

THE BATTLE OF HONEY HILL.

The *N. Y. Herald* has an account of the battle at Honey Hill, near Savannah, on the 30th ult., from which we take the following:

The Thirty-second United States colored troops were ordered to charge the rebel fort as soon as we had got in position at the head of the road. They attempted, but got stuck in the marsh which they found impassable at the point of their assault; and a galling fire of grape, canister and musketry being opened on them, they were forced to retire.

The 84th U. S. colored troops also essayed an assault, but could not get near enough to produce any effect upon it. These regiments, however, only fell back to the line of battle, where they remained throughout the entire fight.

The 55th Massachusetts (colored) went into the fight on the right of the brigade, commanded by Col. Hartwell. The fire became very hot, but still the regiment did not waver—the line merely quivered. Capt. Goraud, of Gen. Foster's staff, whose gallantry was conspicuous all day, rode up just as Col. Hartwell was wounded in the hand, and advised him to retire, but the Colonel declined, and was anxious to charge the works.

Col. Hartwell gave the order, the colors came to the extreme front, when the Colonel shouted, "Follow your colors!" and then led the way himself, and marched off obliquely, in column by division. Col. Hartwell was mounted, and so was Capt. Crane, his Adjutant General. Just as they reached the marsh in front of the turn in the road, and within a short distance of the rebel works, brave Col. Hartwell's horse, while struggling through the mud, was literally blown in pieces by a discharge of canister.

The Colonel was wounded at the same time, and attempted to jump from his horse; but the animal fell on him, pressing him into the mud. At this time he was riding at the side of the column, and the men pressed on past. But as they neared the fort, they met a murderous fire of grape, canister, and bullets at short range. As the numbers of the advance were thinned, the few who survived began to waver, and finally the regiment retreated.

In retiring, Lieutenant Ellsworth, with a few men, extricated the Colonel from his perilous position after much delay, and by cutting the saddle from his horse. In carrying him away, he was again wounded in the side, and advised Lieutenant Ellsworth to leave him behind; but the Lieutenant and a few men brought him from the field without further injury, and he will probably survive. He is now at Beaufort, doing well.

The Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, heroes of all the hard fights that have occurred in the department since their arrival here, were too much scattered in this battle to do full justice to themselves. Only two companies went into the fight at first, under Lieutenant Col. Hooper. They were posted on the left. Subsequently they were joined by four more companies, who were left on duty in the rear.

The Twenty-fifth Ohio, soon after the commencement of the engagement, were sent to the right, where they swung round and fought on a line nearly perpendicular to our main front. A portion of the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts were with them. One or two charges were essayed, but were unsuccessful; but the front was maintained there throughout the afternoon. The Twenty-fifth had the largest loss of all the regiment.

The colored troops fought well throughout the day. There was probably a greater proportion of stragglers among them than among the white troops, but not a single regiment broke as a regiment.

Counter charges were made at various times during the fight by the enemy, but our infantry and artillery mowed them down, and they did not at any time get very near our lines. Whenever a charge of our men was repulsed, the rebels would flock out of their works, whooping like Indians; but Ames's guns and the terrible volleys of our infantry would send them back. The Naval Brigade behaved splendidly.

Gen. Foster, finding the enemy's position at Honey Hill too strong to be easily taken, and not of sufficient importance, considering the object of the expedition, to warrant a continuance of the engagement, withdrew to a strong position on the Savannah road, from which he will be able to conduct future operations.