

A MINIATURE JOHNSTOWN FLOOD,

Or the Foolish Man who Built his House Upon Sand:

Once upon a time there was a man who built upon a sandy point with waters at his left and greater waters at his right. And passers by saith unto him: "Why build ye upon sand?" Doth not the Scriptures tell us: "Build not your houses upon sand, but lay a firm hold on the bed rock."

Now he not being a wise man and lacking much in understanding he saith unto them: "Why rebuke me, am I not older than thou?" He therefore goeth on his way and commenceth to build.

And they say unto him: "Yonder hillside containeth two old mill dams; they hold much water and have little support." He sayeth unto them: "The dams are good; the dams are strong, and I don't care a dam." And they turn away and say: "Thou fool."

And it came to pass in one dark night in November, when all nature puts on a certain dread and seems restless, this foolish man slept. He being a heavy sleeper and a loud snorer was sleeping the sleep of the just. And moreover it came to pass that the sky darkened, the clouds rolled, the winds howled and it rained a great rain. And likewise those dams were filled beyond their strength and could not bear up under such a BURDEN and so they burst, carrying in their path devastation and ruin.

And it came to pass that great timbers were broken and the great sleeper was awakened by a loud roaring, for his house (which was built upon sand) quivered like a leaf and he cried aloud in his agony: "Save, save or I perish." And he was like unto Noah's dove, for he had not where to rest the sole of his foot, but was in the midst of many waters, and he crieth out: "Why did I not take counsel a due season and avoid this calamity?" His grief was great and his BURDEN was more than he could bear, and he crieth out: "Rash man am I. Next time I will build mine house on a rock and not upon shifting sands."

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