

about four feet high, and the greater part of the regiment was drawn up behind it ; but a little way up the hill the lane trended back out of the line, so the right of the regiment here left it and occupied the open grass land of the park. The bank had been cut away at this point to admit of our going in and out. We had been told in the morning, to cut down the bushes on the top of the bank, so as to make the space clear for firing over, but we had no tools to work with ; however, a party of sappers had come down and finished the job. My company was on the right, and was thus beyond the shelter of the friendly bank. On our right again was the battery of artillery already mentioned ; then came a battalion of the line, then more guns, then a great mass of militia and volunteers, and a few line up to the big house. At least this was the order before the firing began ; after that I do not know what changes took place.

And now the enemy's artillery began to open ; where their guns were posted we could not see, but we began to hear the rush of the shells over our heads, and the bang as they burst just beyond. And now what took place I can really hardly tell you. Sometimes when I try and recall the scene, it seems as if it lasted for only a few minutes ; yet, I know, as we lay on the ground, I thought the hours would never pass away, as we watched the gunners still plying their task, firing at the invisible enemy, never stopping for a moment except when now and again a dull blow would be heard and a man fall down, then three or four of his comrades would carry him to the rear. The captain no longer rode up and down ; what had become of him I do not know. Two of the guns