

# The Liberal.

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The bullet extracted from my leg, I was soon able to be about my work. Shortly after I resumed duty I offended Camp by a trifling neglect. He seized the whip and came at me in a perfect fury. I ran from the tent, passed the guards and made for the woods, my master in hot pursuit. I had reached the picket and was about to pass when the man said, "Stop! Lemy! Stop! You know I am bound to fire! I halted. Camp was on me in a minute. My clothes were stripped off, I was tied up by the thumbs to a tree, so that my toes just touched the ground. Camp himself laid on the lash until he wore it up, then he got a wagon whip and laid on until the blood ran down into my boots. I was ready to quit long before he was. As he continued to flog I lost all feeling, each blow seeming like a little stream of warm water poured down my back. This was the hardest beating I ever had, and as the regiment had to remove to another station I had to ride over rough roads for two weeks, my raw back putting me in continued torment, there was agony in every joint.

At this time Generals Brown and Porter united, and made an attack on Fort Erie. The garrison surrendered after a sturdy resistance. The British were determined to recapture the Fort and made an advance in three columns, one of which succeeded in scaling the wall, when an explosion took place that blew some of both parties into the air. After the repulse of the British both armies were for a long time in a state of inactivity. Camp living in his own house at Buffalo.

Being a boy of all work I had to attend to a variety of duties, among others that of cook. Camp on one occasion had a party to which a number of officers and other guests were invited. Hot cakes were the order of the evening, and Camp was very particular in having them hot from the oven (a Dutch oven). I made out pretty well until the last batch. They were called for before I was quite ready. The wood was scarce. I broke up a picket and anything else I could get hold of, but in vain. Camp called again. "Coming in a minute," said I, but the minute was long. I saw that the minute was long. I was ordered down on my knees, the shirt was torn from my back, and the lash swung over my back. Since my last whipping, which had been commented on rather severely by his brother officers, my master had become somewhat unpopular. General McClure and others told me that if he tried it again I was to run into the street and if he followed they would catch him and pound him. I did not run. I knew I did not deserve punishment. I noticed before he brought down the lash that he hesitated. Perhaps he thought when he saw the scars on my back of what he had given me before. I told him that the cause of delay was the want of wood. The charge of laziness was so unjust that I felt my passion rising. I felt like doing something desperate if he persisted in flogging me. He suddenly let go of me and went upstairs. Quick as thought I was after him. I heard him ask his wife to come down and plead for Lemy, as he did not want to beat me. When he came down I was kneeling in the same spot waiting. His wife then came down and pleaded for me. Camp said, Lem, I do not care to beat you, but you have broken up the party. As one after another of the guests had quietly slipped away I thought they had left in disgust at his cruelty. After what I had heard about being in a free State I began to feel more like a free man, but this usage put Satan into my heart and I was determined that if there was no other way of escape to shoot him.

One day I was in the armory (for Camp was quarter-master). I saw a pair of little pistols. I told Sam that I intended to take them and if Camp laid hands on me I would shoot him. Sam said that I had better let them alone and not talk so foolishly. I pretended to take no more notice, but secreted the pistols when Sam was looking another way. The pistols in my possession, my anger still burning and being young in years I harbored the thought until I resolved to do it. You see, gentlemen, that I have lost a tooth in front. The loss of that tooth saved me from being hung for murder. One day my master's back being turned toward me, I raised the pistol to fire. Sam saw it, and in a moment gave me such a blow in the mouth that I went reeling to the floor. Camp turned round and asked the cause of the noise. Sam said that I had tripped over his foot and fell. I was always thankful that Sam saved me from a dreadful crime and from a dreadful death, for they never had much pity over there for a slave, how-

ever he may be driven to it, who breaks the law.

