

on the terrace in front of Maplewood house—in contrast with them, were the dark green uniforms and steady ranks of the Canadian riflemen, and farther down the river the excited knots of people hurrying from the village, and nearer armed with scythes, pitchforks, and sticks, these brave fellows the *habitants*, who never forgot that they are the compatriots of De Salaberry, and who were determined to do something in that evening's fighting by the side of "Messieurs les étudiants."

No general movement seemed to be made by the enemy; a few men under the captain's orders had entered the house and returned with a certain amount of property evidently intended for booty. Still there was no general pillage, and the ruffians seemed to be kept well in hand by their leader, who moved among them, shouting his commands in a harsh nasal tone; he held a revolver in his hand, and more than once Ned remarked that he pointed it at a tardy or mutinous follower. Presently a movement was made, the rude mass was formed into a kind of column, presently they began to advance towards the road, and the boys could see that at the head of the column were marched the women of Maplewood! As they approached nearer he was relieved to see that neither Edith nor his step-mother were among the number. On the first alarm being given, the cook, a motherly old Frenchwoman, who knew how to act under such circumstances, tapped at Edith's door. "Hush," she said, "dear infant, it arrives that there is danger—they come, the brigands, and it is necessary that we fly—so get yourself clothes of the warmest, and haste, always haste." Seeing from Angelique's manner that something serious was the matter, Edith obeyed, and in a few moments found herself safe with Angelique and the two other servants safe in a little shanty far enough in the woods, to be out of danger—thither Angelique had conveyed Mrs. Ellis—who was of course in hysterics—a quantity of fire wood, and a huge veal pie to serve as provisions. Edith noticed the absence of the Cadgetts, and would fain have gone back to the house to warn them, had not Angelique interposed and even Mrs. Ellis forbidden it. "Leave them tranquil, it is fit society for them the Feniennes." The Cadgetts were not loved by the servants, and this it was that accounted for the fact that to the boys' bewilderment Mrs. Cadgett and her daughter came in view marching at the head of the Fenian column.

Major Ellis was absent at Matchbrook.

"I see their plan is to put the women against our fire—well! for the present, we must fall back," said Tremaine as he gave the word, "retire with me to the near end of the bridge and wait till we watch the success of our measures."

"A sound ducking will do the Cadgetts no harm and we will look after their safety," said Edward. "Do so, I want to single out the Fenians—the current sets strongly to this side."

The Fenian column were now close at hand, a yell was raised rather than a cheer from their side as they approached and seeing the bridge as they thought