

William, Joseph

## *From the Committee for assisting the Emigration of the Dukhobortsi, to Friends in Great Britain*

**W**E are directed by the Meeting for Sufferings held 9th of 6th month to make an appeal to Friends for contributions to cover the expense caused by the Quarantine of the steamer *Lake Huron* on her arrival at Quebec from Batoum.

The passengers on this vessel, over 2200 Dukhobors from the Kars district, remitted to us £8956, to be used in chartering and provisioning a steamer and paying the railway fares from Quebec to Yorkton.

The sum was not quite sufficient to cover all these charges: and we were further obliged to become responsible to the owners of the *Lake Huron*, in case of Quarantine, for a demurrage of £60 a day, as this was made a condition of their signing the charter.

A few cases of small-pox developed on the voyage, possibly from some infection taken in Batoum, as there was no indication of such a complaint at the time the vessel sailed. The detention to which this inevitably led causes us a liability of £600 to £800. We have also some expenses in closing up in Cyprus.

So far as the latter item is concerned, we can, if needed, come upon the guarantee fund raised specially for contingencies in the Island: but we trust notwithstanding the generous help Friends have already given to the Dukhobortsi, that they will yet make a response to the present appeal, such as will render any further demand on the guarantee fund unnecessary, as well as enable us to give at least a little further help to the new settlement in the North-west of Canada; especially in the way of medical attendance. Friends will, we believe, be glad to do this when they learn that Dr. MERCER, the Surgeon of the *Lake Superior* steamship, has been so struck with the character and worth of the Dukhobors, after the close knowledge he was able to obtain of them during the two long voyages, from Batoum, and from Cyprus, on which he sailed with them, that he asked the Captain to release him from his post, in order that he might go on with the Cyprus immigrants, and devote himself to their sick in the wilderness, which he has done without salary, while he has been freely spending his own money for their help.

The total amount required to clear all our liabilities will probably be from £1200 to £1500.

We send with this appeal a number of extracts from letters from friends who have visited, or are now visiting, the Dukhobors in their new homes, and two

from the immigrants themselves to the Society of Friends. They are of great interest; but if space permitted we might give many more of similar purport. One incident however must not be omitted, which is mentioned by a correspondent. The Canadian Government have allotted the 7000 immigrants three areas of land: two of them north and one west of Yorkton, Assiniboia. What is known as the "South Colony" is about 30 miles from Yorkton: the North Colony being some 80 miles further, and over the frontier of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. An English friend who went with the Cyprus immigrants to the South Colony, after describing the brave and uncomplaining way in which they face the difficulties by which they are surrounded, says that a number of the men had gone to work on a new railway line, which would enable them to earn from 1½ to 2 dollars a day each. In their absence the women, who realized the urgent importance of sowing the ground before the season is past, and having no oxen, or but extremely few, at once organized themselves into groups of twenty to drag the ploughs and break up the sod of the wilderness. A people who will do this to help themselves are surely deserving of sympathy and aid!

We feel that it will be no breach of confidence if we close this appeal to our fellow-members of the Society of Friends with an extract from a letter we have just received from the High Commissioner of Cyprus, dated "22nd June, 1899."

*"I believe the Dykhobors have left in Cyprus the memory of a singularly interesting and God-fearing community, and the Committee must have the satisfaction of feeling that their benevolent and disinterested aid, so generously afforded, was given in a noble cause."*

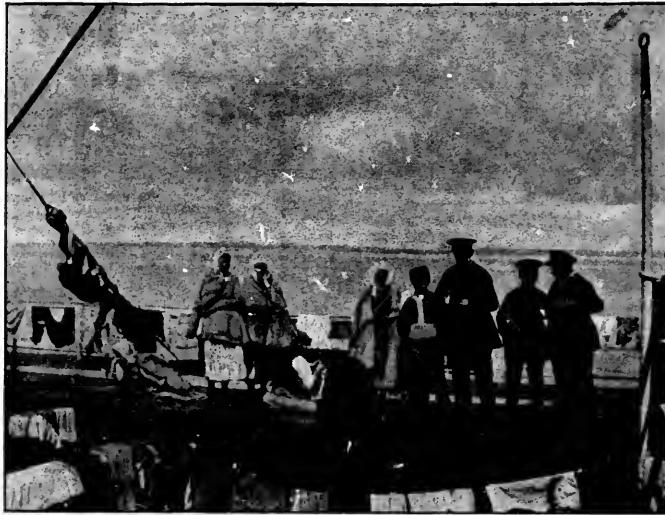
We are, your friends,

WILLIAM A. ALBRIGHT,  
EDMUND WRIGHT BROOKS,  
FREDERICK G. CASH,  
SAML. F. HURNARD,  
THOS. W. MARSH,  
HENRY T. MENNELL,  
ARTHUR MIDGLEY,  
THOS. P. NEWMAN,  
METFORD WARNER,

} Committee

JOHN BELLOWS, Clerk.

