

That there are many Orangemen among the contingents gone from our Dominion is needless for me to mention, for Orangemen are always ready if need be to offer their lives in defending the honor and glory of the Empire. All honor to those sons of Canada who have gone to South Africa! All honor to the fathers and mothers and wives who have permitted their loved ones to depart from them! To those of our land who have lost a loved one we extend our deepest sympathy, and our prayer is that the Great Builder of nations may be their Solace and Comfort; and while there must necessarily be loss of life where danger is so great, yet we have to rejoice at the brilliant conduct of our Canadian soldiers in forcing the surrender of General Cronje, and in every other engagement in which they took part. Great has been the glory brought home to us by their heroic deeds, and Canada to-day occupies in the British Empire the coveted position of being the brightest star in the Imperial diadem.

In no part of the British Empire was the news of the relief of Ladysmith received with greater warmth and enthusiasm than in Canada. Every village, town and city throughout our vast Dominion fittingly celebrated the climax of General Buller's mighty effort to relieve our brethren from the dire position which they had so long occupied.

While we rejoice at the loyalty of the great majority of our people to our Queen and nation, we cannot but realize that there are in our land those calling themselves British subjects who are thoroughly disloyal and who wish for the destruction of Her Majesty's Empire. Let us be thankful these are but a small minority to whom we can properly apply the words of Sir Walter Scott:

"Living to forfeit fair renown;
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from which he sprang
Unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

I am pleased at the generous contributions of our Canadian citizens to the Patriotic Fund, and feel sure the Orange Brotherhood are doing their share in promoting this laudable object—the future comfort of those who may suffer the loss of a dear one on the far off fields of dark South Africa.

THE SENTINEL.

I should be sorry to close my address without referring to the good work of *The Sentinel*, the organ of the Orangemen of Canada. I trust the brethren will increase their support of the journal which so justly merits our assistance.

In conclusion, brethren, let me again wish for a pleasant and harmonious meeting, such as will reflect credit upon us and be beneficial to our glorious Association. May our every word and act be tempered with prudence and brotherly love, for without these virtues our Association cannot attain the high standard which its founders intended.

I am, faithfully and fraternally yours,

D. M. JERMYN,

Grand Master Ontario West.

BRACEBRIDGE, March 14th, 1900.