



BOMBARDMENT OF PORT HUDSON BY ADMIRAL FARRAGUT'S FLEET.



ASSAULT OF THE SECOND LOUISIANA (COLORED) REGIMENT ON THE CONFEDERATE WORKS AT PORT HUDSON, MAY 27, 1863.—FROM A SKETCH BY F. B. SCHELL.

The opening of the Mississippi was one of the prime considerations in the prosecution of the war. At the beginning of the conflict the great river was held by the Confederates through nearly its whole course, from Cairo to the Gulf. Step by step, however, the Federal authorities regained control. The last point held by the Confederates was Port Hudson. Early in 1863 General Banks advanced into Louisiana and gained a victory at Bayou Teche. He then moved northward to Port Hudson, and invested that place coincidentally with the shutting up of Vicksburg by Grant. The attack by water was made by Admiral Farragut. The siege continued until July 8, when the news of the fall of Vicksburg induced General Gardner, who defended Port Hudson, to capitulate with his force of 6000 men.