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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLEANER

Mr. R. W. McLellan Puts It Squarely Up to Mr. James H. Crockett—Must Retract or Substantiate the Slanderous Statements which He Has Been Publishing From Time to Time—A Fair Proposition Which Cannot Very Well Be Overlooked.

Mr. James H. Crockett,
Editor "Gleaner."

Dear Sir:
Concerning your present attacks upon myself, and some prominent citizens, through the columns of your paper last summer, and re-hashed with some trimmings on Saturday last, I have a few words to address you.

I have hesitated to break in upon the public with these personal matters. To remain silent any longer would naturally cause some people to think that you have some evidence to support your insinuations and charges. You have not a tittle of testimony to support a shadow of the charges, and you are a past master in the insinuation line, which, after all, requires little ability.

Take one of the charges. I have unwittingly allowed you, and without reply, for a number of years to harp on what you now term a celebrated will case. Taking part of the evidence in that case, seven years ago in October past, and without waiting for the completion of the case, endeavored to fix upon myself, who drew the will, and others, whose names it is not necessary to drag in, the responsibility for some alleged wrong doing. Before these false reports were published, and not knowing such were to be published, a settlement among the different parties, to which I refused to agree and took no part in, was arrived at, which was immediately flung to the winds when knowledge of such reports came to the attention of those promoting and supporting the will. The contents of your paper at that time were severely criticized by a respected judge now gone to his rest, and the case proceeded with the taking of evidence until every shadow of any possible wrong was removed. This is a matter of public court record, and is also the fact that the said judge made his solemn decree allowing this very will, which he never would have done had there been any suspicion against it. These are the facts you will find in this connection, and reference to Mr. H. A. Powell, of St. John, one of the leading counsel of the province, who is a Conservative, will verify. However, this is not the time to go into details. I am going to fling you a challenge later on that may afford the opportunity.

Permit me in the first place to state that this is your usual method of fighting your political opponents; and, secondly, that I never wrote or suggested the contents of a single editorial or comment in The Mail, or any other newspaper in my life. It has its editor and manager who are engaged to run it—I do not and never did. This goodly newspaper, without suggestion or inspiration from me, or the other gentlemen whom you attack, has evidently seen fit to criticize the political acts of your brother. Your, or his reply, has been in every case a vile and untrue attack upon citizens in their private capacity.

It is needless to again point out that this has always been your idea of political warfare. Thus you have abused, libelled and charged with almost every crime, such men as the late Hon. A. G. Blair, the late Judge Gregory, Senator Thompson, Mr. Whitehead and many others, including your present leader, Premier Hazen and Hon. H. F. McLeod. The fact that these men have allowed you to go unscathed has given you a false courage, because you do not possess a vestige of the true article. With some of your intended victims, however, you have met your Waterloo. The public is well aware with what salutary results, and for the same reasons a member of one of the leading families of this city, on one occasion, and the present governor, on another, administered to you the lash without you even making a show of defence. That I was, this summer, gunning after you on a similar strand you well know, if the public does not. Your success in

seeking and finding cover to escape my dog whip, and your artful dodging to ports of safety in the shape of friendly shop doors or houses, for a long period after your June attack, and while the lust to main was upon me, is a matter well known to yours. For what other reason did you then change your long established habit of passing my office and out Carleton Street to a relatives to dinner? I still have the dog whip. Why don't I use it, you ask? For a while no power under Heaven would have prevented had you not avoided me, although I was told you were a mad. Your bluff to scare me with that anonymous letter, saying you were armed, I would have taken a chance on. The opportunity failing, this savage instinct to main was subdued. Why, you ask, was the law not then invoked? Simply because I was foolishly prevailed upon to let your attack pass unnoticed.

