

you now enter that of the enemy. The eyes of your country are upon you. Forward! March!"

The advance company was from Vermont, and was commanded by Captain Cronan, of Burlington. He replied to the address of General O'Neill as follows:—"General—I am proud that Vermont has the honor of leading this advance. Ireland may depend upon us to do our duty." The advance was then resumed, and General O'Neill entered Rykert's house to view in safety from an upper window the engagement.

The Fenians were divided into three bodies: the reserve, which was about 100 strong, behind the hill; the main body, under General Lewis, halted at Rykert's, and the advance guard, already mentioned, with a wild cheer, crossed the boundary line into British territory at the double. The leading file had just crossed the bridge at the creek, about 20 yards from the line, when the crack of half a dozen Canadian Rifles was heard from Eccles Hill, and John Rowe, the sentry at the iron post, who had joined Cronan's company as they advanced, fell dead across the road, shot through the left side. The volunteers then opened fire upon the enemy and wounded several. Captain Cronan's company returned the fire, but halted, undecided whether to advance. The sight of the British red-coats, and the shower of bullets which passed over the heads of the Fenians disconcerted them. Although they fired several volleys in return, and were supported by the fire of the main body, which had halted on the American side, under General Lewis, the men wavered, and several began to get out of range of the Canadian fire by retiring behind stone fences, &c. Captain Cronan just then received a shot in his side, and staggering to one side, called to a fellow officer to take command, and try to keep the men together. It was too late; they were now completely demoralized, and instead of lying down, as ordered, to escape the fire of the volunteers, and at same time keep their position, they turned and fled, seeking shelter wherever cover could be obtained. The conduct of the supports, or main body, under General Lewis, was somewhat similar. They kept up a fire, but ill-directed, for about a quarter of an hour, upon the Canadians, who, from their position on Eccles Hill, had an admirable view of the enemy while they practised sharp-shooting from among the rocks and the brush-wood which studded the hillside. At first the fire of the Canadian force was wild, and went high over the heads of the Fenians, who were drawn up on the road, in the hollow at the boundary line; but after the first or second round it was much better directed, and soon began to tell upon the enemy.

General Lewis, himself, was shot in the leg at the commencement of the action, and was lifted from his horse and carried into a house near by, with several other wounded Fenians.