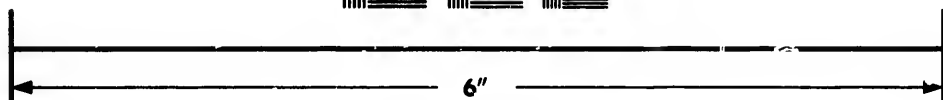
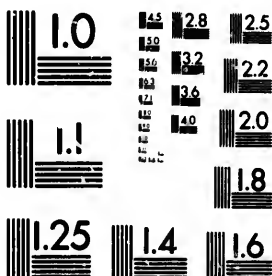


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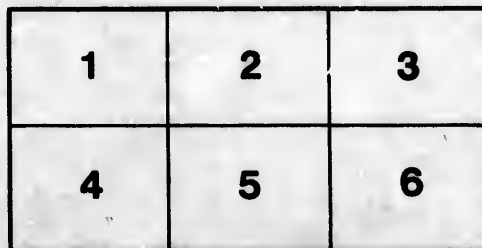
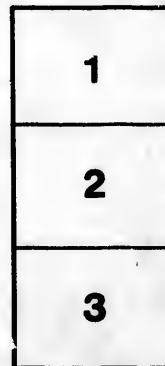
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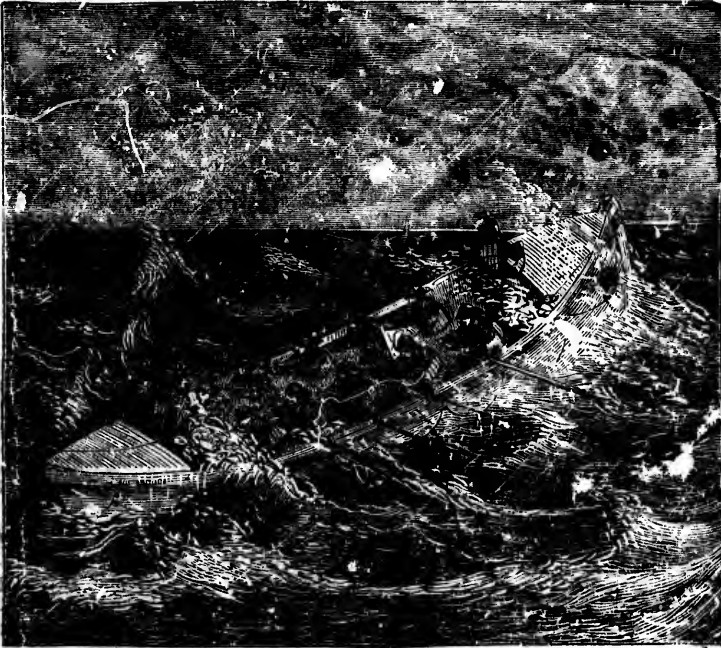
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THE LIFEBOAT

AND OTHER POEMS.

