

FEDERAL LEADERS.—GENERALS RICHARDSON, PORTER, RENO AND FRANKLIN.



ISRAEL B. RICHARDSON.

FITZ JOHN PORTER.

The war for the Union virtually developed the talent by which it was conducted. True, a majority of the leaders who appeared on both sides had had a military education. A few had had experience in the field in the Mexican war; but their education had to be educated anew and their experience experienced again before they were capable of great command under the new conditions that had supervened. The war made its own talent even in the case of Lee and Grant, of Thomas and Johnston, of Sheridan and Stuart. Generals came on by the score. Many went to the rear through failure. Not a few were made and unmade by the newspapers. Some were gathered up in the folds of large contingencies and crushed as if in the clutch of a boa. Of

this kind was the celebrated Fitz John Porter. He was a man not wanting in large abilities. At the outbreak of the war he was thirty-nine years old. He had been graduated at West Point in 1845, and was a participant in the Mexican War. In the Peninsular campaign his military talents shone conspicuously. He was in command at Yorktown, Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill and Malvern Hill. At the second battle of Bull Run he lay with his corps not far away, and was ordered by Pope to press forward to the field. This he did not do, and for his failure he was courtmartialled and cashiered. Subsequent investigation showed the injustice of his sentence; but for a long time the prejudice against him was extreme. For nearly twenty years he lay under the cloud, and his restoration in the years 1882 and 1886 were not complete and full.

JESSE L. RENO.

General Jesse L. Reno was another officer who came well to the fore. He was of the class of 1846 at West Point, and had been a Mexican soldier. He was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers in 1861, and served in the Roanoke expedition in 1862. He also commanded a corps in the second battle of Bull Run, and at Chantilly and South Mountain, where, on September 14, 1862, he was killed in battle.

WILLIAM B. FRANKLIN.

At one time General William B. Franklin, of Pennsylvania, promised to reach—if he did not actually reach—a very high rank in the Union army. He, too, was a graduate of West Point, and had served in the Mexican war. He was



JESSE L. RENO.

a colonel in the regular army at the beginning of the war for the Union. He became a division commander under Heintzleman, and fought at Bull Run. He was a corps commander under McClellan in the Peninsular campaign, and bore the brunt at Malvern Hill. He participated in the battle of Antietam, and led a grand division, under Burnside, at Fredericksburg. Unfortunately to himself he was transferred to the division of Banks, and led his forces in the Red River expedition of 1864. Two years afterward he resigned his command.

After Fredericksburg he was a possibility in the question of a commander for the Army of the Potomac, and his abilities were sufficiently great for that position; but the command went to Hooker, and Franklin was transferred to Banks.



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