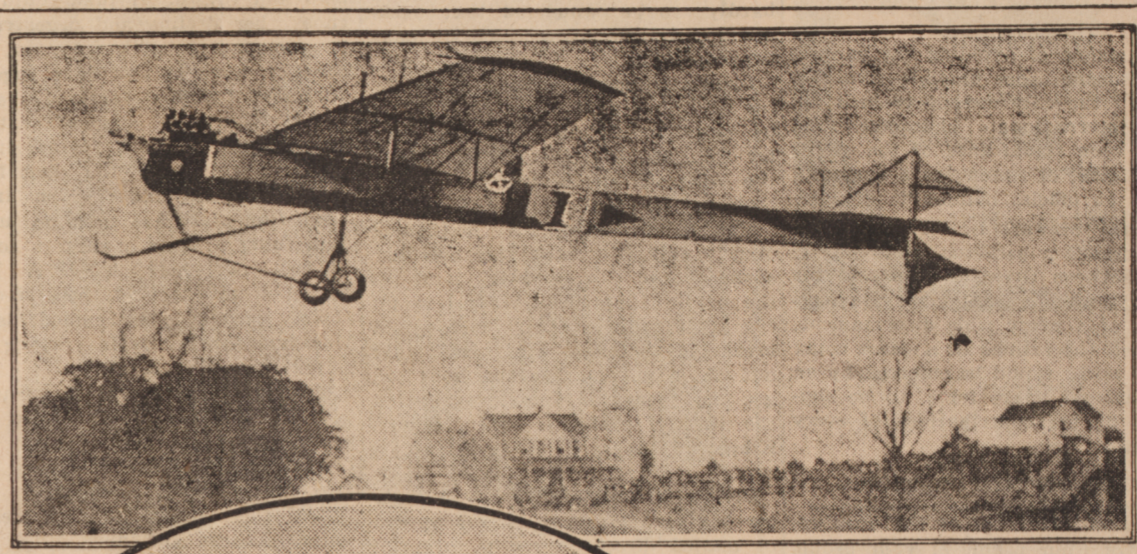
This community is too small for such characters as you are, and as you allege I am. You have struck a snag this time. I do not fear the results of the fullest investigation into any of my private enterprises or business dealings. I have therefore now retained Counsel, and may bring such action as will afford you the fullest opportunity to prove the direct charges you have made. Your answer to this letter will possibly bring a decision. Either you are a criminal libeller, or I have no business in this community. Time will tell. I am trying for the present, and against the direct advice of dozens of good citizens to overcome the more direct method that has been with success used in similar cases with you. I respect the law, and it is not lack of inclination or ability to do a good job that keeps me back. For the present I wish to do or say nothing that will interfere with a fair trial, but even this I will abandon if you will accept the proposition I now make you. It is this, and if you are not lacking in the courage I doubt you possess, you will accept. "Come out from behind your ink pots," to use the challenge of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster to the Editor of the Toronto Globe, and meet me on any public platform in this City, clear of your usual ambush and in this open, manly way you can make your charges and produce your evidence. I will meet you and cram your slanders down your throat, and give you an opportunity to reply to any remarks I make concerning your personality and affairs. Your brother Editor had the manliness to accept his challenge—Did you catch that? Have you? Fight on the open and not like the assassin. I have no news paper. Drop your cowardly advantage, and let us meet on equal terms. The public will, I am sure, conclude that this is only British Fair Play. I will provide the band and the hall. Are you game? I am preparing to leave the city on a somewhat lengthy engagement. I will cancel everything and meet you. If you fail me in this way, future action with you is decided upon.

These attacks arise from your and your brother's supposed connection to the part of myself and other friends who have also attacked, with The Mail newspaper's criticism of his political acts. It is now up to you, Mr. Crockett, to either accept or reject my proposition. Let the Billingsgate slide at any rate till you have given a clear cut answer in a day or two. To attempt to beg this issue will, I am sure—take a word of advice—only destroy whatever advantage you may up to this time, think you have attained by reason of the silence of myself and others for reasons already stated.

I have a drifting doubt you will not publish this, letter as written. Screw up your courage, Crockett, and do so, for by so doing, and more so by accepting my challenge, you will restore to the mind of a doubting public, at least, some little respect for a courage which very lately I have had good occasion to know and



MONS. HUBERT LATHAM AT THE WHEEL OF HIS ANTOINETTE



MONS. LATHAM STARTING FROM THE HALETHORPE AVIATION FIELD FOR HIS FLIGHT OVER BALTIMORE



IN THE AUTOMOBILE PARKING SPACE AT HALETHORPE

Six hundred thousand men, women and children applauded Hubert Latham, the daring French aviator, who, in his birdlike Antoinette, flew north and south, east and west over the business blocks, factories and homes of Baltimore and won the prize of \$5,000 offered by the Baltimore Sun for the accomplishment of this feat, viewed by all airmen as one of the most hazardous ever attempted by an aviator.

DUMA ADJOURNS OUT OF RESPECT TO TOLSTOI

St. Petersburg, Nov. 21—The Duma adjourned today's session out of respect for Count Leo Tolstoi, who died at Astapova yesterday, though the decision to do so was reached only after a wrangle, the members of the extreme right contending that to honor the memory of the Russian Reformer and Novelist would be to challenge the Greek Catholic Church. It was asserted that the Duma was a state institution to which the Count was especially opposed. In proposing the adjournment the president eulogized Tolstoi, whom he described as "The pride of Russia and the glory of mankind," adding: "May the merciful God open to him the Kingdom of Heaven."

