ARMSTRONG, SAMUEL CHAPMAN

General Samuel Chapman Armstrong was born January 30, 1839, at Wailuka, Island of Maui, Hawaiian Island, his parents, Richard and Clarissa Chapman Armstrong, being among the first missionaries to that group. Shortly after his birth his father entered the government service, and was made Minister of Public Instruction, in which position he has charge of the entire school system of the nation and controlled the educational facilities for a population of 65,000 people. His son Samuel was trained in this atmosphere until his father's death, in 1860, when he came to the United States and entered the junior class at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. In 1862 he was graduated, and at once volunteered and raised a company in Troy, N.Y., going out as Captain in the 125th New York. The entire regiment was captured at Harper's Ferry and exchanged in three months to join Heitzelman's corps in the defenses of Washington on the Bull Run Line. After Chancelorville they were transferred to the Army of the Potomac, with the Second Army Corps., General Hancock commanding, and at the battle of Gettysburg received the Pickett charge of the third day.

In the fall of 1862, Major Armstrong volunteered for the colored service, and was made Lieutenent-Colonel of the 9th United States Colored Infantry. During the following winter he was for three months in active service in South Carolina, and after the battle of the Wilderness, joined the Army of the James, first with the Tenth Army Corps under Terry, and later with the Twenty-fourth Army Corp under Weitzel. With a division of this corp he followed Lee to the surrender at Appomattox, immediately after which, at the request of his superior officer, he was promoted, with the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General (March 11, 1865). He was then ordered to Texas to garrison the Rio Grande frontier, and watch Maximilian. After four months' service there he returned, and with his regiment, was mustered out at Camp Penn, Pennsylvania.

He at once applied to General Howard for a position which should enable his to work among the freedmen, and was by him sent to Hampton to settle the difficulties between the thousands of refugee contrabands who had

drifted in there and the returned Confederate families. He was put in charge of the work of the Freedmen's Bureau at this point, and was given the supervision of ten counties in eastern Virginia, an officer being appointed under him in each county who administered civil law in military courts and adjudicated upon the frequently conflicting claims of the two races. A year spent in this service impressed him strongly with the importanceof establishing an educational center in this locality, and he urged the American Missionary Association to buy land for that purpose, they being already on the ground.

They accepted his plan, and at their request, he took charge of the work, and in 1868 the "Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute for Negroes" was opened, with General Armstrong as principal.

Hampton Institute has been an important factor in the development of the Southern Negro.