I now made up my mind to run away whatever might be the consequences. Camp's house was situated on the bank of the river. A short distance apart were gun boats which I did not think safe to pass, so I resolved to go up the river and endeavor to get across to Canada. Having decided on the night I made preparations for the venture. Something, however, that I had done began to raise suspicion. On the very night I had decided on, Camp came into my room about 11 o'clock to see if all was right. I pretended to be asleep. He passed the light close over my eyes. I lay perfectly still until he went down. Camp's bed-room window was where I could watch it. When the light was out I took my only spare shirt and descended into the street. It was very dark, but I was familiar with the road. I groped my way to the river where I knew there was an old log boat, which I got into and silently paddled my way to a canoe, that I had often used to go from one gun boat to another. I started for the opposite shore. It was so dark that I lost my way and was in fear of landing on the wrong side. I put my hand over the side of the canoe and found that I was sailing with the current. I then turned the canoe across and rowed until I struck a rock, nearly upset and shipped considerable water. I thought that I would stay there until daylight, but in fear of the river rising, I baled the water out of the boat and made another start. My next landing place was on the Canadian shore. As soon as I landed I felt that I was a free man, at the same time I was frightened half out of my wits in fear of meeting with blood-thirsty Canadians or other savages. As I glided slowly along I saw a man on horse-back. I began to run. He put spurs to his horse, overtook me and asked what I was running for. I pleaded for my life and told him that I did not want to be either tomahawked or scalped. The man gave a great laugh and said he guessed there wasn't much danger. He took me to his home and cared for me until I got something to do.

Many like myself who had escaped from slavery settled about Chatham; others availed themselves of the liberality of the Canadian Government and took up farms in what then were the backwoods of Canada. Among them was myself. On a farm in the township of Artemesia I have lived, raised my family and prospered.

Amid many friendly nods from those he had entertained by the way, our genial Colored Fellow-Traveler left us at the town of Collingwood. As the names of nearly all the officers mentioned in this sketch can be traced in American history of the events of the war of 1812, we may suppose that his personal narrative was true.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

**PERSONALS.**

Miss Wales of Aylmer is the guest of Mrs. P. G. Savage.

Mrs. D. Hill and children are visiting friends in Peterboro.

Mr. Austin Law and Miss Rose Law of Toronto, are home for a few days.

Miss Flora Stewart and two lady friends of Toronto, are the guests of Mrs. W. J. Morton, Mt. Joy Farm.

Miss Ivy Knox and Master Teddy Knox of Toronto have been making a visit with Mrs. J. W. Elliott.

Messrs. Tom Ness of Boston and Andrew Ness of Toronto spent Monday night with relatives in the village.

Masters Frank and Clarkson McDonald are spending a few weeks on a farm with their uncle, Mr. John McDonald at Wexford.

Mr. Harry Marsh who had been on one of the Muskoka steamers during the summer is home for a few weeks recruiting his health.

Earle Newton left Saturday for Jackson's Point where he is spending a week in company with his friend, Norman Wilson of Toronto.

Mr. Geo. Buskin who represents the International Colportage Mission in Northern Ontario was in the village Thursday and collected \$2.85.

Messrs. C. G. Derry, C. P. Wiley and A. S. Savage, commercial travellers for city firms, are all home just now for a few weeks' holidays.

Col. Mason of Toronto, manager of the Home Saving Company, and his son, drove through the village Sunday and dined at The Dominion House.

Mr. A. R. Innes, Mathematical Master in Port Elgin High School, is reading examination papers in Toronto, and spent Sunday with his parents here.

Hon. Wm. Mulock, Postmaster General, and family, passed through the village Tuesday by special car for their summer residence in North York near Newmarket.

Mr. Teefy Mulcahy, who has been in California for the past two years, is spending a few days with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Teefy, on his way home to Orillia.

Mr. R. Hamilton, wife and two children, of Okmulgee, Indian Territory, are spending a few weeks with Mrs. Hamilton, Elgin Mills. This is Mr. Hamilton's first visit with his mother during six years.

Mr. and Mrs. James McConaghy and baby are spending a couple of weeks with Mr. F. McConaghy and other relatives here. Mr. McConaghy is having his annual holidays from the Toronto Post Office.

**Strayed or Stolen**

On Friday, July 6, 1906, 5 Shropshire sheep, 4 Thorshyre lambs and 4 Cotswold sheep, strayed or were taken from the premises of the undersigned, lot 19, con. 2, Vaughan. Any person giving information which will lead to their recovery will be suitably rewarded.  
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One, Gray & Sons, light covered buggy, new, \$65.  
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