



BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE, VA., MAY 1, 1863.—FROM A SKETCH BY EDWIN FORBES.

For more than two years the Confederates had held their own. The opening of the military season of 1863 found them firmly planted on the line of the Rappahannock. McClellan had been reduced from the commander-in-chief and finally relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac. That responsible position had been given to General Hooker. General Burnside, who went to pieces on the bloody slopes of Fredericksburg, received a responsibility too great for him to bear, and was followed by General Hooker. For a time Hooker was in great reputation. He opened the campaign by advancing against Lee at Chancellorsville. This place is a mere post-office in Spottsylvania County, Va. It lay distant 55 miles from the Confederate capital, which was still regarded as the objective of all operations. The Federals were greatly superior in numbers, being about 132,000 strong, while the Confederates numbered only 65,000. Hooker succeeded in crossing the Rappahannock and the Rapidan; but on gaining Chancellorsville he was attacked, on the evening of May 2, by the Army of Northern Virginia, under the personal command of Lee and Jackson. Here it was that Jackson outflanked and turned the Union right, sweeping everything before him, and here it was that that intrepid officer fell, under a mistaken volley from his own lines. The result of the battle was disaster and defeat to the Federals. Hooker lost over 16,000 men, and the Confederate loss was more than 12,000. But their victory was unequivocal. The Union army withdrew across the Rappahannock, and in a short time Lee began his invasion of the North.