N. S. CAPTAIN AND WIFE DROWNED AT SEA

Canso, N. S. Nov. 21—(Special)—The Schooner Lilla A. Captain Young arrived here in port this morning. She reports a serious collision off Beaver with the Schooner Midnight, of Jeddore, N. S. The Schooner Midnight was sunk and Captain Weston who was at the wheel went down with the crew of three men being saved. It is claimed that the Midnight was not showing lights at the time of the collision. Captain Weston who was at the wheel, went below to arouse his wife but was unsuccessful in rescuing her and both lost their lives.

KING GEORGE'S MESSAGE TO SIR WILFRID LAURIE

Ottawa, Nov. 21—(Special)—A message from His Majesty King George to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, congratulating him on his 70th birthday is as follows: "Please accept my sincere congratulations on your seventieth birthday. May you be blessed with many years of prosperity"

(Sgd) George R
Dough made without baking powder can be kept in a cold place for several days, and many good cooks declare that keeping it makes the bread infinitely lighter.

prove is very weak in the knees. The policy of The Mail, I believe, is to exclude from its columns contentious matters. I am, therefore, deprived of carrying on a newspaper controversy, if I desired. This is my last until the day of reckoning arrives, as it surely will, for one of us. Do you also catch that? The other gentlemen whom you have maligned, are perfectly able to look after themselves. Unfortunately some of them are out of the city. I have not a doubt you will hear from them soon.

With apology for the lengthy space I am,
Yours truly,
R. W. McLELLAN.
P. S.—I have handed a copy of the above letter to The Gleaner for publication.
R. W. McL.

COUNT TOLSTOI, NOVELIST AND REFORMER IS DEAD

Astapova, Nov. 20—Peasants all day long passed through the death chamber, hung with pine boughs, where Tolstoi lies. Many of them knelt beside the bier. The silence at times was broken by orthodox chants for the repose of the soul of the dead. Countess Tolstoi sat beside the body for hours, often kissing the face. "The light of the world is out," she said repeatedly. She left the hut only to attend matins in the school chapel, expecting that a requiem would be sung. When informed that this was not permitted she fainted.

Tolstoi had a written wish that he be buried without pomp, wreaths or rites under "poverty oak," on a hillside at Yasnaya Poliana, where he played as a child and where the peasants were accustomed to congregate. The funeral will be held on Tuesday and the police have been mobilized to prevent public demonstrations.

The crowd that gathered around the hut where Tolstoi lay dying in the early Sunday morning hours awaited breathlessly the verdict of Dr. Theurovsky and Dr. Usoff, two of the leading heart specialists of Moscow, who had been hurriedly called into consultation. The former had carried Tolstoi safely through a similar crisis in 1901 in Crimea, and the hopes of the people rested on him.

The examination was brief, lasting less than half an hour. Tolstoi failed to recognize either of the physicians and asked: "Who are these strangers?" When informed he said: "What fine men."

QUEBEC RAILWAY STOCK SOLD AT SIXTY TODAY

New York, Nov. 21—Sales were made in the opening of the stock market in an attempt to take profits and prices yielded rather weakly. Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Canadian Pacific, U. S. Steel and Amal Copper lost a point, and St. Paul, Rock Island, and American Smelting large fractions.

Peoples Gas advanced 1/2.

(Quotations from direct private wires of J. M. Robinson & Son, Bankers, St. John, N. B., Members of Montreal Stock Exchange)

	Open	Noon
Amalgamated,	69 1/2	70
Atholton,	104	103 1/2
Smelters,	81 1/2	81
Brooklyn,	78 1/2	78 1/2
Canadian Pacific,	194 1/2	195 1/2
Great Northern, pfd.,	124	124
Northern Pacific,	116	115 1/2
Pennsylvania,	129 1/2	130
Reading,	154	154 1/2
Southern Pacific,	118 1/2	118 1/2
Union Pacific,	178 1/2	178 1/2
U. S. Steel Com.,	80 1/2	80 1/2
Que. Ry.,	58	60
Toronto Ry.,	125	125
Cement Com.,	160 @ 23 1/2	100 @ 23 1/2
Cement Pfd.,	176 @ 86	26 @ 85 1/2
Toronto Ry.,	110 @ 125	
Illinois Pfd.,	25 @ 89 1/2	
Commerce Bank—7 @ 207		
Montreal Street—25 @ 225		25 @ 224 1/2

NEW YORK HAS TWO SERIOUS FIRES TODAY

New York, Nov. 21—Bad fires in two widely separated sections of the city today drove hundreds of persons panic stricken into the streets and caused property damage approximated at \$150,000. So far as can be learned there were no casualties as a result of either fire.

