



Duryee's Zouaves Skirmishing.
Col. Townsend Deploying Two Companies to Act as Skirmishers.

The Steuben Regiment's Assault—Colonel Bendix.
Albany Regiment, Col. Townsend, in Line of Battle.

Charge of Duryee's Zouaves.

Three-gun Battery, Lieutenant Greble.

First New York, Col. Allen.

Second New York, Col. Carr.

BATTLE OF BIG BETHEL, JUNE 10, 1861.

The earliest notable action in the war took place at Big Bethel, about six miles northwest of Fort Monroe, June 10, 1861. General Butler sent from the Fort a force commanded by General E. W. Pierce to make a reconnoissance, and, if possible, capture the Confederate position at Little Bethel. Two of the regiments fired into each other by mistake in the dark, which alarmed the enemy who retreated northward to Big Bethel, where they had some slight intrenchments. They numbered about 1800 and were commanded by Colonel John B. Magruder. General Pierce made a badly planned attack with his infantry and a few guns, in which his men, though at disadvantage, fought very bravely but unsuccessfully. Major Theodore Winthrop, who led the principal assault, was shot dead, as was also Lieutenant John T. Greble, a recent graduate of West Point, who commanded part of the artillery. The action lasted about four hours and was ended by the retreat of General Pierce's force, which had lost about 100 men. That night the Confederates abandoned their works and retreated to Yorktown.