

A CANADIAN HERO.

Mr. W. D. Andrews was born in the city of Kingston, Ontario, May 19th, 1853, and is consequently in his 26th year. His record is a brilliant one.

On the 9th May, 1869, when only 16 years of age, he rescued a young man named George Campbell, aged 16 years, who was seized with cramps while bathing, opposite the water works wharf, Ontario street, Kingston.

On May 27th, a few weeks after the above event, he rescued three Frenchmen, who, while crossing the harbour from Point Frederick to the city of Kingston, were accidentally capsized, a sudden squall striking the small skiff in which they were crossing, turning it completely over. They managed, however, to cling to the keel, until Andrews, who witnessed the accident from the Commercial Dock, foot of Princess street, (where he was then employed in the service of Messrs. Gurney & Glidden, forwarders, etc.,) sprang into a yawl that was moored to the dock, and placing the only oar there was in the boat over the stern, he sculled out to the drowning men, who could still be seen clinging to the bottom of the boat. After considerable difficulty Andrews succeeded in bringing them safe to land. The Frenchmen, after expressing their thanks to their brave preserver in broken English, proceeded to the barge upon which they were employed, and their gallant rescuer resumed his previous occupation as if nothing extraordinary had occurred. Andrews, who is modest as he is brave, seldom speaks of his heroic actions, leaving that duty to his numerous friends.

July 23rd, 1869, he rescued a younger brother, named Fred. M. Andrews, aged 14 years, who, while playing on a raft opposite Richardson's wharf, Kingston, fell into the bay, and had not Andrews, who was writing in the office upstairs, heard his cry, and taking in the situation at a glance, upon reaching the wharf plunged in with all his clothes on and rescued the boy, who had sunk twice before assistance arrived, he would in all probability have perished.

In September, 1869, Andrews removed to Toronto, where he took part in several swimming contests, in all of which he was successful. Subsequently he obtained employment on board the steamer *Waubuno*, Capt. P. M. Campbell, and while that steamer was lying at her moorings on the west side of the Sydenham river, at Owen Sound, (April 22, 1873,) he rescued an old man named —, who attempted to cross the river upon some floating timber, (the swing bridge being in course of repair at the time,) and when about mid-stream accidentally fell into the river and would in all probability have



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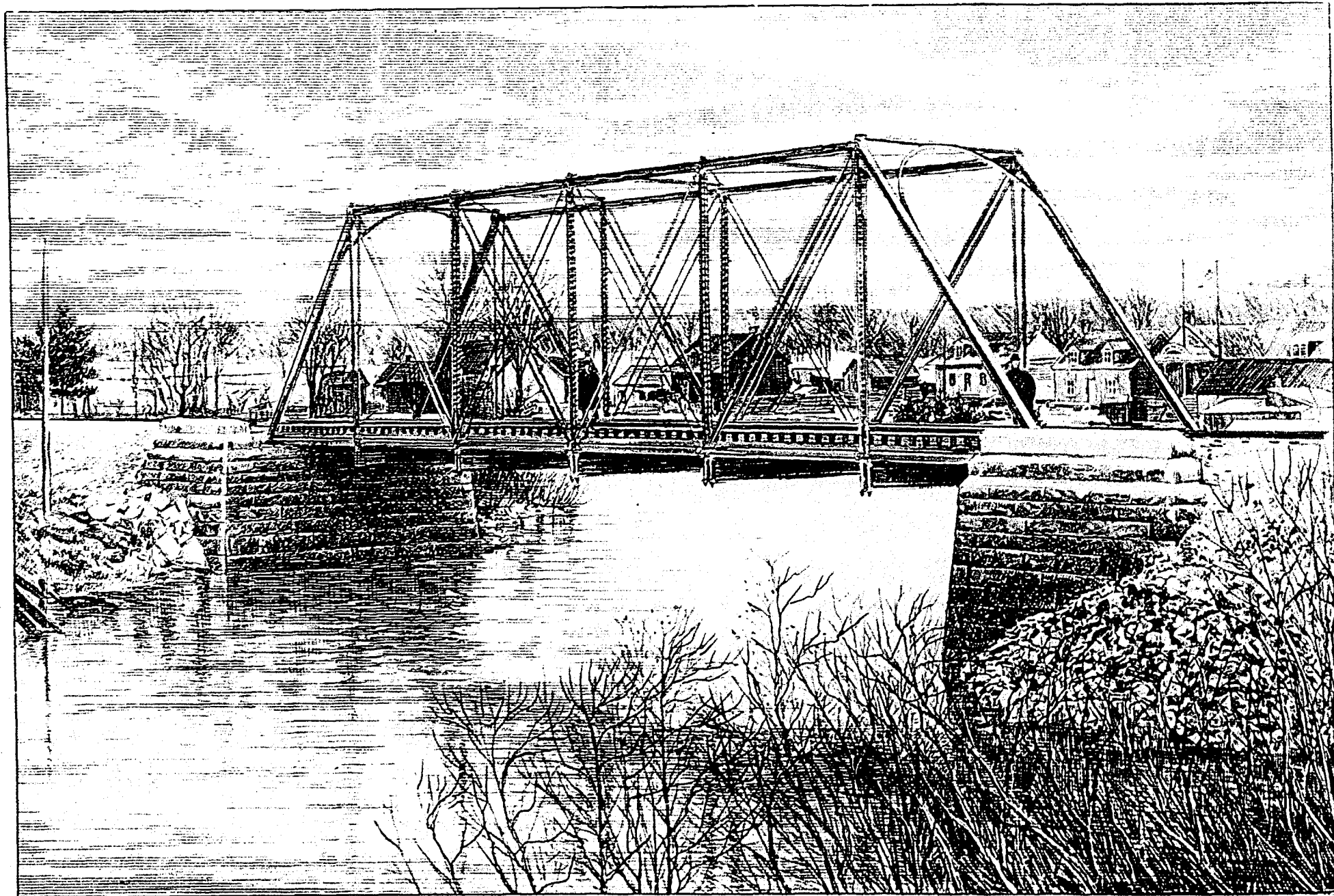
been drowned had not Andrews sprang off the *Waubuno*, where he was then employed, and swimming out to him effected a rescue, swimming back again to the *Waubuno* afterwards.

