



BATTLE OF BENTONVILLE, MARCH 19, 1865.—GENERAL MOWER, COMMANDING FIRST DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS, TURNING THE CONFEDERATE LEFT.

Sherman's army fought its last battle at Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865. Slocum's column, accompanied by Sherman in person, was marching toward Raleigh on one road, while Howard, with the right wing, took a road several miles east across a region of almost impassable swamps. On the morning of the 19th Sherman appointed a rendezvous on the banks of the Neuse for the columns to unite, and rode off across the swamps to join Howard. Soon after Slocum's corps took the road it was confronted by Confederates. A soldier wearing the Confederate grey entered the lines and declared that General Joseph E. Johnston was on Slocum's front with a large force prepared to dispute the march. The report was doubted by all save Slocum himself. They were for charging at once, but Slocum answered, "I can afford to be charged with being dilatory or over cautious, but I cannot afford the responsibility of another Ball's Bluff affair," and immediately despatched an aide to Sherman, setting the lines for defensive battle. Half an hour later the Confederates charged all along the line, 30,000 strong, but were held off until Howard's troops came up to their support.