

secret meetings, held during the summer. They rose up suddenly and simultaneously ; and at a time when many, who were marked out to be their prey, had no suspicion of their intentions. The Volunteers were men acquainted only with rural pursuits ; they were hastily collected together, almost totally unacquainted with military tactics, and, from habit, very much averse to scenes of strife and turbulence. For several days before the actions took place, which have added this extraordinary service to our usual ordinances, an attack from the rebels was anticipated and dreaded. The regulars were anxiously enquired after, but no satisfactory intelligence concerning them could be obtained ; and appearances intimated that no succour would be received from that source. The people were, in fact, hedged in by difficulties, dangers, and enemies, on every hand. If they fled into the adjacent territory, their property would become the booty of the rebels ; and if they set their faces in any other direction, they were sure to be captured by some of the enemy's picquets that were prowling in every quarter.

You all remember the anxiety and trepidation into which the country was plunged immediately before the battle of the 7th. All the men that could be collected did not exceed two hundred. These were greatly fatigued by marching from one post to another ; and by other harassing duties. This little, worn-out but determined band are now drawn up at Messrs Odell's store. The enemy, amounting to more than four hundred, have just entered the province from Rouse's Point. They are all well provided with arms and assorted ammunition, and supported by a field piece. Now they are forming ; they have taken up their position ; the cannon is discharged, and the danger seems to thicken and approach. Shouts, loud and long, and designed to intimidate, are heard mingling with the hoarse voice of their only piece of ordnance. But this gasconading will be of short duration ; for see, two hundred effective men from Hemmingford, well officered, and