In 1874 Andrews returned to Toronto, where he was employed for a short time on the steamer *Southern Belle*. Subsequently he won in a mile swimming race on the 28th May, 1877—time, 23 min. 56 sec.

On the 24th June, 1878, while at practice in the river Don, he rescued a young man named Ed. Barnes, aged 18 years, who had got beyond his depth, and would in all probability have been drowned had not Andrews come to his assistance, he being unable to swim.

July 10th, 1878, he rescued, a little further up the river, an Englishman named Wm. Waghorne, under somewhat similar circumstances, for which he received a very handsome present from Mr. Waghorne.

Again, on the 26th of August, 1878, he rescued Mr. J. L. Thompson, aged 36 years, who was bathing in the river Don in company with another gentleman, when unfortunately he stepped into one of the numerous deep holes with which that river abounds, and being unable to swim would have been drowned (his companion being unable to assist him), when Andrews, who had just come down to the river, seeing the state of affairs, removing his coat, sprang into the river, and succeeded in rescuing him. Both gentlemen were profuse in their thanks; and to prove his gratitude, Mr. Thompson, after making enquiries from several persons, and ascertaining that Andrews had been the means of saving nine persons from drowning, he collected sufficient money to purchase a handsome gold medal, which was presented to Mr. Andrews a few months ago. The medal bears the following inscription: "Presented to W. D. Andrews for his gallant rescue of nine persons from drowning, May 9th, 1869, to Aug. 26th, 1878." On the reverse is engraved a round life preserver, with lines attached, on which is engraved: "Presented by the rescued." Mr. Thompson also sent a communication to the Royal Humane Society of England, stating full particulars of his case, properly witnessed, which proving satisfactory, the officers of that ancient institution sent their life-saving testimonial to the Mayor, James Beatty, Esq., Q.C., who presented it to Mr. Andrews at the regular meeting of the City Council, held in the City Hall, on the 13th inst., amid the applause of the Council. Andrews also won the half-mile swimming contest, Tuesday, July 8th, 1879, beating Mr. T. C. Paterson, his opponent, by 45 yards. On Wednesday, July 23, 1879, he won the 1½ mile contest—five contestants—by 63 yards—time, 37 min. 30 sec.



VIEWS ON Q. M. O. & O. RAILWAY.—LACHUTE.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY HENDERSON.