

1 ELLTON NEWS

Presented to Rev. Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Schurman.

By Judge Eodisius Botkin, American Consul.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The last twelve months have been fraught with mingled disaster and blessings for the people of Campbellton. From the high plane or lofty heights of a serene enjoyment of abundance, well established and satisfactory business and industrial pursuits, and cozy, comfortable and happy homes they were suddenly hurled into sloughs of heart breaking disappointment, their business and industrial pursuits ruined, their homes and all their possessions in ashes. One noon smiled down upon a peaceful scene of busy life, glowing prospects, contentment and unsuspecting happiness. The next mid-day sun found them all homeless, foodless and shelterless! No more charming scene of peaceful, pulsing life could anywhere have met the gaze of a practical philosopher than that which blessed the south shore of the Restigouche at high noon on Last July 11. No more appalling sight could have been found than this same community at the meridian hour on July 12! Perhaps in all the annals of the North American Continent, without the agencies of the incendiary, the surrounding crackling forest, or a wild grass covered prairie to feed and force the conflagration, was there never such a total destruction of a thriving town and all the property of five thousand people! At noon time all were full of lusty, hopeful animation. Night came and the pitying stars above saw the entire town site converted into an angry, tossing sea of flame! The morning dawned at last to light the unbroken plain of ashes and smouldering fires. Only six or seven homes were saved — NOTHING MORE! Thousands of men, women and children were homeless, shelterless, foodless.

But along the wires flashed the news of a whole community's direful distress, and then swift winged, "Charity, love's other name, Dear Heaven connecting link of being" came with food and raiment and the many other necessities of civilized life: and HOPE that "springs eternal in the human breast" re-asserted her away, and Courage and Buoyancy shook out their flags in defiance of Misfortune, and unconquerable Canadian Resolution proclaimed:

"Let's agsin be up and doing,
"With a heart for any fate,
"Still achieving, still pursuing
"Learn to labor and to wait."

Hasty homes were constructed, but temporary in their character, small, crowded and with meager furniture; business re-began in shacks that were a mockery of business houses. The first of another summer finds the town rapidly re-approaching completion, and it will be a better and more beautiful town than ever before. Once again all is comfort, contentment and joy! The future is ruddy with hope and confidence! The awful experiences of the past—tormenting and crushing as they were, have become reminiscences and the inspiring source of wisdom.

On the great seal of the State of Kansas there is inscribed the Latin motto reminiscent of the troublous years that preceded its statehood—"Ad astra per aspera"—to the stars through difficulties. When the new Campbellton shall have been completed, when brick and stone structures shall face from both sides upon Water Street; when the greater and grander School building shall be erected; when the splendid church buildings that are to go up this summer shall be ready for occupancy; when the power plant shall be permanently re-established, and the larger, more commodious and more beautiful railway stations shall all be finished; then in that glad day of this people's triumph, may they, too, remember that a Loving Heavenly Father has brought them through all the vicissitudes of the past to a contemplation of the blessed stars of success at last!

Here we will turn our reflections backward, and peer through the mists and the curtain of smoke that in memory hang about the last summer, autumn and winter's experience. And as we gaze backward we see certain forms moving here and there, visiting the brave and crowded families, the self-denying and often suffering people. We hear their words of steady kindness, of heartfelt sympathy, of encouragement and wise counsel, and we see their hands extended to help and to guide. We all know their forms. They are God's servants, who have well learned and remembered the admonitions of the Great Apostle—"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of

Christ," are serving their Master by doing good for the good's sake and not for notoriety or men's applause. Yes, my friends, you watched them and I watched them, and all of us saw them do those things through all the weary weeks and the dragging months. We saw them carry good cheer into gloomy homes. We saw their words and works of kindness and fraternal sympathy light again the smiles on forlorn countenances. It may literally be said of them that "they smoothed the furrowed brow of care; they lifted the heavy burdens from the stooped shoulders of toil; they lighted anew or fanned into intenser flame the fires of hope and courage in the hearts of discouraged men and women; they brought back the rose tints of contentment, peace and happiness to the wan cheeks of the distressed, and at their coming the song birds of joy made music in the hearts of children."

Now, one more misfortune awaits Campbellton. One more of those families whom we have, all learned to love for their usefulness, their unselfish devotion in our great trial period, is about to leave us and go to a distant field of labor. And we have met here this evening to give them a good bye greeting and to carry them a token of our esteem and love.

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Schurman, this is no mere lip service. By your conduct in every line of duty since you came here a little more than a year ago, you have earned and you receive the respect of us all. We have long ago taken your full measure as a Christian minister, and wife, and I have been trying to portray the results of that measurement. I shall not say that you, Mr. Schurman, or any other good man has no foes, or critics. I don't know so well about that, but I do know that the only things in all the animal kingdom, including Man, that does not have any foes, is a clam. But a wise Creator gave the clam no back bone. I am sure you have a spinal column, that you have the manly courage of your honest conviction. But getting back to your measure again, we have found you consistent Christians, a devoted minister and help mate, zealous citizens, wise counsellors, helpful neighbors. You have visited the sick, consoled the distressed, relieved aching hearts of their pain, encouraged the faint and comforted the weary. Why you, Mr. Schurman, have even worked with hammer, saw, plane and chisel in building and assisting to build shelter for our people! To lose you from our community is to us a great loss, but your duty calls you hence, and you must obey, and we submit to your fate. We will remember you. We will not forget your services to this community in those days of misery and want, when your brave words and braver examples were an inspiration to those about you. Nor, will we forget that while the community was struggling from all its weary difficulties that succeeded the disaster of last July you were one of its chief pilots on its way upward toward the stars of success, re-established business and order, comfort and contentment in its thousand homes.

At the same time we are a bit selfish on our part, for we wish to be remembered by you. We wish you to remember that you have a host of good friends in Campbellton who will ever rejoice in your successes and happiness and sorrow over any griefs that may overtake you. So with our heartfelt fraternal love and as a token of our very highest esteem and kindest regards, we ask you to accept as a present from us these easy chairs, one for each of you, as a token and pledge of that love and esteem which you will carry with you from these devoted friends. Accept, please, and "God be with you until we meet again."

Chief Hughes made a raid on Thursday afternoon, netting a large and varied assortment of liquors. For a dry town it was quite a fair load and when the team passed with the Scotch a few tears were dropped. Even the skies were weeping.

The death of Mr. John Haley occurred at his home in Nash's Creek, Restigouche Co., on May 10th, after a lingering illness, aged 66 years. He is survived by his wife, four daughters and two sons. The funeral was largely attended and interment was made in the Nash's Creek Cemetery. The pall-bearers were Patrick Doyle, James Landry, Patrick Salter, Paul Doyle, of Jacquet River; James Lavolette and Thos. Landry of Bellefleur.

Every Woman is invited to attend the... (text partially obscured)

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