*Subscriptions should be sent, as early as possible, to Isaac Sharp,  
12 Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C.*



CYPRUS EMIGRANTS ON BOARD THE "LAKE SUPERIOR ASCENDING THE ST. LAWRENCE TO QUEBEC.

A correspondent, writing from the Colony, 25th of 6th month, says: "The women are fine workers. There is something striking in the way they carry out what falls to their share, whether it be the domestic work, or baking bread in the great oriental ovens that are to be found in the village, or working out on the land. There is no mistake about it that the women are a very fine race, and if this immigration turns out successful (which I think there is little doubt but it will after a time) the credit will be very largely due to them. They have a great deal to contend with. The matter of food is an important one, for while they will not starve there is a very great lack of variety. . . . ."

"One of the great needs is oxen for working the land. Unfortunately they are hard to get just now. A settler I was speaking to a night or two ago, thought it would be cheaper, in spite of the heavy freight, to get a car-load from the States."



DUKHOBOR WOMEN DRAGGING PLOUGH

(South Colony—30 miles from Yorkton. Most of the men absent: working on the Railway.)

# ARRIVAL OF DUKHOBORS IN CANADA FROM CYPRUS

BY JOSEPH S. ELKINTON  
(OF PHILADELPHIA)

Having been informed by a telegraphic message from the general manager of the Beaver Line of Steamships, that the steamship *Lake Superior* was expected to arrive at Quebec on the seventh or eighth of this month, after fulfilling a religious engagement that I had, previously to receiving this word, made for the morning of the seventh, I proceeded to Quebec, arriving at the navigation office of the line about two o'clock on the afternoon of the eighth, and learned that whilst the steamship had been reported she could not be reasonably expected for some thirty hours. This afforded me the opportunity for interviews with officials of different departments, who manifested much interest in the new comers. Having been given the address of the matron of the reception rooms at the Landing, and she advised by telephone of my going there, I felt like accepting the encouragement offered by the immigration agent to take up my quarters there, which gave the opportunity for being introduced to and conversing with divers of the citizens who resorted there to await the arrival of the steamship.

The buildings at the Landing, like those at Halifax, are well adapted for the purpose intended. I was disposed to think it more complete in the appointments, with halls for sitting or standing room, as the case might be in regard to numbers, a well-arranged dining-room, where meals could be had at all hours, wash and bath-rooms, conveniences for writing and mailing, telegraph office, ticket office and an office for money changing with foreigners, and quite a show of store goods on the side of one of the halls. This, with the money changing, was carried on under the oversight of a government official, whose duty was to know that no imposition should be practised by overcharge for goods purchased or money exchanged.

The second story was made up with suites of rooms for the accommodation of the matron and her assistants, also for lodging rooms for the sick or those who might be necessarily detained in the building.

The matron had been in charge for a term of years, and was quite advanced in life for such a position, but still active and courteous; both she and one she introduced me to, who had had charge of emigrant trains for either thirty-two or forty-two years, but was now released because of his age and located at that place. They each had some very interesting incidents to relate on their experiences, which were marked Providences. There was at that time a family of father, mother and four children in the building, in what might be called a stranded condition, having been disappointed in meeting some one or more who was expected to meet them with money for them to proceed onward into the interior. They were an interesting group. The father seemed quite disposed to make himself useful working about the dock.

Among the interesting things told by the matron was that she learned through her correspondence with the matron at the Halifax Landing, with whom she had been intimate, that all those Dukhobors that had been brought there from the quarantine who were not able to proceed from that place on the former voyage of the *Lake Superior* from that place to St. John, had recovered so as to proceed by rail to Manitoba. This was pleasing information to me, for two that I saw in the hospital at the quarantine were in my view in a very prostrated condition at the time. The citizens of Halifax made up the sum of one hundred dollars and gave it to the company that had been sick, when they were started off.