WITH A RECORD OF
EIGHTEEN YEARS' SERVICE

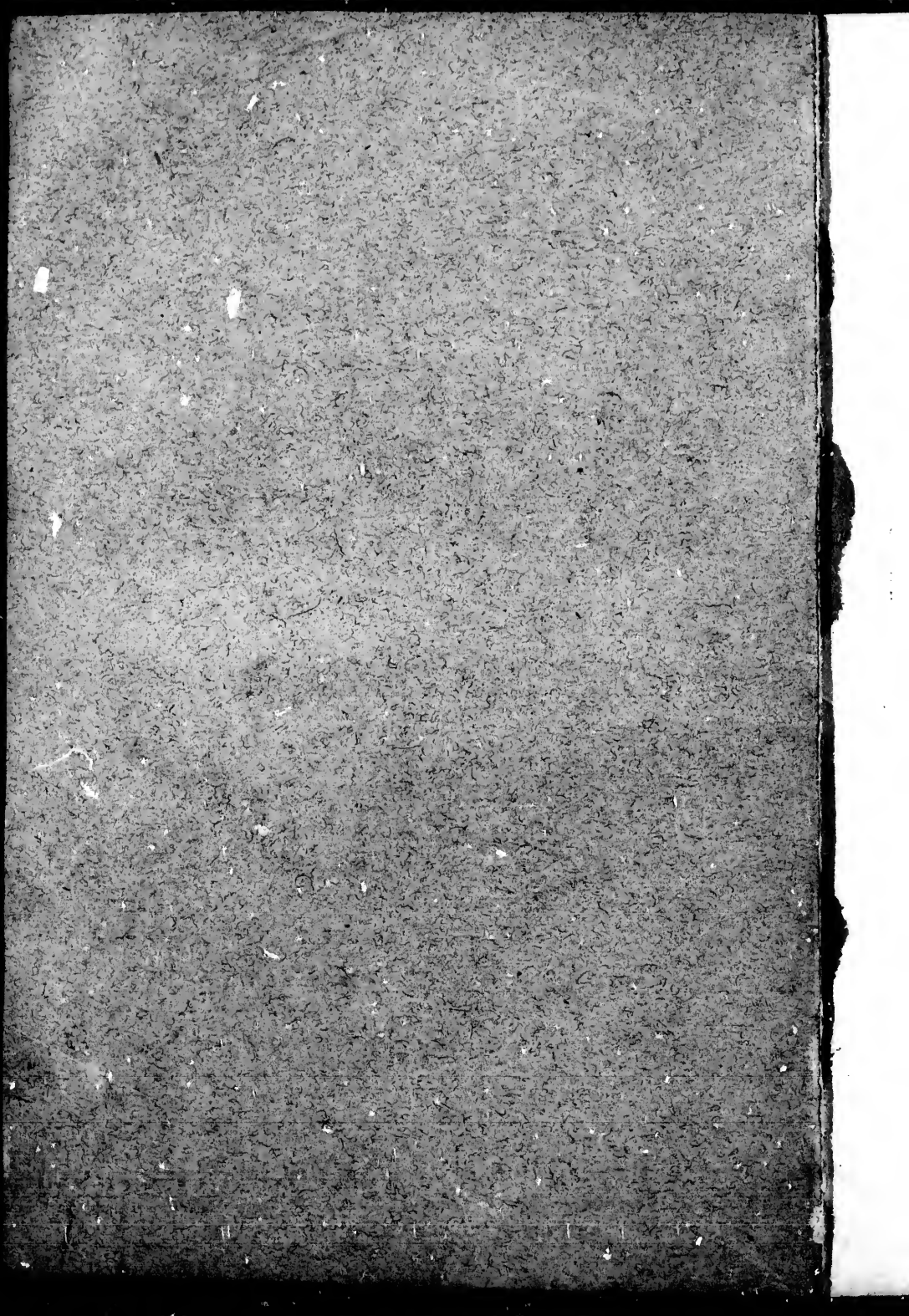


By CAPTAIN W. D. ANDREWS, R.H.S.

The Blind Author of "A New Year's Greeting," "Swimming and Life-Saving," etc., etc.

WITH 25 ILLUSTRATIONS

"Oh, ye whose eyes are open to the glorious light of day,
Consider how the darkness falls upon the blind man's way,
And let compassion's fingers play upon your heart's pure strings,
That hope may o'er his darkened life throw her protecting wings."



37-



CAPT. W. D. ANDREWS.

THE LIFEBOAT

AND OTHER POEMS



BY

CAPTAIN W. D. ANDREWS; R.H.S.

Toronto Harbor Life-Saving Crew

TRUE HEROISM

"We honor our soldiers, but what of the men
Whose deeds of cool daring in fire and in flood
Have saved precious lives, yes, again and again,
For these can we say we have done what we could?
The brave fellows thrilled with humanity's cry,
Have plunged in the water, or rushed through the flame,
And quick to the rescue to save life or die,
Are heroes who never need blush at the name."

—ROBERT AWDE

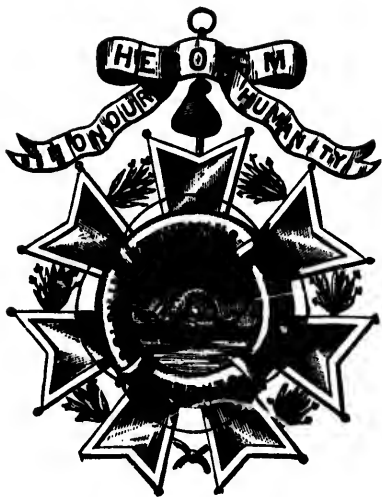
TORONTO

WILLIAM BRIGGS

WESLEY BUILDINGS

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CREST OF DOLPHIN SWIMMING CLUB.



AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION MEDAL.

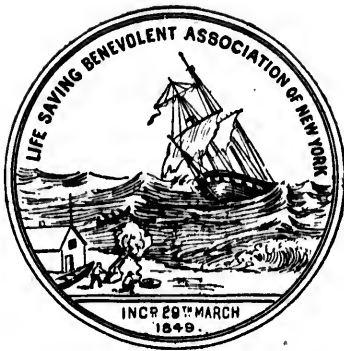
PREFACE.

