

these women to come out from their hiding-places to show themselves on the road, and thus ensure a brief suspension of hostilities. They must have been well aware that no British officer would recognize any signal from them unless that of surrender; and the presence of these same women no doubt prevented, at this critical juncture, several lives being lost. Dwyer, irritated at the taunting remarks of more than one of the Home Guard, and after waiting fully ten minutes for an answer from Col. Smith, called out, so that all near might hear "As your officer will not send any answer, all stragglers had better quit this; for just so soon as you get into proper range we will open fire again." There were probably about thirty non-combatants standing by at the time, and the writer, who was standing within a few feet of General Dwyer, had a good look at the quondam Australian convict. He is a little over the medium height, of ordinary build, and bronzed complexion, with a moustache and goatee; he wore a dark green jacket, elaborately ornamented with yellow braid, dark colored pants, and a soft wideawake hat. The threat of Dwyer was sufficient to make all the idlers run for cover. Up the road to the camp they went helter-skelter, while the Home Guards returned to their cover on each side of the road; and then crack, crack, from Fenian rifles quickly followed, and for a few minutes afterwards straggling shots were exchanged, but apparently without much effect. This interlude did not last over twenty minutes, and occurred shortly after 3 o'clock, and was followed by a lull for about three-quarters of an hour. In the meantime the boys and men of Stanbridge and Frelighsburg were straggling into camp, several of them armed with rifles, and a few with double barrelled guns. The scene which Eccles Hill presented at this time was a strange mixture of the military and picturesque. The volunteers, Home Guards, and spectators were all enjoying a pleasant recess, and wandered about the hill chatting and laughing at the somewhat comical termination of the first act of the drama of the Fenian liberation of Ireland. Groups were scattered about, and several were relating stories of the raid of 1866, when the Fenians had, unopposed, occupied Eccles Hill, Frelighsburg, Pigeon Hill and Cook's Corners; plundered the inhabitants, and after three days' occupation, safely retreated across the lines on learning that the troops were approaching. The treatment which the inhabitants then received at the hands of the Fenians, left an impression that the borderers have never forgotten, and which, as we have already stated, was the cause of the formation of the Home Guards and the strengthening of the Loyalists, creating at the same time a corresponding antipathy to the cowardly enemy and their American sympathizers.