

A Boy's Death

Tragedy and Glory of War.

By Harold Regbie, Liverpool.

Youth is perhaps the finest as it is certainly the most beautiful thing on earth—youth at its highest and its best. Sometimes we meet a very old person who is quite perfect in graciousness and sweetness of spirit with a beauty so wonderful that it is like a bright shadow cast by the radiance of heaven but age is a condition which sets us thinking not worshipping or enjoying and thought it is never without rapture, it is ever a little wistful and sad.

At its highest and its best, youth has such a splendour for middle-age that it appears to be the only inspiration of life. We look upon youth as we look upon an angel. He does not belong to this troublesome world which has made us cynical, which has smirched us, which is so small and trivial under its cloak of pretentiousness. He is perfectly clean of soul, perfectly strong of body, and he has that expression in his clear eyes which is the glory of innocence. Not yet is the trick of the courtesan a bewitchment of the fumes of alcohol a pleasure! He is still too fond of bird and beast, of fresh air and cold water, of sunrise and sunset, of the wood and the river. He is a visitor to the earth, not an inhabitant; an explorer of nature, not a spectator. To ride well is more to him than to amuse a dinner table and to play games in the open is a greater passion than to suffocate in night clubs and music halls. Besides, he is too near to the influence of his mother, to contemplate without horror the pollution of his soul. His purity is natural and spontaneous. His fervour is real. He is as superior to vice as a cultured man is superior to tolerance or vulgarity of manners. In his beauty, his freshness, and his goodness he is unconscious. He is Youth.

From School to the Grave.

Such boys, fresh from our public school, have gone in thousands to the battlefield. The earth is filled with their graves. They have perished in great waves. Each year of war flings up a new wave of this beauty and innocence, and every year the war lasts another wave will rise and follow to the shores of death. We have hated and envied who have tolerated secret diplomacy, who call the enemy "Hun" and "Boche," who cry at one moment, "To Hell with Serbia," and at the next drag the great name of God into our screaming leading articles, who sit at home saying, "how sad it all is," and wondering what the income tax will be for next year. We in England, and our likeminded Vulgarians in Germany, Reventlow and the rest, we middle aged men are hurling the youth of Europe into the furnace of death to settle our quarrels and to get what we have coveted. There is nothing so beautiful as youth, and I feel that it is not insularity which makes me think the English to be the finest and most beautiful of all. The young, clean-souled Englishman, born and bred in the country, born of cultured and virtuous parents, bred in the noblest traditions of our race, how near he is at his best, to an angel. His valor does not seem to me a great thing—we were all brave at twenty; but his chivalry, his chastity, his modesty, his tenderness, his silence—how heavenly are these things!

A Boy Hero.

The other day there died in France a boy from Claymores School, who had been loved by all who knew him. He was a boy's hero, a mother's hero, and the pride of his regiment. He had won the Military Cross and the D.S.O., and he died in the flush and rapture of his youth. His mother's letter to the headmaster, which has been printed in the school magazine, tells the story of his end in language so moving and so beautiful that I wish to give it to a wider public. This boy was in the rifle brigade, and his colonel said of him: "He was the best company commander by far that I have seen out here. . . . As I said in my recommendation of him for a D.S.O. 'He was the finest type of fighting officer I have ever seen.'"

A telegram from the War Office came to this boy's home one day, telling his parents that he was seriously wounded, and that they might visit him at Abbeville. The father was unable to go, but an hour after the telegram arrived, the mother and another son had started for France. They arrived an hour and a half too late, and yet not too late, for such a farewell will live in their souls forever. This is what the mother says: "We saw him in the mortuary looking such a soldier, and the dear

forehead was hardly cold when I kissed it. He was covered with the Union Jack and lay in front of the little altar—just the supreme sacrifice. We stayed to the funeral early Thursday, when a Captain Johnson, and three privates shared the same service. One other mother was there, who had nursed her boy for some days ere he went, and we three mourners stood in the glorious sunshine, the blue sky piled with grand banks of white clouds, and when the service was over, the buglers saluted us and them; and, standing between us and the open graves sounded the Last Post and the Reveille as I have never heard it before and never shall again; it must have rolled beyond the clouds and down the vaults of heaven till, I—himself must have heard it. Then we hastened back to England to tell the news we dare not wire."

A Type.

When you read these few words do you not seem to see in this one mother and this one son the whole human tragedy and also the whole human glory of war? The boy was what he was because of that breast which had fed him, those arms which had held him, that love which had enriched him, inspired him, and consecrated his young soul. And this devotion of the mother has for its end a grave in France. There was the brave parting in England when he went out to fight, and the last was hardly cold and yet there is no agonized cry of revolt from the mother, no furious imprecations, no bitterness of soul.

