

attempted to rally them, but all in vain. They, like the O'Neill brigade, retaliated upon the officers, whom they charged with deceiving them as to the strength of the Canadians. They swore positively to seeing at Eccles Hill a field battery, two detachments of cavalry, and at least two battalions of regulars, and they were not going to be hurried forward to certain destruction. They then fell back upon Franklin Centre, to await till dark the demonstration of further tactics.

On the retreat of Moore's force the firing nearly ceased on both sides, and about 6 o'clock, in the grey evening, farmers and others were crossing down the road from one camp to another, and many of the Fenians secreted in the houses, who had cast away the Fenian uniform, made their escape up the road in safety, as the Canadians had strict orders not to fire upon civilians unless they carried arms. About this time Colonel Smith learned that a detachment of Fenians, with their field-piece, were in the valley on the right, and that they meant mischief. The 60th and the Home Guards were deployed to advance to the boundary line and drive out the enemy from the houses. The 60th men in the centre extended in skirmishing order, and advanced down the hill through the brushwood; the Home Guards extended on the left on the other side of the road on which their right rested; while on the extreme right of the line the Victoria Rifles, under Captain Crawford, were posted on a spur of the hill as a reserve to support the skirmishers should occasion require. The 60th and Home Guards advanced in capital order, but before they had got half-way to the boundary line, the enemy broke cover and fled from the houses in the wildest disorder.

The advance of the Canadians was unexpected; from houses and barns, and from behind lumber piles, rushed the Fenians in twos and threes. At first they attempted to check the advance of the volunteers and opened fire upon them; but the 60th and Home Guards, who were previously instructed to reserve their fire, opened upon the enemy, and the next minute the Fenian retreat was converted into a regular skedaddle. They cleared across the fields on either side of the road, running alongside of fences or whatever offered any cover from the bullets which were whistling all round them. As the Fenians broke from the houses and firing began, nothing could keep any one who had a rifle from having a parting shot. The Victorias, despite their instructions to the contrary, opened fire upon the enemy as soon as they quitted the houses. For nearly a quarter of an hour the fugitives could be seen running for their very lives; they had thrown away their rifles, accoutrements and part of their uniforms to accelerate their speed. Every minute Fenians could be seen to drop, but were soon up again and limping away, showing that they had been wounded, while others were observed to seek the