The father of the two sisters that were so very ill had been denied the liberty to come with his mother, wife and children, but was detained in prison, and his mother had been detained in prison for sixty days for going to see him. These are of the hardships and cruelties that are told us, and how much there must be of that which being untold will never reach us.

The evening of the eighth instant being a fine one, was favorable for the promenading on the long wharf or landing. At length a rocket that went up from the steamship was seen and responded to by the firing of a gun from an elevated point, which is their usual way of announcing an arrival. This was about ten P.M.

As the vessel approached, before we could distinguish it we could hear a low subdued chant, which of course increased in the volume of the tone as the vessel drew nearer, but in no wise equalled in strength that of the voices on the two previous arrivals; the malarial influences of the climate of Cyprus had, as I apprehended, weakened their voices, as also given a very different cast to the countenances, as I saw them in the course of the following day. It was evidently a very cautious and nice piece of seamanship to bring the ship in the comparative darkness to her position beside the wharf, and it was rather thrilling when an answer went back from the wharf to query, I suppose from the pilot, "How far are we from the wharf?" "Forty feet." And the word went forth and was repeated, "Let go the anchor!" One or two barges seemed to have had some difficulty in getting out of the way.

The first voice, however that I could recognise from the bridge was that of Capt. Taylor, calling out my name. His eyesight was better than mine, for I could not see him, but the salutation was cordial to my feelings, and a feeling of gratitude did arise in my heart that his life had been preserved to bring another company across the mighty deep. On his being informed through one of the managers of the line who stood by me, that I wished to speak a few words to the passengers, he replied: "Let him come on the

bridge," whither I went as soon as the gang plank was laid. The captain had an interpreter for me, when I spoke to the import that, as a representative of a Society whose forefathers had like them suffered for the testimony of a conscience void of offence toward God, we were in sympathy with them. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and their Lord I could ask that such a measure of that grace in which the testimony for Jesus Christ was confirmed might abound, that should prosperity attend them, even as in adversity they had been supported, so also might they be kept in that spirit of meekness that it would please the Lord yet further to enrich them with spiritual gifts to their enlargement in that in which gives discernment between that which serveth God and that which serveth Him not.

So keeping to that received from on high, they should be living witnesses of His power, and be a people blessed of the Lord. As Christians we render thanks for the measure of tenderness on the part of the Czar inducing him to liberate them, and to assign a sum of money for the relief of suffering humanity. And to the Queen and her Ministers in the dominion they were now coming to for their liberality in granting release from military service and allowing a reasonable hope for religious toleration, which is allowed to a considerable extent to those who reside in other parts of this continent. And we could pray for that measure of enlightenment for the hearts of all in authority, that whilst ruling in the spirit of justice it would lead to universal religious toleration, on the granting of which they, with all others who kept in the Divine fear, would be blessed.

The bereavements lately experienced in Cyprus, coupled with preceding afflictions, had no doubt been felt as very grievous, but doubtless the purposes of the Almighty would be wrought out through their sufferings, and not only the descendants of those who had suffered unto death have the consolation that many had died in the Truth which would support all who kept to it, but the impression on the public mind would be such as would be calculated to discountenance persecution and hasten the day when all nations should see of the glory of the Lord in what He did for His cause and people.

The response which came back through the interpreter was to the import that what had been delivered was acceptable to them, and they felt thankful therefore and had a warm feeling of appreciation of the sympathy and kindness manifested to them by the Society of Friends.

After this, in a season of retirement with the captain in the cabin, he corroborated the testimonies that had been previously given of the good order and correctness of life and conversation of those that were with him on the present voyage. He had become very much attached to them, and spoke with feeling of the great sufferings they had endured both previous to their embarking with him, and also on the passage. They had had some rough weather, and Soulerjitzky had been sick with them. There was a time when all were sick, but one had died who was carried on the ship at Larnaka in blankets. The seas, however, altered, and they improved in health and had all been

permitted to pass the quarantine, and none so poorly that they could not leave the ship.

In this interview I acknowledged how my mind had travelled on the great water with the bodies of men in charge of the captains of that particular line, and the sympathy I had felt in an especial manner for Captain Carey, of the steamship *Ontario*, in the interview with him the day before he left Halifax, charged with the conveyance of two thousand Spaniards from Cuba to Spain. He himself spoke of the need captains had at times for Wisdom higher than their own. Captain Taylor said it was a great responsibility with which Captain Carey was charged, and for a time there was much difficulty, owing to the seeming feeling of bitterness because, in the view of the Spaniards, Great Britain had kept on too friendly terms with the United States. But before the voyage was over a reconciled and peaceable feeling prevailed, and the landing of the party in Spain was effected. One other vessel had been forced to stop by the way, there were so many deaths.

