



BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.—CHARGE OF THE CONFEDERATES ON CEMETERY HILL. THURSDAY NIGHT, JULY 2, 1863.—FROM A SKETCH BY EDWIN FORBES.

It was already high noon, or after, on the 3d of July, when the cannonade began. The Union batteries, more than a hundred guns strong, were under command of General Hunt, and those of the Confederacy were commanded by General Alexander. The uproar that now began was indescribable. Nothing like it had ever before been witnessed or heard on the American continent. The guns were well trained, and it seemed impossible that either side should withstand the other. At length General Hunt withdrew several of his batteries from the crest over and behind it, for the double purpose of cooling the guns and saving his ammunition. It was believed by the Confederate commanders that the Union lines were shattered, and that the position on Cemetery Ridge could now be carried. Then it was that Pickett's immortal charge was organized. His column numbered eighteen thousand men. The first part of the advance was made with little damage; but the Union batteries reformed, and the havoc became immense. When the Confederates came in range of the Union musketry, they began to waver; but their courage was magnificent, and the head of the column crushed itself against the Federal batteries. The whole column broke, and the Confederacy broke with it.