

danger in which their homes were now placed, it was the work of an afternoon to gather together, about thirty strong, at Frelighsburg, armed, and uniformed with a red flannel sash, and after communication with Montreal, to post themselves about 300 yards from the boundary line, on the front of Eccles Hill, a very defensible position from either side, and one which being seized on by the enemy in 1866, had enabled them to give much trouble. A picket of these men kept guard in this position during a night, which to the stoutest heart must have been one of anxiety, for they were to their enemies about one man against ten. The one excitement of the dark hours, however, was the arrival of a Fenian, Captain Murphy by name, with his teamster and guide, also a Murphy, who had taken this undesirable route in their search for O'Neill's headquarters, not supposing that there were any but Fenians under arms; and there being no uniforms to correct their mistake, they confidently asked their way, the Captain producing his commission, signed by O'Neill. This, of course, the volunteers undertook to show them; but the Murphys were somewhat disgusted to find that instead of approaching the campfires of O'Neill, they had brought up at the bivouack of the Home Guards, whence they were afterwards sent handcuffed to Stanbridge, in charge of a corporal and file of the 60th. About 4 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, the advanced picket of the 60th were ordered to relieve the Home Guardsmen, who fell back to Cook's Corners, and the Stanbridge Company, under Captain Bockus, moved forward to the same place.

Stanbridge was, about the same time, filled up anew by the corps from Montreal, who were so little expected there that no provision for a meal could be obtained until 7 o'clock in the morning, when the Vics, who had lost the most of their fastidiousness along the weary road, accepted the frontier fare, stewed pork and beans with coffee, with soldier-like spirit, perhaps even with a relish produced by long fasting.

APPROACH OF THE FENIANS.

The branch of the O'Neill wing which was destined for the raid into Canada, by the road leading past Eccles Hill, had its headquarters at St. Albans, where the members of the organization had been concentrating, principally from Burlington and New York. They began to arrive on the 23rd in small squads of a dozen or twenty, and during the night cart-loads of boxes containing rifles, ammunition, accoutrements and clothing were moved towards the frontier line, distant about 18 miles. In this way they managed to secrete in the woods in the vicinity of