



THE BATTLE OF PLEASANT HILL, LA., BETWEEN GENERAL BANKS AND THE CONFEDERATE GENERAL DICK TAYLOR. APRIL 9, 1864.—FROM A SKETCH BY C. E. H. BONWILL.

In the spring of 1864 General N. P. Banks, commanding at New Orleans, organized an expedition of combined land and naval forces to clear the rebels out of northern Louisiana and Arkansas. The objective point was Shreveport, at the head of steam navigation. Troops sent from Vicksburg by Sherman captured Fort de Russey, at the mouth of the Arkansas, and then waited for Banks. The united commands then proceeded, but were met by a strong Confederate force at Sabine Cross Roads, and driven back with great loss and confusion. Rallying upon a new line at Pleasant Hill, a few miles back, he was ready to resist a second attack from the rebels, under General Dick Taylor, and they were repulsed. The victory could not be followed up, however, and it was only by some brilliant work on the part of their officers that the expedition succeeded in withdrawing without worse disaster than before.