Wishing to keep company with William Bellows, that I might hear particularly from his father, who had so deeply interested himself for the Dukhobortsi, as also to hear what William could tell me of their history whilst on the island of Cyprus, which island, however, William was on not quite a week, as he went with the *Lake Superior* from England there, I took with him the first train that started out from Quebec to Ottawa and Winnipeg; Frank Pedley, the superintendent of the Emigrant Department being also on that train, his residence being in Ottawa. His wife claimed descent from the Society of Friends, and gave me several names of her connections that I recognized as having been prominent in the Society. She had lately had a spell of sickness, and her conversation was chastened and interesting. She manifested quite a desire to have some of our literature.

In the course of the morning of the 10th I went through the train with William Bellows and the nurse, who was educated at Petersburg. She could converse with William in French, but not much more in English than he could in Russian. She, however, appeared to be of good intellectual power and of a pleasant spirit; as I have noted, the company, as a whole, did not seem to me as vigorous as those who had arrived before them, a number appearing quite prostrated, and she spoke of the Cyprus fever.

There was some religious exercise on the trains, but not to the same extent as on the First-day, when I travelled in a train from Halifax to Ottawa, near three months ago.

In an interview with Caroline Cox, a prominent member of the Montreal Women's Council, that had contributed about four hundred dollars for the relief of the Dukhobortsi, she read me a letter from a correspondent, from which the following is extracted:

"Your very kind favor reached me just a week ago to-day. I awaited your parcel. It came yesterday, and we opened it to-day, and I wish you could have been there to see the joy and pleasure of the children, as I lifted article after article out of the bag, and the look of expectancy on their faces . . . I assure you it is most pathetic to see the pleasure of the

children at receiving such gifts, and the sight of it would make your heart glad and thankful for its generous promptings these children show in this way. The slates and books were very much needed. One firm here furnished twenty-five slates. The readers are quite necessary, for the children are learning rapidly, and the older ones have learned to read and write. . . . The Dukhobors themselves do not make their wants known. They are a gentle, kind people, grateful for any little kindness shown them, and deeply appreciate what has been done for them here.

"Some of their history is so sad. There is hardly a family but contains a father or brother who has been in prison and suffered frightful tortures. I have in mind several families whose fathers and brothers are exiled in Siberia, and a brave little fellow named Ivan Bojniko, one of the brightest pupils, who wishes me to thank you for his top and book, told me to-day his mother died heart-broken just before he left Russia, because his father and brother could not come with me to Canada, for they are in confinement in mercury mines in Siberia.

"These people have been tried in the fire and not found wanting. These simple, unlettered peasants can teach us lessons of heroic sacrifice for the sake of the Truth. Unlettered as they are, for only about one in three hundred can read, they possess true spiritual wisdom that puts many of us to shame. They have been much criticised here owing to their peculiar religion. The fact is they have hold of the very basis of Christianity—the true Christ religion, without creed, forms or dogma, and they exemplify it in their lives. . . . May their example enter the hearts of our Canadian people, and their light shine for all the world.

"Let me express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your help, which in spite of your affliction you are able to accomplish, and in doing which you have already received your reward in the knowledge of having made others happy.

"All please accept Prince Hilkoﬀ's greeting and appreciation of the sympathy shown.

"The same is also extended from both of us to your local council of women who so nobly contributed their time and means. The memory of it ever be held warm in the hearts of those whom they so nobly succored in time of great need."

*(From the Philadelphia Friend, 27-5 mo., 1899.)*

A letter from William Evans, of Philadelphia, who accompanied Joseph Elkinton on a visit to the Dukhobor settlement, describes a religious meeting held by these friends. The Dukhobors (perhaps carrying on a custom derived from the Cossack military training of their predecessors) formed into a hollow square, the women standing in ranks about 20 feet long, one behind the other, with the children in rows of 40 feet at right angles to them, the older ones behind the younger, the men facing them. Five to six hundred were present, and the two American friends stood at the angle between the men and the women, with Prince Hilkoﬀ interpreting. William Evans goes on to say:

