

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES

Of the 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance

AS IT IS WRITTEN BY WILLIAM, SON OF HISDAD.

CHAPTER VI.

1. And when all was in order as had been commanded, and the advance stations had been opened at a place called St. Julien, and another at a place called Wiertge, the officers and men did go into the city of Ypres, and did behold the ruins of the Cathedral and of the Cloth Hall.

2. And their hearts were filled with grief when they did behold these works of centuries laid waste by the guns of the enemy; and they said one to the other "Surely this is the work of the devil, and the Lord will give us the strength to smite these doers of wanton destruction."

3. And it came to pass that in the evening of the sixth day of the week, and the seventh day of the fourth month, while the soldiers were yet at their evening meal, lo and behold there was a great noise of guns: yea, greater than even the noise of a great thunderstorm, and the flash of the guns was like unto the lightning thereof.

4. The earth trembled, and the heavens were as a fiery furnace; and the people of the city did gather together with fear and trembling, and the children did cry and cling to their mothers, and the soldiers did hasten each to his post of duty.

5. And one James, whose surname was Fraser, and William, whose surname was Fox, did hasten to the gates of the city in order that they might learn of the battle.

6. And as they passed outside the city they did meet a soldier, and they said unto him, "What meaneth this bombardment?" and he answered them saying "The Engineers of our Army have laid a mine under the enemy on Hill 60,

7. Which, when the enemy has been driven to his dug-outs by the guns, it will be fired, and our soldiers will rush over the open and will hide themselves in the crater that has been made by the explosion of the mine."

8. And even as he spake these things the earth did tremble as an aspen leaf, and there was a great light in the heavens.

9. The night was far spent when James and William returned to their billets, but sleep would not come to their eyes, and they did lay with dread in their hearts listening to the shells that passed over their dwelling all the night long.

10. And did set fire to the city in many places. And it came to pass that very early in the morning James said unto William "Let us arise and go upon the ramparts of the walls that are around the city, for rather would I be killed on my feet than in bed."

11. And they did arise and go out into the streets ere it was yet light, but by the light of the burning city they did find their way to the city walls.

12. And when they had got upon the wall they could behold the burning city as did Nero of old behold the burning of Rome; and while they gazed before them there came upon them an Officer of the Guard.

13. And he cried out in a loud voice with much anger and swearing, saying "What do ye here at this hour? Know ye not that it is written that no one may walk on these walls save those that have letters from the General?"

14. And they answered him not, for they had not with them letters from the General; and they did straightway get down from the wall and did go through the ruined streets to the place where the hospital was.

15. It was now the Sabbath Day, but the enemy did not cease his bombardment of the city. The inhabitants were running through the streets that lead to the main roads leading from the city, taking with them what valuables they could.

16. And for two days did the tribe of the 2nd Field Ambulance stay in the city, and did minister to the wounded soldiers and civilians.

17. On the twenty-first day of the month the great Chief, whose surname was Foster, did send a messenger to the Commander of the tribe, whose surname was McPherson, saying:

18. "The enemy has massed large bodies of troops against us, and will train his guns on all the roads that lead to the city, so that none may enter or leave thereof;

19. So while there is yet time get together the two sections B and C, together with their supplies and equipment, and command them to journey to a place called Elverdinge, and there remain until I send again a messenger unto you.

20. And Section A you will command to remain in the city and minister to the wounded till they have all been taken away to a place of safety."

21. And the Commander called unto him the Commander of B Section, whose surname was Bentley, and the Commander of C Section, whose surname was Snell, and did read unto them the message he had received.

22. And they did straightway prepare to leave; and at the sixth hour all was in readiness, and the Commander called unto him William, whose surname was Fox, and said unto him:

23. "In order that these sections may move with greater haste, get you upon your horse and get four wagons that belong to A Section, that these men may ride therein.

24. And when they have come to their journey's end you will return again to the city with the wagons."

25. It was about the eighth hour when the sections did arrive at the appointed place, which was an old farm about six miles from the city.

26. And while they did prepare the evening meal the guns of the enemy did burst forth with great violence, the earth trembled, and the sky was lighted by the bursting shells, and new fires did break out in the city.

27. And in the gathering darkness the sight struck horror to those who beheld it, for they knew that many were the lives of women and children who were being sacrificed in the burning city.

28. And William, as he had been commanded, did hasten with the wagons of A Section back to the burning city; and as they hastened along the road they did meet many French soldiers coming towards them in great fear, crying "The Alleman come."

29. And as they pressed their way through the maddened throng a strange scent came to their nostrils, and their eyes did smart till they could hardly see their way, and their throats burned as of fire.

CANADIAN CONCERT.

By kind permission of the Hon. Minister of Militia and Defence, Major-General Sir Sam. Hughes, a special concert in aid of the Canadian Base Hospitals was held in the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Sunday, Sept. 24th, 1916. The programme was furnished by the Canadian massed bands, under the direction of Sir Thomas Beecham, with Bandmaster J. Stighs and Assistant Bandmaster Bannocrough. Miss Eileen D'Orme and Miss Margaret Cooper also contributed pleasing selections. The magnificent hall was crowded by the friends of the many Canadian Hospitals, and a splendid entertainment was enjoyed by all. Capt. D. A. Campbell escorted about fifty Canadian patients from the Ontario Military Hospital, and represented our institution on the occasion.

OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS.

The Recreation Committee would extend their warm appreciation to the following, who have contributed to the comfort and pleasure of the patients in the Ontario Military Hospital:—

Miss M. Swale, Great Portland-street, London;
Miss M. Shrimpton, Brandon House, Halstead, Sevenoaks;
Miss Haycraft, The Gables, Blackheath, London;
Mr. Morris, Orpington;
Miss Misselbrook, Bromley;
Miss R. Henry, Wallingford Avenue, Notting Hill.

Also the devoted services given week in and week out by the ladies of the Canadian and British Red Cross Societies, whose presence is looked for eagerly each week.

This last month quite a number of good books and magazines have been sent to us by the British Red Cross and Order of Jerusalem, London. For these gifts the Ontario Military Hospital is very grateful.

It would be impossible to compute the number of cigarettes that are used in a day by the men in the wards, but to quote what was overheard the other day, "There is still corn in Egypt." We thank our numerous friends who keep our garners full; the Canadian Red Cross, and last, but not least, our good friend Mr. Dan MacLaughlan, of Arrnprior, Ontario.

We cannot forget the kindness of our local friends in Orpington, who every day send in a liberal supply of vegetables, flowers and fruit for the patients.

Our warmest thanks are due to the kind people of Stirling, Ontario, Canada, who through the efforts of Mrs. McPotts and Mrs. Watt subscribed the sum of £10 and sent to Nursing Sister Miss Ethel Anderson to be expended for the good and pleasure of the patients. A bountiful supper was laid in the new dining hall, and after all had partaken of the many good things provided, three hearty cheers were given for Mrs. McPotts and Mrs. Watt and the many kind friends in Stirling.

While the patients are kindly thought of, the staff of Doctors and Nursing Sisters are not forgotten.

Mr. Charles P. Phillips, of Sevenoaks, believes that a change of environment is good for all concerned.

Through the kindness of our mutual friend, delightful trips have been arranged to visit many interesting places in Kent near and far. All have returned feeling grateful to the friends who have helped in making these trips so interesting.

The Right Rev. W. C. White, Bishop of Horan, China, and Chaplain to the Forces, paid us a visit this last month, and confirmed in one of the wards.

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