

was also my assistant), and put on style, which pleased the aristocrats.

There was a young man at Picton who had never put in an entire set. He extracted, but they would come to Belleville for their new teeth. He was jealous, and was bound to leave. I, fearing a better man would get the place, went down, put up a vulcanizer for him, and gave him a new start; but the Quakers would go to the best man. Gilbert got wrathful, and said they were like a d— set of sheep—where one went the rest would follow. After six months I heard he was leaving; went down and gobbled him up. Put a man there to extract, make appointments etc., etc., and I went down every other week for two days, took impressions, etc., and the plates were all made at my office at Belleville. Also, every other week for two days I was at Kingston. Hence I had the three offices on hand. Thus I was master of the situation, from Cobourg on the west, Prince Edward County on the south, and Kingston on the east, and all the north.

This brings me to a little incident at Kingston. Two brothers (the Clements) came to Kingston. They wanted a vulcanizer, but thought my terms too steep. We had a pretty warm time at my rooms at the British-American one evening, and the eldest Clement lost his temper, and turned to me, clenching his fist, and said, "Relyea, you want to be a small Napoleon among us." I speak of this to show how completely I held the situation.

Now for the dark side of the picture. Napoleon had his downfall, so had I. My official position as Grand Worthy Chief involved an enormous correspondence, which, combined with my constant work excavating (that was before the dental engine came to our relief), brought on what the doctors said was pen paralysis, but the excavating had its part in it. I lost the use of my arm for fully a year, and was obliged to go to New York for relief.

It was not the want of practice that caused me to leave Belleville. I left in the fall of 1894, ostensibly to take a vacation; rented my office, or rather took in two young men to run my business for six months, intending to return. While at Chicago, in the spring of 1895, Mrs. Relyea's mother died in this house suddenly, which brought us here, and business relations compelled us to leave and come to this city. We are residing in the old family homestead. An invalid, a niece of Mrs. Relyea, of whom we have had the care for over twenty years, is still with us. I have a nice farm just outside of the city, where I seldom go, however, except in summer, to look over it. It is rented.

This has been written at intervals between calls, hence is not very connected. You can read the whole in less than fifteen minutes, and if there is anything you want more, let me know. I may not be here long—am now living on borrowed time.