“He that saveth a human life is greater than one that taketh a city.”—CONFUCIUS.

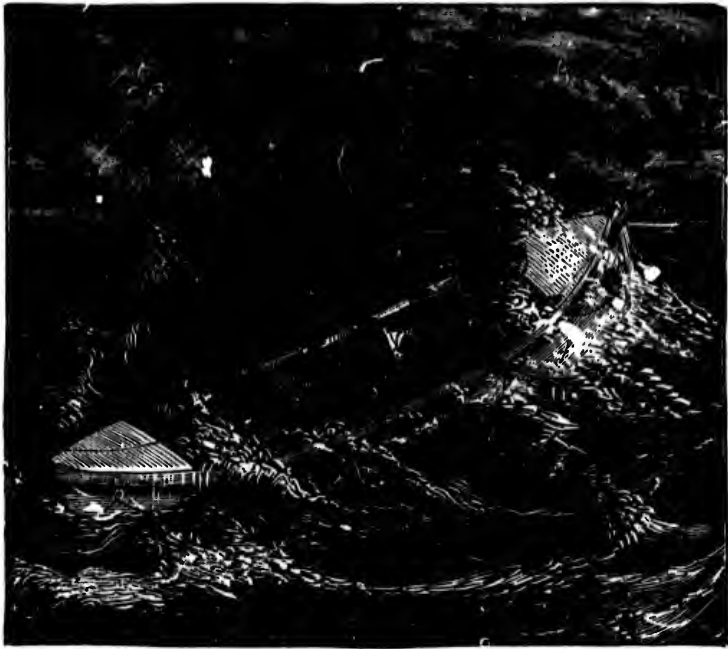
THE contents of this little book are the reflections of Captain W. D. Andrews, (who has been deprived temporarily only, it is hoped, of his eyesight,) while an inmate of the Toronto General Hospital undergoing treatment for its restoration.

The Captain is best known as one who has been instrumental in saving the lives of many people from drowning, even at the risk of losing his own, and for which he has received special recognition at the hands of his country and the rescued. Gold life-saving medals of the first class adorn his breast on festive occasions—from the city of Kingston, 1869; the city of Owen Sound, 1873; the city of Toronto, 1878; the Dolphin Swimming Club, 1881; Cross of Valor, 1881; the Royal Humane Society, 1881; with clasps, 1882-83, and Schlochow Life-saving Medal, 1883. In addition to the above he has received many other life-saving testimonials. The affliction from which he suffers was caused by exposure to weather and water while a member of different life-saving services. This humble effort the Captain presents to the public, with the hope that they may find herein some words of comfort and cheer.

C. P.



NEW YORK BENEVOLENT LIFE-SAVING ASSOCIATION MEDAL.



THE LIFEBOATMAN.

When the loud minute gun alarms the night,
And plunging waters hide the barque from sight;
When lurid lightnings threat, and thunders roll,
And roaring tempests daunt the trembling soul—
'Tis thine, O lifeboatman, such fears to brave,
And snatch the helpless from a watery grave.



ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY SWIMMING MEDAL.



SWIMMING.

“The school-boys of the water feel,
And where the stream is warmest,
Upon the bank they quickly peel,
And plunge right in head foremost;
O'er bathing suits they make no fuss,
Their texture or their trimming,
In purest *naturalibus*,
That's how they go in swimming.”



UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE MEDAL.



ONE OF THE MEN WE KNOW.

A GREAT CANADIAN SWIMMER, A CANDIDATE FOR THE
ALBERT MEDAL OF THE FIRST CLASS—DEVOTED
TO A GRAND WORK.

Extract from the Buffalo Sunday Express, Dec. 10, 1886.

It is always a pleasure to know a man who stands at the head of any line of endeavor. A man who excels in the particular direction to which he has turned his energies is sure to be a man worth knowing. Such a man is Captain W. D. Andrews, the great Canadian swimmer, whose many deeds of heroism have made his name honored in this country and in Europe. Although best known in Canada, which has been his home, he has an honored reputation in this country. In Buffalo and Cleveland, where he has passed much time, he has made many personal friends. Lakes Ontario and Erie have been the scenes of his exploits, and his fame has