So England stoops and kisses the dear foreheads of her youth, covering them with her flag, laying them before the altar of God's judgment, leaving them there as just the supreme sacrifice. She has mothered them from infancy under summer and winter sky, giving them her roses to love, her hedgerows to hunt, her hills to climb, her great winds to make them strong, and her history for a tradition and an inspiration. She wanted them to make her homes happier and kinder. To give to her laws a deeper wisdom and a sweeter charity. To render her name more glorious among the nations of the earth, to impassion human life was something finer and grander than we have had in our souls to give. But she has been forced to surrender this gracious work to death, leaving in our hands, which are perhaps not guiltless of blood, the task which should have been theirs. She is bereft of her youth. She hears the "last post" sounding for them, and wonders if reveille will sound for us.

"Shall it be in vain His dazzling courage, his piteous pain, Shall our glorious flag that he flung so high, Slide down but an inch in the starry sky?" There is only one thing in England more moving than the death of these glorious children. It is the courage of their mothers, and that courage for us who remain should sound an eternal, a resistless Reveille in our souls.

Greece Embarrassed

By American Note

LONDON, Feb. 8.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from Athens says: "The American communication to Greece requesting a definite of her attitude in view of the German submarine blockade has somewhat embarrassed the Greek Government, which is sounding other neutrals before replying."

ARTIST WAS FROZEN

Edwyn O. Chambers, a well known young artist of Ogdensburg, has his both feet amputated between the ankle and the knee; and the fingers of his right hand amputated; and the entire little finger and parts of his other hand taken off at the City Hospital there, as the result of being frozen on the morning of Dec. 21 when he was found unconscious on the street.

FIRE AT PETERBORO

Fire in the oil tanks in the transformer test department at the C.G.E. Co's plant resulted in a fire loss officially estimated at between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Neither the origin of the blaze nor the loss suffered was known by the superintendent, Mr. E. G. Patterson, who stated, however, that while the actual damage by fire would be about \$3,000.

INAUGURATION OF THE BOARD

School Trustees Given Various Appointments Last Evening Mr. B. Mallory Again Chairman.

Mr. Burnham Mallory was last evening unanimously re-elected chairman of the Board of Education on motion of Mr. F. E. O'Flynn and Mr. L. C. Pascoe. Lt.-Col. Ponton was voted to the chair pro tem at the meeting of inauguration.

Inspector H. J. Clarke was chosen secretary-treasurer pro tem during the absence of Mr. W. J. Diamond.

Mr. W. J. Diamond was again unanimously reappointed secretary-treasurer at the same salary.

Mr. O'Flynn and Col. Ponton spoke in praise of Mr. Diamond, who, it was hoped, would soon be again at his desk at the Board of Education.

The members present were H. W. Ackerman, F. S. Deacon, John Elliott, J. B. Ives, A. McGie, W. R. McCreary, S. S. Moore, L. C. Pascoe, Col. W. N. Ponton, Frank Sharpe, H. Sneyd, L. R. Terwilliger and Geo. T. Woodley.

Nominating committees were struck and chairmen elected as follows:

B. Mallory, Chairman of Board.
Finance

Mr. John Elliott, chairman, Messrs Deacon, McGie, Sharpe, Moore, Bailey McCreary, Muir, Sneyd and Ponton.

School Management

Mr. F. E. O'Flynn, chairman, Messrs. Terwilliger, Ketcheson, Elliott, McGie, Woodley, Pascoe, Ives, C. M. Reid, and Judge Wills.

Sites, Buildings and Repairs

Mr. A. McGie, chairman, Messrs. Wills, Terwilliger, O'Flynn, Ackerman, Ponton, Sneyd, Ives and Bailey

Printing and Supplies

Mr. F. S. Deacon, chairman, Messrs. Sharpe, Pascoe, Ketcheson, Muir, McCreary, Moore and Woodley

High School

Mr. C. M. Reid, chairman, Messrs. Deacon, Ketcheson, Ackerman, Elliott, Sneyd, Sharpe, O'Flynn, Pascoe, Ives, Bailey, Wills, Wims, McGie and Ponton.

Queen Victoria School

Mr. L. C. Pascoe, chairman, Messrs. Ives, Terwilliger, Muir, Ketcheson, Moore and Ackerman.

Queen Alexandra School

Mr. H. Sneyd, chairman, Messrs O'Flynn, Wills, Sharpe, Moore, C. M. Reid and A. McGie.

