

would not make war upon women and children or peaceable inhabitants, but that they would conduct their invasion according to the customs of modern warfare. Colonel Chamberlin, who seemed to be indignant that one wearing the uniform of a United States officer, should undertake to carry messages and proposals from an outlaw who had already set the authority of the United States at defiance, and was about to commit murder on British soil, informed General Foster that he could receive no messages from such a marauder as O'Neill, and threatened to arrest the General on a charge of being a Fenian. While the two were in conversation, the head of the Fenian column was just observed advancing over the brow of the hill opposite, and General Foster's attention being called to it, he replied: "I thought they intended to attack you soon, but not so soon as this." He then drove off and back across the line, up the road and past the now advancing column towards the rear of Vincent's. Colonel Chamberlin at once prepared to meet the attack. Of the forty-six men under his command, Lieutenant Baker and eight men were on picquet duty on the right rear of Eccles Hill, and a sergeant with ten men were away at dinner, about half a mile distant, as was also Captain Westover and a dozen of his Home Guards, so that the force available for defence consisted of twenty-eight men of the 60th, and some twenty of the Home Guards. The latter were ensconced towards the base of the hill, chiefly behind boulders, with which the whole ground abounds, while the 60th red-coats were posted towards the brow of the hill and on each side of the road. Captain and Ensign Bockus, armed with rifles, took charge of the right and left wings respectively of the detachment which was extended in skirmishing order, while Lieutenant-Colonel Chamberlin occupied an exposed position in the centre, commanding a full view of the situation and the now advancing enemy.

As the Fenians came down the road, some 200 strong, they presented a rather formidable appearance; they marched with the steadiness of regular troops. They were nearly all in uniform and marched in column, with rifles at the "shoulder," with fixed bayonets, which shone and glistened in the noon-day sun, with a brightness that was dazzling. General O'Neill, General Lewis, Colonels Donnelly and O'Reilly, also Captains Croydon, Brown, Cronan, Sullivan and Moriarty were with the force. The advance guard, composed of a picked company of forty men, advanced to within 100 yards of the line, and when opposite the house of Mr. Alva Rykert, halted, and having loaded, General O'Neill addressed them as follows,—“Soldiers of the advance guard of the American Irish Army for the liberation of Ireland from the yoke of our oppressors:—For your own country,