



BURNSIDE'S ATTACK (LEFT WING).—HAWKINS' ZOUAVES, COLONEL KIMBALL, CHARGING ON THE CONFEDERATE BATTERY ON THE HILL, SEPTEMBER 17, 1862.

ROUT OF THE CONFEDERATES.—FROM A SKETCH BY EDWIN FORBES.

The gallant charge of Hawkins' Zouaves at Antietam failed because the task set for them was a physical impossibility. The guns of the battery raked the slope in front, and a regiment of Confederate infantry lay concealed behind a stone wall on one side of the field to be crossed by the assailants. As the line of Zouaves appeared above the crest of the ravine where it formed, all the fire of cannon and muskets was let loose, and in an instant the air was full of grape shot and bullets. Out of 600 men who started on the charge, 221 were cut down, and many of the survivors threw themselves into the depressions and hollows of the slope for shelter. At night a few escaped back to the Union lines; the others were taken by the enemy.