spread throughout the entire lake district. His recent recommendation for that most distinguished honor, the Albert Medal of the first class, in recognition of his many acts of bravery in saving life from drowning, gives timely interest to the following sketch of his career. Captain W. D. Andrews was born in the city of Kingston, Ont., Canada, May 19th, 1853. From his boyhood up he has been employed in one way or another upon the water, and happily for him and many others, he early in life acquired a thorough knowledge of the art of swimming. Andrews' exploits in saving life date from the year 1869, and from that time he has always been ready to risk his own life to save the lives of others. The danger incurred in jumping overboard is very great. Many expert swimmers shrink from it. Andrews has encountered this risk under almost every variety of circumstances. He has followed the drowning under rafts of timber, under vessels at anchor or in docks, from great heights, and often to the bottom in great depths of water; and what is very remarkable, always successfully. From his brilliant record are selected the following deeds of bravery, any one of which should entitle him to the highest honors this world can confer for saving life. The first deed of bravery to which attention is called took place in the city of Kingston, in July, 1869. When only sixteen years of age he rescued a young lad, eleven years of age, who, while playing on a raft of timber opposite Kingston, accidentally fell into the bay. Fortunately Andrews, who was writing in an office upstairs, heard the cry, and taking in the situation at a glance, upon reaching the wharf plunged in with all his clothes on and rescued the boy, who had sunk twice before assistance arrived. He would certainly have perished but for Andrews' bravery. For his gallantry on this and other occasions Captain Andrews was awarded the gold life-saving

medal of the first class with clasps. In September, 1869, Andrews commenced steamboating, which occupation he followed for many years successfully. On the morning of the 22nd of April, 1873, while the mail steamer "Waubuno," of which Captain Andrews was an officer, was lying at her moorings on the west side of the Sydenham river, opposite the city of Owen Sound, he rescued an old man who attempted to cross the river upon some floating timber (the swing bridge being in course of repairs at the time). When about midstream the old man accidentally fell into the river, where he was struggling for life when Captain Andrews' attention was called to the circumstance. He instantly sprang into the river just as he stood, in full uniform, and swimming out to the drowning man, caught him as he rose again to the surface, and swam with him to the Owen Sound side of the river, where he landed him in safety. Then, finding it impossible to procure a boat, and feeling his clothes stiffening about him in the frosty air, Andrews plunged again into the ice-cold water and swam back to the steamer, where he was received with cheers by the officers and crew, who fully appreciated his courage and humanity. This was putting his powers as a swimmer to good use, and to show their appreciation of so brilliant a deed of bravery, the Dolphin Swimming Club presented Captain Andrews with a beautiful gold medal, bearing a suitable inscription and suspended from a gold clasp bearing the words "Owen Sound." In July, 1874, Andrews removed to Toronto, where he soon became celebrated as a first-class swimmer. On the 10th of July, 1878, Andrews performed another deed of bravery in saving the life of an Englishman named William Waghorne, aged twenty-seven years, who was bathing in the river Don, and got into peril. Captain Andrews heard the cries for help, ran to the spot, plunged in, and saved the man. Mr. Waghorne

recognized Captain Andrews' invaluable services by making him a suitable present. In addition, the city of Toronto awarded the Captain a gold medal with clasp, bearing a suitable inscription.

Passing over a number of rescues in 1881-82, all of which were fully described in the press at the time, and for which Captain Andrews received the honorary medal and clasp and three certificates of honor from the Royal Humane Society of England, besides several gold medals, illuminated addresses, and other life-saving testimonials, we come to one of his most brilliant acts of heroism.

On the 27th of July, 1883, during a tremendous storm, exceeding in violence anything that had been seen on Toronto Bay for years, Captain Andrews, in company with William Ward and John D. Patsy, accomplished another noble rescue. While the storm was at its height these three brave men put out in an open boat, at the imminent risk of their lives, to the rescue of Prof. Schlochow, a German music teacher, whose boat was capsized in the bay, and who was clinging for life to the keel while every wave washed over his head. His companion, Miss Laura Mendon, a young lady to whom he was engaged, was unfortunately drowned when the boat capsized. The Professor, who had made several attempts to rescue his companion, but without success, however, managed to cling to the boat until the life-saving crew arrived. In their eager efforts to reach the drowning man the stroke oar was broken, which threw the boat into the trough of the sea, when the next wave filled her completely, and they had to run ashore at Sandy Point to empty her. Nothing daunted, however, they dragged the boat across the peninsula and launched her again into the foaming waters of the bay, and after the greatest exertion they were successful in reaching the capsized craft, and taking off the drowning