Queen Mary School

Mr. A. E. Bailey, chairman, Messrs. Woodley, Elliott, Deacon, Terwilliger and Ponton.

Grier Street School

Mr. W. R. McCreary, chairman, Messrs. Terwilliger, Ackerman and Ives.

Canadians Carry Out Two Trench Raids

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The following communique was issued by the Canadian records office today:

Revealing in the opportunities presented by the wintry conditions, Canadian troops have carried out two more successful raids. Carefully planned and brilliantly executed, both operations were completed without a hitch and as a result recent Canadian captures were swelled by twenty-three prisoners and two machine guns.

One raid was made at night by a composite party from Manitoba and Alberta and the other in daylight, by men from Quebec. The principal purpose in each instance was to harry the enemy, destroy his mine shafts and secure prisoners. Both parties thoroughly fulfilled their mission. In addition German dugouts and machine gun emplacements were destroyed by explosives and the enemy's light in proportion to the complete success of the enterprise. The Canadians have now to their credit a total of seven successful raids in the past few days.

DEATH OF MRS. MADDEN

The late Mrs. Eliza Madden, widow of the late A. C. Madden, who preceded her to the tomb twelve years ago, was born in England, in 1841, and came to Belleville as a child. She spent the remainder of her long life here. She was a member of St. George St. Methodist church. Mourning her death are one sister, Mrs. John Hick, one son George, and three daughters, Misses Jennie and Annie of this city and Miss Nellie of Toronto. Mrs. Madden was a highly esteemed lady whose death is deeply mourned.

REVC. F. McINTOSH TO CAMPBELLFORD

Rev. C. F. McIntosh, M.A., B.D., who has been in charge of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, for the last three years has accepted the call which was tendered him some time ago by Campbellford, at a meeting of the Guelph Presbytery held yesterday afternoon in Chalmers church, the call to Mr. McIntosh, was ratified and he announced his intention of accepting.

A delegation, comprising Messrs Dyson, Wright, Doughty, Donaldson, and Gibson, appeared before the Presbytery to have Mr. McIntosh, retained. Mr. Scrimgeour, also spoke on behalf of Knox church.

Rev. McDougall Hay, of Elora, Moderator of the Guelph Presbytery, occupied the chair at the meeting yesterday, and it was announced that Mr. McIntosh would preach his farewell sermon next Sunday, and the pulpit would be declared vacant on the Sunday following. Dr. McGillivray, of Knox Church, was appointed Moderator during the vacancy in St. Paul's.

PETERBOROUGH TO BUY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT

For a lump sum of approximately \$400,000 Peterboro may purchase from the Hydro-Electric Commission, the complete plans of the Peterboro Radial Railway Company, the Ottonabee Power Company, and the Gas Company. Such was the offer Sir Adam Beck extends to a cepulation that waited on the Commission in Toronto, Thursday, representing the city council and the Utilities Commission. The purchase is optional with the city. The three concerns are operated on a paying basis but it is the Hydro Commission's desire to dispose of them whenever the city is prepared to take them over.

THINK FORGERY CASE IS SOLVED

Sentencing Of Belleville Pay Clerk To Two Years, Clears Up Local Case

Military authorities think that the sentencing of Sergt. Foster, of the 235th. battalion at Belleville, to two years in the penitentiary, clears up the investigation that was carried on here last fall, and which brought a few local people into the limelight.

Foster was convicted on two charges of forgery and sentenced to two years on each charge, the terms to run concurrently. He was a clerk in the paymaster's office of the 235th. battalion. It will be remembered that last fall, Dominion Police officers, and handwriting experts, conducted an investigation here, but nothing came of it. It is now stated that the case investigated here was one which Foster committed and in view of that the military men regard the matter as cleared up.—Kingston Standard.

INVENTION MAY BE PERFECTED

The recent mysterious destruction of munition plants in New Jersey, calls to mind the remarkable statement made in a newspaper which reached this country from Germany, about a year ago, that a German inventor was working on a death-dealing device, which when perfected would astonish the world.

While the article did not go into details, it has hinted that the invention consisted of sending certain peculiar electric waves, by means similar to a wireless apparatus, which waves, while invisible would act with the celerity of a bolt of lightning, and destroy everything they came in contact with. It is added that such an appliance on a submarine could operate under water and sink any ship within a radius of twenty miles, and that the apparatus used a similar method to the air.

While it is ridiculous to think that the mysterious explosions in New Jersey, were the result of any such remarkable invention, nevertheless, the war in Europe has brought so many surprises that anything seems possible.