The worst damage was that at a fire which destroyed the Throop avenue presbyterian church in Brooklyn, badly damaging adjoining buildings and caused a panic in the neighborhood where apartment dwellers rushed into the streets by hundreds fearful for their safety. Upwards of \$125,000 damage resulted from the burning of the church. The fire started mysteriously in the chapel.

SHOCKING CRIME REPORTED FROM MARYVILLE MO.

Marysville, Mo., Nov. 21—Osa Hubbell, a farmer near Barnard, Mo., and his wife and two children were shot and killed at their home last night by an unknown person, who set fire to the house to conceal the crime.

WIFE WAITED IN VAIN FOR HUSBAND'S RETURN

Calgary, Nov. 21—(Special)—Mrs F. H. Samner, who has just returned from Crooked Lake, north of Prince Albert, reports that her husband and a guide were drowned at that place some time ago. They were out in a boat and she waited on the shore of the lake eighteen days for their return, until she learned from some trappers that they had been drowned.

MONCTON'S DEATH RATE FOR THE PAST YEAR

Moncton, Nov. 21—(Special)—The death list of the city of Moncton during the past year totals 153. Of this number 14 died of tuberculosis, which is considered a small record.

CRIPPEN TO HANG ON WEDNESDAY

London, Nov. 21—Dr. Crippen's petition for a reprieve was denied today, the Home Secretary announcing that he declined to interfere with the sentence of the court. Crippen will be executed on the morning of November 23rd.

Bell Telephone—9 @ 143.
Crown Reserve—600 @ 281.
Dominion Iron—5 @ 102 1/2.
Royal Bank—10 @ 244.
Iron Com.—100 @ 62; 25 @ 62 1/2.
Detroit—25 @ 56 1/2.

FIERCE RIOTING IN MEXICO

One Hundred Persons Reported to Have Been Killed By Troops

Struggling Body of Rioters Fired Upon with Disastrous Effect—Reports are Conflicting.

El Paso, Tex., Nov. 21—A despatch from Del Rio Texas, on the Mexican border 250 miles east of here, states that rumors are current there of a fight which is supposed to have taken place near there early last night between Americans and Mexicans.

El Paso, Tex., Nov. 21—One hundred persons were killed in rioting which took place at Zacatecas in the interior of Mexico, opposite Tampico, Saturday night, according to reports received here this morning. Soldiers fired into the struggling body of rioters with disastrous effect. One hundred is the lowest estimate of the loss of life, which may reach five hundred.

The American consul telegraphed the first news of the riots to the Mexican Consul at San Antonio, stating that the town was in a state of uproar and that the loss of life was not less than 100.

No details were given other than a company of soldiers were ordered to fire upon a vast crowd of rioters which thronged the streets. Zacatecas is the capital of the state of Zacatecas in Central Mexico, about 500 miles from the United States line. News of the riots did not reach the outside world until late, although the battle took place Saturday night. It is stated that quiet has now been restored by placing the city under rigid military rule. Latest reports are that the slain are still lying in the streets where they fell.

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 21—Confirmation of the report that the Mexican Consul at San Antonio, Enrique Oneal has been advised of rioting at the town of Zacatecas, Mexico, has not been made yet. Efforts made to locate Oneal have proved futile because of a recent change in residence.

The Express publishes a story that Francisco Madero is believed to have made his way into the interior. El Paso, Tex., Nov. 21—Reports of more bands of Mexicans had crossed the river at different points cannot be verified. County officers and United States river guards state they have no positive information of trouble, but have heard rumors of an invasion and attack at different points.

It is reported that riots have taken place at Alnieze, 70 miles south in Mexico and several have been killed there. The report is unconfirmed.

Washington, Nov. 21—Brig. General Hoyt, commander of the Department of Texas, has been instructed to hold troops in readiness to meet any call made by the governor of Texas to preserve neutrality on the part of the United States in connection with the revolt in Mexico.

TWO MEN LOSE LIVES IN OIL HOUSE FIRE

Pittsburg, Pa. Nov. 21—Fighting their way through dense smoke and blinding flames in a burning oil house of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad today, Howard Vinkendoff and Wilbert Elery were burned to death. The men had worked all of Sunday and part of the night and had gone to sleep in the oil house. Sparks from a passing engine fired the little building and they could be seen running around endeavoring to find the door before they fell. The bodies were burned beyond recognition.

ST. JOHN WOMAN LEFT A LARGE ESTATE

St. John, Nov. 21—(Special)—The will of Mrs. Elizabeth McGee, widow of E. W. McGee, was admitted to probate here this morning. The estate was sworn at \$25,500, bequeathed to her three children.