

Edward and five others stepped out two paces to the front—in a few words Tremaine explained his plan—"Let us replace the timbers as they were before, resting them not on the piers in the centre, but on cross supports weak enough to snap under the pressure of a man's weight—we will go to the enemies' side of the bridge, firing as they come in view, and retreating before them—we will leave one single plank sufficiently supported to bear the light weight of one of us—along this we must be careful to step—they will think the place is only held by boys, and will run in at a charge."

Silently and quickly his orders were obeyed; several laths were laid from one side to the other of the covered bridge, near the piers, on these, so as to rest solely on them for support, the bridge planks were laid—in the centre a single plank was left secure. And now from the other side of the rising ground could be heard the trampling of feet and the murmurs of strange voices. Tremaine and his party took up their position with fixed bayonets in front of the far entrance of the bridge, and in the clear light of the beautiful Canadian winter moonlight, on the top of the hill close by Major Ellis's garden rails, the Fenians came in sight!

Ladies and gentlemen who live at home in ease in England, do not think that this is exaggeration, or an attempt at "sensation." It may seem strange no doubt to you, that a peaceful village, which to all appearance might be in one of the country districts of Lancashire or Cumberland, should be suddenly scared by the appearance of an armed banditti, come to pillage its farm houses, stores and bank. But of Canadian villages near the boundary line of the United States, this is the actual position of things in the present year, as it was in the last one. Equally true is it, that on such an emergency the sole immediate defence is the loyal volunteer force. A Fenian raid here does not mean what it does in Ireland, where property and loyalty are protected by an overwhelming military force. Irish interests are close at hand, and are defended at any cost to the empire. And in stating that boys and young men are foremost among those who form the national army of Canada, we only keep to what was seen to be the case last year. It was the Trinity College Company that was foremost among those who fought and bled at Ridgeway.

The Fenians were in sight, but as they marched along the cover of the maple wood behind Mr. Ellis's house, it was not easy to tell how they would appear in the "open." At length they made their way through the garden into the space before the house, where a halt seemed to be called. They were out of range as yet, but it was now possible to see their movements distinctly, and even to hear the orders of a tall man in a blue uniform frock of the American army, who seemed to be their leader, and who was certainly able to maintain some sort of order and discipline among them. As far as Ned and Tremaine could judge, the number in view was about two hundred; none of them had any kind of uniform except their captain, but almost all were armed, some with rifles, some with fowling pieces, muskets and revolvers. In dress they were ragged as Falstaff's recruits, and yet their was something more unpicturesque in the savage-looking group bivouaced

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