

but hid in our cut by the brow of the hill in the foreground, runs a small fordable rivulet called Groat's Creek, within about twenty yards of the boundary line, which runs almost parallel to it. Across this ravine is the direct road from Cook's Corners to Franklin Centre. Where it crosses the bottom of the ravine, a wooden bridge spans the creek, and a few yards further south the iron posts mark the boundary line. The road continues up the slope of the hill and away towards Franklin and St. Albans. Within about a hundred yards on each side of the boundary line, and on the roadside, stand the dwellings of some two dozen families, besides a number of wooden stables and small granaries, also a tannery. Three-fourths of these buildings are on the American side. Towards 11 o'clock a.m., the Fenians advanced a sentry to within a few yards of the line. Colonel Smith, judging that the enemy would probably soon attack his position, had disposed his small force for defence. The Home Guards, to the number of about twenty-five men, were posted among the rocks and brushwood towards the base of Eccles Hill, while a Militia detachment of 37 men of the 60th Batt., under Lieut.-Col. Chamberlin, was posted near the brow of the hill, and on both sides of the road, up which the enemy were expected to come after crossing the line. Leaving Colonel Chamberlin in command, Colonel Smith with Captain Gascoigne went off towards Stanbridge for the purpose of bringing up the Victoria Rifles and Captain Muir's Troop of Cavalry, and to make the necessary arrangements for commissariat, and the transport to the front of other companies expected.

Shortly afterwards a commotion was observed among the fast gathering crowd of spectators who had hurried forward from St. Albans, Highgate, Franklin and vicinity to witness the Fenian advance. These people were crowding the road, which was completely blocked up with various vehicles which the Fenians had prevented from crossing or approaching the boundary line. In a few minutes, however, the United States Marshal, General Foster, accompanied by two deputies, drove down the road, and after a brief delay passed the Fenian picquet, and crossed the line into Canada, and waited upon Lieutenant-Colonel Chamberlin, with whom he held a short conference. General Foster declared that he had summoned the Fenians, in the name of the United States Government, to lay down their arms, and abandon their illegal marauding project, but they had refused to do so, and he had no military in the district to enforce his commands. The United States troops were on the way to the frontier; but they would not probably arrive before the following day or next after. He also informed Colonel Chamberlin that General O'Neill, who was in command of the Fenians, had charged him with a message to the effect that he