

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

We conclude this volume with extracts from letters written by a few of those who gave their lives in the war. No more fitting tribute could be paid to our noble dead than the publication of these last messages which show the ideals and high patriotism which burned bright within them even unto death.

The following letter, dated 7th September, 1916, was written to his mother by Private Gibson F. Skelton, formerly a member of the staff of our Vermilion branch:

Private Skelton was mortally wounded on 12th September, 1916, and died the same day. His brother was killed in action three months before:

My brother's death brought home to me with force the necessity of being prepared at all times for instant death as he was. One never knows what the next moment may bring forth, and especially here where the 'Huns' use such means of taking life. Should anything happen to me do not weep too much or be heartbroken. Remember that I am in God's keeping, and in what better way could I die than fighting for Him and my country. There is a mansion prepared for every one of us by our Lord, and it will be a very short time until we all meet there, never more to part, and where there is no trouble and sorrow.

"Dearest Mother, do not weep, and may the same good God who is caring for me keep and bless you all.

"Goodbye for a very short time."

The following is an extract from a letter written by Second Lieutenant D. E. Gordon, 12th Battalion Royal Scots, on 13th July, 1916. He was killed during an attack on Longueval village on the following day.

Mr. Gordon was formerly a member of the staff of our Saskatoon branch:

"What an honour to be allowed to partake in the greatest battle the world has known. Let us all hope we make a complete success of it and that we come through safely. However, duty first. And, after all, we must sacrifice if we want to win, and we must win."

The following has been received from the father of Private Walter Tucker, who died of wounds on board the hospital ship "Aquitania," in the Mediterranean, on 25th October, 1915.