"When a considerable number had arrived, apparently all dressed in their best attire, the women began chanting. Successive

groups began to come, perhaps for a half hour, and always approached the open end of the rectangle, and as they stood there, they bowed, and all those previously on the ground, men, women, and children, bowed in return; then the new arrivals went behind the others, and took up positions similar to the first comers. It was supposed that in all there were from five to six hundred present. At length Prince Hilkoﬀ, who acted as interpreter, came, the chanting proceeding up to this time. J.S.E. soon addressed them, and was ably interpreted by the Prince. Occasionally there would be responses, mostly by the elder, Verigin, and bowing by all the Russians. After a time of silence, J.S.E. knelt in prayer, and at its conclusion, all knelt upon one knee, and bowed their heads nearly to the ground. They then explained through the interpreter that the bowing was not to man, but in acknowledgment of the blessing of the Divine Spirit; and signified their entire assent to the spiritual truths that had been declared; and said that before they left Russia they had been told there was a people in this country called Quakers, who held spiritual views like their own, and that they were glad to be acquainted with them; and that they were thankful to this people, not only for having helped them peculiarly, but for giving them their sympathy in a strange land. Their demeanor and actions showed plainly the sincerity of their feeling and expression.

"From the beginning to the end of our interview there was no indication of listlessness or inattention, but a serious and earnest entering into communion of feeling, which was very remarkable. Finally they asked through the Prince that our Society should intervene with the Czar for the release of their relatives who are banished to Siberia. And here one of the most interesting parts of the whole deeply impressive occasion manifested itself.

"Six matronly women left the line in which they had stood, and advanced in front of us, who were, the Prince said, mothers or relatives of some of the banished ones. We explained to them that our Society had already addressed a memorial to the Czar, invoking his clemency for those in his dominions who, from conscientious motives, could not carry out all the government requirements, and that when we returned home, we would present their request to our people, and do what we could for them. The women quietly wiped their tears, and one with noble features said they were the mothers of sons who were in banishment, and they earnestly hoped that our people would do what they could for their help. By this time, such was the feeling, that the regular ranks of the rectangle I have described, were broken, and the people pressed in close, until there was only a small circle clear, with the women at the centre. We asked them to give us a list of all their people who were in Siberia, with their post office addresses, which they readily undertook to do, and by the next morning a list of two hundred names was handed to the Prince."

"W.E. says of the children that they "seemed cheerful and lively and wonderfully restrained, under parental care, from any display of selfishness or quarrelsomeness; but in no instance do I recall seeing a parent chide or correct a child. There seemed throughout the whole community no evidence of unhappiness or of impatience; but the indications all were of religious restraint, and of apparent thankfulness for release from a country where they were unable to carry out their convictions unmolested, and of hopefulness for the future in their newly chosen land."

*(Philadelphia Friend, 1-7-99)*

A friend who accompanied JOSEPH ELKINTON to the North Colony, in a letter dated 6th mo. 25, '98, described the 80-mile drive by which they reached it from the Northern Settlement as "one of the strangest roads I was ever on. In places, to avoid the bog, we simply had to drive into the bush, crashing through the young trees and brush in a way that did wonderful credit to our two horses." On the way they met Dr Mercer on his way to the South Colony, with a boy. "They had missed their way on the prairie, so the Doctor was very glad to come across us and our provisions, for he had had no dinner

Evening coming on we made for some smoke we saw in the distance which we found to be a small Dukhobor Settlement on the banks of the Whitesand River. (The spot on the map is the junction of Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, and Manitoba, near Fort Pelly.)

"Needless to say, we were received in the usual Dukhobor way, with the most touching hospitality. These poor people who are passing through such hard times, always give us of the best they have, and do much to show their gratitude to Friends in America and England. At night in the darkness of the cabin, Joseph Elkinton offered a prayer. Although in English, and they did not understand the words, it was a striking time and a solemn one: and one could feel that they realised what was meant."

"The position of this Northern Dukhobor Reserve seems excellent, running as it does on the Northern Bank of the Swan River with a nice supply of timber. The River is crossed by rafts at three points. They have not yet got these into proper shape; and a fortnight ago one of them was capsize and a Dukhobor girl of twenty was carried away by the current and never seen again. The deaths here have been frequent; and the doctor's services are badly needed. He has many difficulties to contend with. In some of the worst cases, perhaps when death is approaching, they do not call him in. They seem to fail to grasp that a doctor may be a great deal for them in such cases. I think the idea is that it is a matter for God alone: but 'God helps those who help themselves.' Since I have been here there have been funerals on two successive days of girls who have died of consumption. The death rate has been rather high here. I think the great crisis through which they have been passing and the change in the conditions of life have carried away those that were in the balance. The little grave-yard is in the woods on the hill commanding the Valley of the Swan River, and a very pretty and suitable position it is. They bury with the face of the departed turned towards the east."

