



BATTLE OF WHITE OAK SWAMP, MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1862.—AYERS', MOTT'S AND RANDALL'S BATTERIES CHECKING THE PURSUIT OF THE CONFEDERATES.—FROM A SKETCH BY W. H. JOHNSON.

The scene here depicted shows the conflict of McClellan and Lee at its height. After the battle of Fair Oaks, the Union commander determined to change his base of supplies from the White House on the Pamunkey River to some suitable point on the river James. The movement was attended with great hazard. General Lee, who had succeeded Joseph E. Johnstone as commander-in-chief, was on the alert. He was not the man to permit the exposure of his enemy without the delivery of a blow. On June 25 he struck the Union right at Oak Grove; but the battle at that place was indecisive. On the next day was fought the battle of Mechanicsville, in which the Federals were victorious to the extent of retaining the field. On the 27th Lee made a successful attack on the Federals at Gaines' Mill. The following day was passed with little fighting. On the 29th were fought the two battles of Savage Station and White Oak Swamp, the latter of which is represented in the above double-page engraving, after a sketch by W. H. Johnson. It is difficult for the unmilitary reader to realize movements in the field. The scene here delineated is the defence of the rear of the Union army against the attack of the Confederates. The latter may be discerned in the remoter parts of the field. The foreground is held by the Union forces. The artillery is in full action. The Union line shows little evidence of wavering or retreat, but critical observers may detect here and there the evidences of falling back under the pressure of the enemy.