusual mental and physical activity, a tireless worker for any