CUT ARTERY IN FOOT

Michael Trudeau, son of Mr. Jas. Trudeau, Hungerford, met with a painful accident on Thursday. He was engaged at cutting cordwood, when his axe glanced and came in contact with the instep of his foot, severing an artery. He at once came to Dr. Robertson's office, Tweed, where it was found necessary to put in 5 stitches to close up the wound.

PRESENTATION TO GEO. IRVINE

Former Mail Carrier, Now Artilleryman Given Wrist Watch.

A very enjoyable event took place on Monday evening, when the Letter Carriers of Belleville and a few friends gathered at Mr. R. C. Andrews' residence 264 Coleman St. to present Mr. George Irvine with a small gift in token of their esteem in which he is held.

George has enlisted with the Cobourg Heavy Battery and expects to proceed overseas at an early date.

After refreshments had been partaken of, Miss Doris Brooke, on behalf of the Carriers, presented Mr. Irvine with a wrist watch and an address was read by W. R. Hinchey.

Although taken by surprise, Mr. Irvine replied with a few well chosen words.

Mr. Walter Hutchinson, a returned hero, now a member of the Carriers staff, told many interesting stories of trench life.

Miss Crissie Turney gave several recitations, which were enjoyed very much.

The Carriers' orchestra with Miss Brooke as pianist, furnished music for the evening.

The pleasant evening closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Ready To Seize Interned Ships

Hoboken, N.J., Feb. 8.—At Hoboken may be staged the United States' first act of war, if war against Germany is declared. It is taken for granted that the federal authorities in the event of hostilities becoming assured, will seize the German passenger and freight liners in American ports before permitting a declaration of war to be made public. As the largest and most valuable of German liners, including the Vaterland, which is the largest vessel afloat, are at Hoboken the Mile-Square City is likely to be the first place in the country to be made aware of the fact if war is declared.

Information described as "reliable," which is invariably anonymous, continues to be used as the basis of tales purporting to give detailed and minute accounts of the disabling of the machinery of the liners. A "secret agent" of the Kaiser's government, one New-York paper declares, made a tour of all the Teuton vessels, quaffing a "half litre of beer" at each after which he conveyed the order to disable the engines so the ships would be useless to the U.S. in case of seizure.

Collector of the Port Dudley Field Malone took occasion today to deny the truth of these stories.

Warning Of Plot To Destroy Great Bridge

New York, Feb. 8.—Every policeman in the downtown section of the city and scores of plainclothesmen, as well as the members of the naval militia, are carefully watching for the first sign of trouble at or near the Brooklyn bridge, oldest of the bridges connecting Manhattan with Brooklyn and the one which if destroyed would effectually sweep the lower section of the city through the great cables which support it.

An anonymous warning of a plot to blow up the bridge last night prompted unusual vigilance.

Book No Passengers On American Ships

New York, Feb. 8.—The International Mercantile Marine today sent out instructions to its agents throughout the country requesting them to cease booking passengers on American Line ships.

Announcement of this action came soon after publication of a statement from the state department that no convoy would be provided for American ships bound through the German war zone.

IS RECOVERING

Mr. Chas. Rashotte, who met with an accident two weeks ago while engaged at lumbering at Glen Lewis, is improving favorably. He was at the top of the high skiway and slipping fell some distance, his chin coming in contact with a log. The shock effected his nerves and muscles to such an extent that he had absolute no use of his legs or arms, a sort of numbness throughout his entire system taking possession of him. Since a feeling has re-established itself he can feel a soreness in his left hand and his nose. The only mark that would indicate that he had met

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The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of Dr. J. C. Fletcher and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience Against Experiment.

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HORSES AND AUTO BURNED

The barn of Mr. Fred B. Smith, liveryman, 10 Geddes street, was destroyed by fire last evening with most of the contents. The first alarm came into the police that Aselstine's livery was afire. This occurred through Mr. Smith's son and another boy running over to Aselstine's and telephoning in when the second boy sent in the name of Aselstine's livery, the Smith boy said, "No, it was the Smith livery."

The barn was owned by Mr. Smith, who had an automobile, two horses and harness, etc. destroyed. The cause is unknown. The loss is estimated at \$1,000. The insurance on the entire property totals about \$1,300.

At 12.45 a.m. the firemen were again called to the scene as the framework had caught again. Particulary a shell remains.

FUNERAL OF JAMES WADDELL
The obsequies of the late James Waddell, of Sarnia, took place on Thursday morning from the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Vincent Huffman, Grove street to St. Michael's church, where Rev. Father Hyland celebrated mass. Thence the remains were taken to Belleville vault. The bearers were Frank Fitzpatrick, J. O. St. Charles, John Penny, Thomas J. Hurley and Messrs. McNulty and Wims.