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THE ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY, AT THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, PREVIOUS TO OPENING THE SESSION, FEB. 12, 1863.

The weather, an important consideration on state days in Quebec, was this morning, strange to say, a matter of congratulation; as the hour approached, however, in which his Excellency was to open the House, the heavens manifested strong disapprobation of the loyalty evinced by our citizens, who wended their way in crowds to every available spot where a glimpse of the display could be obtained.

The hour was fast approaching and the sky had by this time settled into a

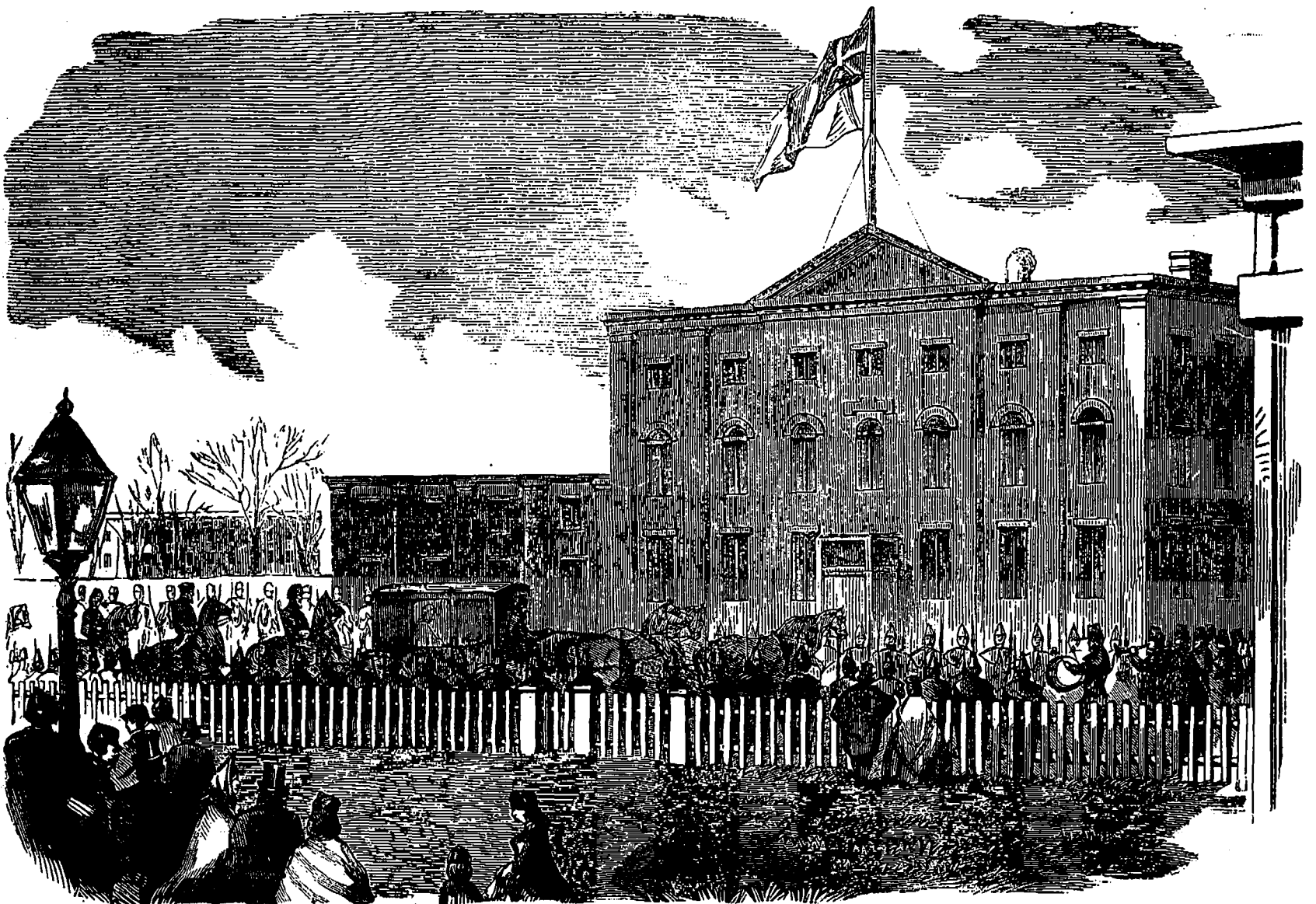
discontented streaky state of grey and white; the recent falls of snow too, despite the urgent remonstrances and impressive injunctions of the city fathers, lay to the depth of a foot or more upon the earlier incrustations, to the great annoyance of the owners of hundreds of pretty ankles that sported amongst its yielding whiteness.

A little after two, p.m. the route from the residence of His Excellency was lined with H. M. 60th Rifles and 17th Lt. Infantry; meantime our volunteers, who of course, had been on the 'qui vive' since 'early in the morning,' mustered strongly on Durham terrace, previous to taking up their respective positions

in and about the house of Parliament.

On this occasion the guard of honor consisted of the Victoria and Wellington Rifles, the former under the command of Capt. Alleyn, the latter of Lieut. Cochran; the first have long maintained a favorite position, as a crack corps in this city, and their trim soldierly appearance reflects the highest credit on their zeal. It must be remembered that this corps was organized, at a time when no Government allowance fell to their share, when the sneer of the bystander was about the only notice taken of the Volunteer movement; they have weathered it like men, and they have gained the victory; we are proud of them;

long may they continue to enjoy the reputation they have earned. The Wellingtons were also admirable in appearance, their handsome *shakos*, new uniforms, scrupulously clean accoutrements, and magnificently kept arms elicited the warmest commendation, whilst their tall muscular forms betokened them men to do as well as to dare. I have been thus special with these favorite companies from the fact of their prominence as the guardians of His Excellency, but the whole body merits the highest encomiums, both, with regard to their appearance and drill, indeed I may say they were distinguished only by characteristics tending to their honor. The French



THE ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY AT THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS. SKETCHED BY ALEX. DURIS, FOR THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.