man, placed him in the bottom of the boat, and pulled for the shore again. Owing to the fury of the gale, they were obliged to run before it out through the eastern gap into the lake, eventually landing on the lake side opposite the shelter, after a pull of nearly three miles. Over five hundred persons witnessed this rescue, and it is still regarded as the best case of life-saving that has ever taken place on Toronto Bay. Such was the fury of the storm (the official report from the Meteorological Office, Toronto Observatory, places the speed of the wind at eighty miles an hour) and the rolling of the sea, and so enormous were the troughs into which the little boat momentarily fell, that she could only be seen from the shore when she rose buoyantly upon the crest of the waves, and the heavy rainstorm which prevailed at the same time added greatly to the perils of the situation. In recognition of his bravery on this occasion, the Royal Humane Society forwarded the honorary clasp of the Society and their certificate of honor to the Mayor of Toronto, who presented it to Captain Andrews at a public meeting. This was the fourth time that Captain Andrews' bravery in saving life had been recognized by the Royal Humane Society. In addition to the above, Captain Andrews, who was the leader on this occasion, was presented with the Scowchow gold life-saving medal. Similar rewards were also made to his two companions.

March 4th, 1884.—The circumstances of this rescue having been reported to the Minister of Marine, the act of the three brave men recorded received the marked approbation of the Dominion Government, who unanimously voted in the open house that a suitable testimonial be presented to each. This testimonial took the form of binocular glasses, with inscription on Captain Andrews' pair as follows: "Presented to Captain W. D. Andrews by the Government of

Canada, in recognition of his humane exertions in saving life on Toronto Bay, 27th July, 1883."

In 1884, Captain Andrews frequently distinguished himself in saving life from drowning, each rescue being suitably acknowledged by the Minister of Marine. We select one of these rescues for our fifth case, as it is particularly worthy of mention. On Wednesday, August 5th, 1884, Captain Andrews plunged in, with all his clothes on, and at great personal risk rescued a young lad named Edward Lawson, aged fifteen, who was in danger of drowning in Toronto Bay, near the eastern point of the Island. On this occasion the gallant little fellow, burdened with the weight of his wet clothing, especially his boots, which had become filled with water, sunk with the boy, who was nearly as large as himself. Rising to the surface, however, he struck out again for the shore, pluckily retaining his hold of the boy, whom he risked his life to save. Subsequently, Andrews received suitable acknowledgments from Edward Lawson, the rescued lad, David Mills, his companion, and the Hon. William Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine.

In 1885, too, he rescued many persons from drowning, and took part in almost every rescue effected by the Toronto Life-saving Crew. On one occasion, August 11, 1885, he plunged in, with all his clothes on, and saved the life of a boy who had accidentally fallen into the water at the Wiman Island Baths, receiving the thanks of the boy's parents, both of whom were among the spectators. In addition to these rescues, which show marked courage and humanity, allied with the hardest sea-craft, there are many others replete with the same good qualities, and doing equal honor to this sturdy saviour of men.

In the fall of 1885 Captain Andrews, resolved to devote himself to a worthy mission, came to Buffalo, in order to

acquire a practical knowledge of the methods adopted and in use by the United States Life-saving Service in rescuing the shipwrecked.

In this city Captain Andrews was received by Capt. D. P. Dobbins, the courteous Superintendent of the Ninth District United States Life-saving Service, in whose company he visited Hingston's boat-building establishment, where he witnessed one of Captain Dobbins' celebrated life-boats in process of construction. He visited the Buffalo Life-saving Service, where he immediately entered upon his mission, attending all the drills and exercises of the life-saving crew daily, soon acquiring a sound theoretical knowledge of every detail of the service. Believing, however, that the only way to obtain a thorough practical knowledge of every branch of the service would be by entering the Life-saving Service as a regular surfman, he resolved to do so, asking as a special favor that he be sent to the most dangerous port on the lakes, where he would be most likely to see plenty of genuine life-boat work. Being a British subject, it was necessary for him to obtain special permission from the Government at Washington to join any American life-saving crew. This was readily granted, and his application was turned over to Superintendent Dobbins, who assigned him to duty at Cleveland. Here Captain Andrews' services were immediately called into requisition. Shortly after midnight on the very night of his arrival, in company with the other members of the Cleveland Life-saving Crew, he was summoned to the rescue of the schooner "J. R. Pelton," of Cleveland, bound from Toledo, O., for her home port, in ballast with a crew of five men, which dragged her anchors during a heavy north-east gale, and was rapidly drifting on to the beach. Both vessel and crew were brought into the harbor in safety. Subsequently Captain Andrews, in com-

pany with the Cleveland life-boat men, rendered valuable assistance to the propeller "E. S. Sheldon" and others.