**From Peter Jansen, a well-known Mennonite.**

Ever since the immigration of those persecuted Christians, the Dukhobortsi of Russia, commenced, it had been my desire to visit these, my former countrymen; and encouraged to do so by a recent letter from my dear friend, William Harvey of Leeds, England, I left my home in Nebraska, June 6, reaching Winnipeg on the 8th. I was very kindly received there by Mr William Hespeler, who had visited my father's home in South Russia in 1872, and through whose instrumentality the settlement of our people, the Mennonites, took place in Southern Manitoba.

The nearest place of settlement of the Dukhobortsi was Yorkton, which I reached late on Saturday evening, June 10, where I was met by Mme Carousa, a Russian lady of noble birth, who had accompanied the last contingent of these people from the Isle of Cyprus; and by several of the leaders of the Dukhobortsi.

I spoke to them in their own language, and they seemed very glad that I came from their own country.

Although so far north, Sunday morning dawned bright and warm on the city of tents, in which they are temporarily domiciled: and this, together with the bright-coloured costumes of the women and children, made a very interesting picture. Under the guidance of Mme Carousa I found out a great deal of their touching history and trials.

**Desirable Class of People.**—*They are a most cleanly, God-fearing people, and by the help of God will not only make homes for themselves, but will form a most desirable contingent of this vast North-west Territory.*

I had always entertained fears that they had gone beyond the limits of successful agriculture, but after thorough investigation and talks with settlers who have lived in that vicinity from ten to sixteen years, I am glad to say that I believe they will be able, beyond a doubt, to grow necessities of life, and more. They have plenty of timber for fuel and buildings. Although we should be glad to have them in the States, we never could have offered them the opportunities and inducements which the open lands of the Canadian North-west and the government of that country have given them. Mr McCreary, the immigration commissioner, is a man of rare judgment and great executive ability, and is taking special interest in these people; and the lands reserved for them are said to be the very best in the territory. They will not be able to raise much of a crop this year, as the land has to be broken first, but they have planted grain, potatoes and other vegetables. However, they will have to be taken care of to a large extent during next winter, and we must all unite in doing so. Besides providing food, their chief needs are animals for work, milch cows, and sheep for wool.

Based upon my own experience gained in the days of our own early settlement, I have strongly advised to provide them with oxen for draught animals, instead of horses, not requiring grain for food, but doing the work of breaking the prairie upon the abundant nutritious grasses, besides being much cheaper than horses.

In the meantime they are willing to work whenever they can; and one party has taken a contract on a railroad extension and has in that way earned some money.

I tried to impress upon them the necessity of conforming with the ways of the country as far as the mode of work and agriculture is concerned.

**Touching Incidents.**—I asked an old pleasant-featured man, addressing him, as is the custom in Russia, as "Little Father," "do you think you will be able to get along in your new home?" He looked up, and the faith which was in him was depicted upon his face and he answered: "The God who has selected this land for us, where we can worship Him according to the dictates of our consciences, will certainly not let us starve."

The tears were hard to keep back when an old mother came and said, "I have two sons who were exiled to Siberia because they would not serve in the army. And I am here alone; and I will ask the blessing of God upon thee day and night if thou wilt bring them over to me!"

Others have fathers, husbands, or near relatives there: in all some hundred and fifty; and I think we must make it our earnest duty to bring about a release of these poor unfortunates. I believe if the governments of England and the United States will take this up in a friendly manner with the government of Russia, this can be brought about, as there is no sense in keeping these few in exile when the others have been permitted to depart.

Knowing President McKinley personally, and believing his kindly heart will prompt him to act, we shall lay this matter before him; and I trust the English Friends will use their influence with their own government.

*As I said before, these people make a most pleasing impression upon even the casual observer, and were commented upon favourably by everybody who has seen them. Mr McCreary, the local immigration agent at Yorkton, who is the right man in the right place, told me that they had even scrubbed out the cars which brought them before sending them back.*

They have built a bath house of logs, after the Russian fashion, where they take their regular steam baths after their custom.

