

Colonel Osborne Smith. Despatches were, however, received by Colonel Lord Alexander Russell, in command at St. Johns, informing him that the Fenians had been defeated at Eccles Hill, and that Colonel Smith could hold his position against the enemy. Accordingly, Lieutenant-Colonel Grant was instructed that his brigade would stay over-night at St. Johns. The various corps disembarked, and having formed in order marched into the town, where they were enthusiastically received by the inhabitants, who seemed to have abandoned their ordinary avocations, and, like the volunteers, to be on a "war footing." It was now past 7 o'clock, and the Montreal volunteers had been under arms since 5 a.m., and had had nothing to eat since midday, and as they had not been expected to stay in St. Johns that night no arrangements had been completed for their reception. The 1st or Prince of Wales' Rifles were marched to the Town Hall, the Victoria Rifles to an old, almost broken down house, which was kindly placed at their disposal by Mr. Pierce, while the Royals and Hochelagas, after some delay, were provided with billets, at which their men got their supper.

No arrangements whatever had been made to provide the men of the Prince of Wales and Victorias with supper, and the officers of these corps had to hunt up persons who could undertake to furnish a meal. In an hour the men were provided with tea, crackers, butter and cheese—bread could not be had in the place for love or money. The officers, in this instance as well as all the time they were out, forgot themselves until the men had all been properly cared for, and this evening a group of Prince of Wales' officers might be seen buttering the crackers with their swords, and drinking tea from a canteen borrowed from one of the men.

About 10 o'clock, when supper was over, the majority of the volunteers, wearied with the day's excitement and fatigue, went to sleep. Those in the Town Hall and the "old house" had to be content with the floors; and even that luxury was brief, as they were soon aroused by the sounding of the "assembly," followed immediately by the order to "fall in," which they rapidly did, notwithstanding the excitement consequent upon the report that they were to advance to Pigeon Hill, where they expected to meet the Fenians. At midnight the brigade, comprising the Victorias, Prince of Wales, Royals and Hochelagas, augmented by the service companies of the three latter corps, which had arrived at St. Johns on the night of the 24th, marched to the railway station and were quickly on board the cars again. By direction of Colonel Lord Alexander Russell, Lieutenant-Colonel Marchand, of the 21st or Richelieu Battalion, went in command of the brigade, with instructions to proceed to Pigeon Hill, and if he did not fall in with the enemy to await further