In December, 1885, Captain Andrews received a "first-class certificate of competency" from Keeper Goodwin, of the Cleveland Station, and a certificate of proficiency from Superintendent Dobbins, who declared him "qualified" for any position in the Life-saving Service.

Captain Andrews has made this his life work, and has perfected himself in every essential requirement necessary to the very best results. Although not of large stature, he is a strong and fearless swimmer, with a quick eye and a cool head, which enable him to go at his work in a confident and ready manner. Since his return to Toronto he has again been instrumental in saving life from drowning. The Canadian Government are considering the advisability of converting their present volunteer Life-saving Service into a regular paid service like that of the United States. Captain Andrews is prominently mentioned for instructor and superintendent of the service when established—a post which he is eminently qualified to fill.



MY FRIENDS.

(Addressed to the friends who stood by me in my affliction.)

"A friend in need is a friend indeed."—OLD PROVERB.

Who in my hour of greatest need,
When others passed me by,
Did prove themselves my friends indeed,
In trouble ever nigh ?

'Tis when the heart is desolate
Its inmost thoughts unfold,
And we can truly separate
The dross from the pure gold.

When the sun of prosperity
Upon my pathway shone,
They gathered round me merrily,
Brimful of mirth and fun.

But when the hour of trial came,
They very soon withdrew,
Except a few worthy the name,
Who stood by firm and true.

Should Providence restore my sight,
And I my health regain,
I'll strive to weld the links aright
In friendship's golden chain.



ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION MEDAL.

THE LIFEBOAT.

(Lines addressed to Hon. Wm. Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, and his old comrades in the Life-saving Service.)

“Peace hath her victories no less renowned than those of war.”—*Milton*.

“Man the lifeboat!” loudly they cry—
I know that call right well—
Thou ark of mercy, how shall I
Thy deeds of glory tell?

When, with my comrades brave and true,
We launch upon the wave,
To rescue some poor shipwrecked crew,
Whose lives we seek to save.

What though tempestuous winds may roar,
And angry waves assail,
We pull still stronger with the oar,
Regardless of the gale.

And though the storm-king's forces do
Their utmost to defeat,
We'll reach the wreck, take off the crew,
And make our work complete.

God bless the lifeboat and her crew,
And may they ever be
Faithful and true, their work to do
Like heroes of the sea.

W. D. A.

THE SEA.

A CALM.

How calm and beautiful the sea
While in repose it lies ;
It seems, in its tranquillity,
A mirror of the skies.

The sky is of a glorious blue,
Where scarce a cloud is seen,
The sea assumes an azure hue
Where erstwhile it was green.

The orb of day pursues his way,
From distant east to west,
The sea reflects each brilliant ray
Upon its peaceful breast.

And when at night the stars shine bright,
Like diamonds in the sky,
The sea reveals each point of light
As they appear on high.

And when fair Luna's silvery light
Upon its bosom lies,
It seems to form a pathway bright
That leads up to the skies.

W. D. A.

T H E S E A.

A S T O R M.

But oh! how wonderful the change
When howling winds blow free,
When clouds in lines of battle range
Heaven's grand artillery.

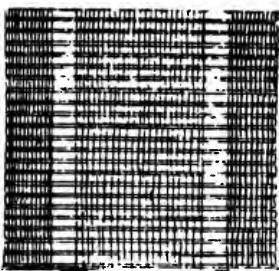
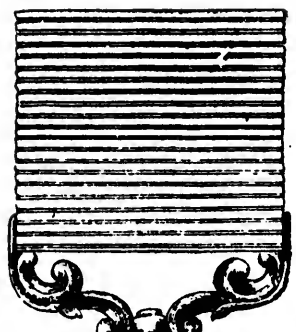
When thunders roll and lightnings flash
Athwart the midnight sky,
Amidst the tempest's tearful crash
We hear the seabird's cry,

As hurrying from all points they come
To their accustomed feast,
Where giant waves are lashed to foam,
And billows froth like yeast.

When ocean's mighty depths are stirred
By nature's stern decree,
And mingled with the gale is heard
The minute-gun at sea,

'Tis then we see the majesty
Of our Creator's form,
Who plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

W. D. A.



STANHOPE MEDAL.



ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY MEDALS.

REWARD OF BRAVERY.

“ Drag the victim from the ’whelming wave,
 And snatch the body from the floating grave ;
 Breathe in the lips reanimating fire,
 Till, warmed to second life, the drowned respire.”