Upon my return to Winnipeg I had the pleasure of meeting friends William Evans and Joseph S. Elkinton of Philadelphia, who had come out on a similar mission to my own. With them was Prince Hilkoﬀ, who has also devoted his life to his persecuted countrymen. We spent some pleasant and, I hope, profitable, hours together consulting upon the best means of helping this cause, and agreeing upon a course of action in regard to the unfortunate ones in Siberia. These dear friends left the next morning for Yorkton, while I went to Southern Manitoba, where a large and prosperous settlement of our people, the Russian Mennonites, is located. They have prospects of a very bountiful harvest, and in case this materializes they have promised to give a number of Dukhobortsi work, which will not only enable them to earn some money, but will also give them an opportunity to learn something about Canadian farming.

I believe the Lord will take care of these, His children: but we who believe in the Prince of Peace should be willing to act as His servants.

PETER JANSEN, Jansen, Nebraska

The following is from a friend who is temporarily with the Dukhobors

I reached here last night with the Russian nurse and three Dukhobors from Winnipeg. There are only two passenger trains a week to this place, so you can imagine the arrival of one of them is an important event: in fact, when we reached the little station last night we could hardly squeeze our way on to the platform, on account of the crush; the whole place was teeming with Dukhobors, our arrival being one of the items on the programme. Another item was a truck load of oxen that had just been bought down the line by Dukhobors sent down for them. We came over to this little hotel where some of the members of our party are staying: Prince Hilkoﬀ is staying at the "Royal," a small hotel further up the street. Yorkton is a little town not much bigger than Mullion say, right out in the prairie of Assiniboia, and about 270 miles from Winnipeg. There is no mistake about it, we are off the beaten track here. This afternoon I went with three little Dukhobor boys and a Russian to see some Indians living in wigwams about a mile away: a little settlement of wigwams, one or two tents, and so forth. After looking round a little I came across the chief, I think he was, and found he could speak English quite nicely, but the others not. I was with them I should think for an hour, and he gave me some milk to take to the Dukhobors. Wasn't it interesting? Two or three of the men were saying "KOROSHOW,"\* which they picked up from the Dukhobor boys. This group of Indian, Russian, and English is an uncommon combination. I told them they would find the Dukhobors very nice people.

To-morrow morning early I hope to start for the Southern settlement, by waggon, about 40 miles away. It will take all day to get there, riding I expect on the top of a lot of goods in the waggon. The distances on this immense prairie are very deceiving: yesterday for instance we were from 8.30 a.m. till 10 at night "on the cars" from Winnipeg. As there are only two trains back from Yorkton per week, and as there would be practically no time if I came back to Winnipeg by Tuesday's train (for I should only be there about one night), I am intending to stop till the next train, i.e. the one reaching Winnipeg on the 29th. The worst of this is the way in which time is getting on. There is so much to see and do, and time flies so fast, especially in a situation like the present. However, in a few days I shall have a cablegram at Winnipeg, I hope, giving me a rough idea of what I had better do. I am getting on better now with the Dukhobors as I can speak more Russian; often I am dependent on it, so it is good practice; and they are all very good and kind, and try to make it easy for me to understand. I know enough to carry on simple conversation if they don't speak too fast.

Here it seems that what is wanted more than anything else is organisation and money. I hope more will be forthcoming perhaps from England, although I know how good people have already been. But there is no doubt about it that money will be wanted. I hope to see J. Elkinton at Philadelphia (letters or telegrams for me when I am on my return journey might perhaps go there or to George Scattergood's), and I will explain to him how matters stand here.

\* Properly Karashan—"very good," "all right."

