

the plans of the Fenians, who had calculated upon crossing into Canada, and, as in 1866, making Eccles Hill their base of operations, pillaging Frelighsburg, Cook's Corners and Pigeon Hill.

By 8 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 25th May, O'Neill with his staff of half a dozen recently created "Generals" and "Colonels," and about 400 men, occupied the Franklin Centre road towards the boundary line. The detachment at Hubbard's Corner had proceeded to near the brow of the hill opposite Eccles, and occupied the grounds in the rear of the house of one Vincent, where the most of the Fenians put on their uniforms. The uniform consisted of a dark blue shell-jacket, trimmed with green and yellow braid, pants of dark grey, or in some cases of a light blue color; nearly all wore the French military cap; their accoutrements were the usual cross and waist-belts, with ammunition pouches and bayonet, while every man was supplied with forty rounds of ammunition.

From the Canadian position the first glimpse of the Fenians was obtained, when a picket was posted at an old wooden house on the roadside, about 200 yards from the line. By this time the inhabitants from both sides of the line began to gather towards the scene. During the early part of the morning Captain Pattison of the 60th and several men of the Home Guards, had been across the line and learned some particulars of the Fenian strength and movements, which they reported on their return and confirmed the impression that an attack by the Fenians was imminent. In the meantime the people residing within a distance of five or seven miles of Eccles Hill had removed their valuables, and in many cases taken the women inland, to be out of reach of danger. It was also remarked that a great many with their families sought shelter on the American side of the lines. Every here and there might be seen carts loaded with women and children, also of old people, jolting along the turn-pike towards some selected place of security. No one seriously contemplated or believed for a moment that the Fenians, even if they should effect a temporary lodgment on Canadian soil, could hold such a position longer than until the arrival of the militia forces, when they would be certain to be driven back across the lines.

THE FIGHT AT ECCLES HILL.

Between Eccles Hill and Vincent's house, a little behind the brow of the Vermont hills opposite, is a distance of nearly a mile; while about the centre is a ravine or gully, which runs east and west for several miles. On the Canadian side of the ravine,