—Pratt.

TO THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.

“ He that saveth a human life is greater than one who taketh a city.”—*Confucius*.

The following lines were respectfully addressed by Captain Andrews to the Royal Humane Society.

All honor to the men of brain
 Who first conceived the plan
 Of restoring to life again
 An almost drownéd man.

Through your instructions we can gain
 That victory over death
 Which makes the heart revive again,
 And gives the nostrils breath.

Your noble acts the world records
 Upon its scrolls of fame ;
 Where actions speak more loud than words
 We find your honored name.

The medals that you oft confer
 For saving human life
 Are worn by men who them prefer
 To those of battle’s strife.

Long may your grand society
 Reward the truly brave,
 Who risk their lives by land or sea
 Another’s life to save.

W. D. A.

A PATIENT'S RETROSPECT.

Upon a plain hospital bed
A restless patient lay,
All night he tossed his aching head,
And prayed for dawn of day.

His comrades lying by his side
Were slumbering peacefully,
While his thoughts travelled far and wide
Out o'er life's stormy sea.

On the swift wings of thought they fly
To the city of his birth,
In this broad land of liberty—
The sweetest place on earth.

The Limestone City comes in view,
With its old forts so gray,
Its harbor of the deepest blue,
On which the sunbeams play.

In thought he treads those busy streets
Which he oft trod before,
And many old-time friends he greets,
As in the days of yore.

He sees again the old roof-tree
Where, in his childhood's days,
Beside his saintly mother's knee,
He learns to sing God's praise.

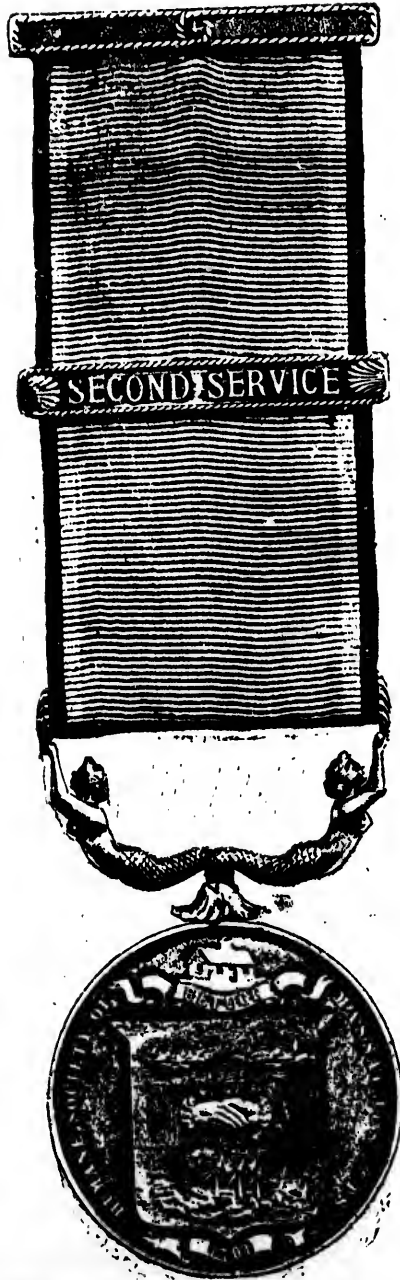
His godly father's counsel, too,
Still in his memory burns,
Accepting them as good and true,
The prodigal returns.

The voices of his sisters fair
Are now more doubly dear,
As borne upon the midnight air,
They sound so sweet and clear.

Around the family altar there
His younger brothers meet,
To join in that sweet hour of prayer
Before the mercy-seat.

And thus his Christian teaching gives
His conscience power to plead,
And he resolves that while he lives
A better life he'll lead.

THE LIFEBOAT



MASSACHUSETTS HUMANE SOCIETY MEDAL.

REWARD OF MERIT.

"Courage and humanity are the greatest of nature's adornments."—*Darling*.

(The following lines were respectfully addressed by Captain Andrews to the Massachusetts Humane Society. The verses give a faithful description of the various emblems engraved on the medal of the Society.)

This handsome *medal* brings to view
The mighty ocean's sweep,
And *mermaids* clasp its ribbon blue,
To show its *caverns* deep.

Far out at sea is seen a speck,
Tossed on the angry wave,
The *life-boat* seeks the distant *wreck*,
For there are lives to save.

The *house of refuge* calls to mind
Its ever-welcome form,
Where *shipwrecked seamen* seek and find
A *shelter* from the storm.