He told me that he had sent 4000 dollars to Hilkoﬀ, but I think that is pretty well used up now: oxen at 120 dollars a pair use up money of course, and seed and implements. The Cyprus Dukhobors at present are camped out mostly in tents, and some of them in a kind of large wooden house, near the station. They look most picturesque: to-day being Sunday they are all in their best things, and they do really look very nice; I had tea to-night in one of the tents. The women strike one as being very fine: they work splendidly, they all look so well built and with their bronze faces and picturesque dresses they look very nice indeed. There is real character in many of the faces: i.e. one can almost tell at a glance what sterling people some of them are. I believe there are some amongst them who do not attain such a high standard, but this does not apply much I think to the Cyprus Dukhobors, who have all been through more or less suffering. There is no doubt about their Christian character. If any people are deserving of sympathy and help these are. There are a great many Galician immigrants here now in this part of Canada, but they do not seem to have as good a reputation as the Dukhobors; although McCreary (the Government Immigration Commissioner at Winnipeg) told me that when properly handled they can be got to work well. They are much to be pitied also: they seem to come out with all their worldly goods swinging in bundles on their backs. McCreary has obtained work for a good lot of the North Colony Dukhobors on the railway north of Cowan, and they are earning 1½ dollars a day, which will come in very handy for them. The Cyprus Dukhobors are vegetarians, but some of the others out at the South Colony are not, and I hear they have been catching a lot of fish out there. I am taking quinine out to the South Colony (40 miles) to-morrow. I had a note from the doctor, who says they haven't any there, and he also requires a surgical instrument I shall have to try to get here. At a station in the prairie last night there was an American Indian in his native costume, and with red paint or colour on his cheeks; also a crowd of Galicians who were coming on in the train, and a few Dukhobors: a very strange throng indeed. Coming across the prairie some cows got on the line (there is no barrier) and kept on running in front of the train in spite of the warning whistles from the engine; we had, of course, to slow down and let them strike off on to the prairie when they had had enough.

I am hoping to take some snap-shots of the Indians here. The chief, or whoever he is, told me that some one who was there three weeks ago, who photographed him, said he was going to send it to the Queen.

Prince Hilkoﬀ is leaving to-night for Winnipeg, and will post this. Archer is here, and anything of importance in connection with Dukhobors should be sent to him now, as Hilkoﬀ may be leaving; at any rate Archer seems to be more permanently settled than Hilkoﬀ, who wants to get back to Europe. Canada is a splendid country, really very rich, but yet undeveloped.

YORKTON, ASSINIBOIA, 21-5-99.

*As the Committee, of course, desire to avoid anything approaching one-sidedness in the information they publish about the Dukhobors, they would remind Friends that in a community of 7000 persons, all cannot be on the same level: and the absence of discipline in some cases brings discredit on many for the misconduct of a few.*

*To use the expression of Aylmer Maude, who has worked so earnestly on their behalf, "they are men and women with failings like ourselves: but this makes it all the more incumbent on us to help them, and the more interesting."*



EMIGRANTS FROM CYPRUS ON BOARD THE "LAKE SUPERIOR"  
(The 3rd Officer is on the bridge. Dr. Mercer is standing among the Dukhobors on the left.)

The following is from a private letter:—

*McCreary [the Government Agent at Winnipeg], who has been working well about the Dukhobors, has a testimonial as to their good and conscientious work on the railway, from the Engineer in charge*

The following has been received by the Clerk of the London Committee, from the Cyprus Emigrants. It was written in Russian, on board the steamer during their passage across to Canada.

MUCH ESTEEMED SIR,—

9th of May, 1899

We should like to express to you in a few words our gratitude. We write this letter in Russian, and ask our friend Arthur Carlovitch [*i.e.*, "Arthur, the son of Charles," Arthur St. John is meant] to translate it into English.

Every time we write to you, dear brothers, we want to repeat one and the same thing: that is, just to thank you with all our heart and all our soul for the priceless help which you have given, and are giving, to us. How can we possibly thank you? At the present time we have no material means: and our spiritual energies will not avail us to thank you for services which are beyond any power of expression.

\* \* \* \* \*

We beg you, beloved friend, to please convey our thanks to all the brothers and sisters who are helping us. At the same time we send greetings from all of us to all of you.

We remain, from the depth of our hearts, your loving brothers and sisters who lived in Cyprus.

(Signed) V. POTAPOFF.

From the general body of the DukhobortsI to Friends.

(Translated from the Russian)

BELOVED BRETHERN AND SISTERS IN THE FAITH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,—

We send you spiritual and pure-hearted greeting and bow before you, and invoke upon you all the blessings of our Lord God from this peace-loving Christian brotherhood, who have recently come from the Russian Empire to Canada.

Not long ago we received at your hands a great deal of mercy, which enabled us to come here; for this we cannot thank you sufficiently, but must let the Lord reward you, and we feel sure that He will do so.

There are now of our Christian brotherhood seven thousand souls in Canada.

The Canadian Government has given us land in sections.

This climate does not seem to be very warm, and we therefore have not yet, on this 10th day of June, sown all our grain, not having enough horses. The spring was very late, and the great cold hung on long.

We cannot tell what our harvest will be; the Lord only knows.

We do not know of any more news about our circumstances to write you.

With this we say "good-bye," and committing you to the care of God,

We are, your

PEACE-LOVING CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD.

1899, 10th June