The *two clasped hands* display the power,
When we have done our part,
For friendships formed in danger's hour
Live longest in the heart.

Long may your old Society
Perform its mission grand,
Upheld by God, who holds the sea
In the hollow of His hand.

A NATIONAL BOUQUET ;

OR,

THE SAINTLY DIALOGUE.

(The following lines were respectfully addressed by Captain Andrews to the various national societies in Canada, with the hope that they cease their petty jealousies, and unite in building up our young nation.)

SAINT GEORGE.

'Tis the *Rose* of dear Old ENGLAND,
Whose *lion*-hearted sons,
By sea and land, on every hand,
Stand firmly to their guns.

SAINT ANDREW.

'Tis bonnie SCOTLAND'S *Thistle* true,
The emblem of the free,
Her *silver cross*, on field of blue,
Oft led to victory.

SAINT PATRICK.

Old IRELAND'S *Shamrock*, bright and green,
To you I will not yield ;
Her *golden harp* was foremost seen
On CLONTARF'S glorious field.

SAINT DAVID.

And WELSHMEN, too, may honor claim,
For their green *Leek* a place ;
LLEWELLYN'S name is known to fame,
The bravest of his race.

SAINT DENIS.

Give me the *Drapeau Blanc** of FRANCE,
 With golden *Fleur de lys*,†
 The crest of CHARLEMAGNE, perchance,
 The flower of chivalry.

SAINT PAUL.

Give me the GERMAN *Corn-flower* grand,
 Old KAISER WILHELM'S pride,
 That decks the fields of FATHERLAND,
 And crowns each bright hillside.

SAINT MARK.

Give me the *Daisy* of ITALY,
 Beneath whose sunny skies,
 Where GARIBALDI set us free,
 Sweet perfumes arise.

SAINT MICHAEL.

For me the *Snowdrop*, pure and white,
 That blooms without a stain,
 The emblem of the MENNONITE,
 That comes from RUSSIA'S plain.

SAINT AUGUSTINE.

AMERICA'S *Oak-leaf* is dear
 To all her people free ;
 The PILGRIM FATHERS brought it here
 From far across the sea.

SAINT ANNE.

Dear Friends,—Since this is now your home,
 'Tis my firm belief,
 You should CANADIANS become,
 And praise the *Maple-leaf*.

W. D. A.

* White Flag: † Golden Lilies.

THE DOUBTING CARPENTER.

(The following lines were addressed by Captain Andrews to a certain carpenter who, on the day previous, had expressed a doubt of the originality of his compositions.)

"Labor conquers all things."—OLD PROVERB.

Perhaps, when you see these *lines* you'll say
They're not original ;
From what you told me yesterday,
It seems quite possible.

Therefore *oil axe* you like a man
If this *adze* to your case ;
Brace up and *auger*, if you can,
Where I the *bit* shall place.

And so, my knight of *saw* and *plane*,
You thought to *chisel* me ;
Don't try to *hammer* me again,
Or use your *nails* so free.

Your *spirit-level* will disclose
All things that are not *plumb*,
For if you *punch* and *gauge* your foes,
An *old file* you'll become.

May be it is the *planes* you use
That *shave* your conscience bare ;
If so, your conduct I'll excuse,
And we will call it *square*.

There may be others like yourself,
Who with *edged tools* would fool ;
They'd better leave them on the shelf,
And try the golden *rule*. W. D. A.

“MY PILLOW TEXT.”

“ Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Let the words of my mouth, O Lord,
Of all Thy mercies tell,
That I may sing with sweet accord
The songs I love so well.

May my heart's meditation prove
Acceptable in Thy sight,
That in the fellowship of love
I'll worship Thee aright.

Thou art the source of all my strength,
And my Redeemer too ;
I'll serve Thee through life's greatest length,
Consistently and true.

THE LIGHTHOUSE.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Upon a stormy, rock-bound coast
A lonely lighthouse stands,
Its snow-white walls, the keeper's boast,
The work of his own hands.

The strong reflectors brightly shine,
Out o'er the ocean wide;
Here all his energies combine,
The lamp's his special pride.

Out o'er the deep it shines afar
With steady light and true,
The roving seaman's guiding star,
The safeguard of the crew.

What though tempestuous waves assail
This sentinel of the sea,
Secure amid each storm and gale,
It burns on cheerily.

So may my lamp keep burning still,
Supplied with oil divine,
And, like the beacon on the hill,
Out in the darkness shine.

W. D. A.

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