

ROYAL ANTEDELUVIAN ORDER

OF

BUFFALOES.

Grand Surrey Banner, Lincolnshire Province.

BUFFALO POEM:

'Told in our Lodge.'



PRICE ONE PENNY.

The whole of the Proceeds to be given
to the

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND

in connection with this Province.

With Bro. Munnings's Compliments.



“TOLD IN OUR LODGE.”

(BY “UBIQUITOUS.”)

Worthy Primo, City Marshal, and Brothers, I've got just
a few words to say,
And seeing as I'm a visitor, I hope that you won't say
me nay ;
It's for the young 'uns my words are intended, them to
whom Buffaloism's new,
And I hope that they'll never experience the trouble that I
have been through.
I'd been but two years in the Order, or may be a little bit
more,
So my knowledge of things Buffaloistic was not very great
you are sure,
Still, being young, I was anxious to learn, Sir, there was
nothing that I meant to lose,
Though the missis would often declare, Sir, 'twas an idle
excuse for a booze,
A statement I always resented, in language sometimes
rather strong,
But it was all of no use what I said, Sir, she'd never admit
she was wrong,
I was working one day at my bench, Sir, when I heard a
large crash overhead,
It was caused by some fallen machinery—my shopmates
picked me up for dead.
They very soon sent for the doctor, 'twas an hospital case
he declared,
And he was doubtful if ever they could save me; in fact,
of my life he despaired.
On a roughly improvised litter, by willing hands I was
soon borne away
To the hospital, where for some weeks, Sir, fighting for
dear life, I lay.
How slowly the days seemed to pass, Sir, till the long-
looked-for word came at last.

When they told me that I should recover, when they told
me the danger was passed,
My feelings I cannot express, Sir, as I lay there so helpless
and bad,
When I thought of my wife and the children, I felt as
though I should go mad.
So far from our friends and relations, whatever would my
poor wife do,
Seeing I belonged to no club, Sir, in fact we hadn't a
sou.
How I longed for the next visiting day, Sir, the first since
I'd been in this place,
That my wife was permitted to see me, it had been such a
serious case.
How slowly the hours seemed to pass, Sir, as I lay there
watching the door,
For a glimpse of that dear beloved face, that I never
thought I should see more.
At length the hour had arrived, Sir, and the ward door was
thrown open wide.
And amongst the first ones to enter was my wife with our
boy at her side.
And as if by a natural instinct, Sir, she came straight to
my little bed,
And with one fond, loving embrace, "My prayers are
answered!" she said.
"How I've prayed for this hour to come, Jack, our
Father above only knows,
And He in His infinite mercy has answered the prayers
of those
Who believe in His Almighty power, us suffering mortals
to save,
And has sent forth His ministering angels to save us from
an untimely grave."
"Tell me," said I, "how you've fared since I've been
here, for that has been my only thought,
Of the rent and food for the children, for that has all had
to be bought,
And with never a sou to do it, God knows what you've
had to go through,
And me lying here so helpless, it maddens me to think
what you'll do."
"Oh, Jack!" said my wife in a moment, as the tears
down her cheek I saw fall,
"When you're stronger, and able to bear it, then, dear,
will let you know all."

I assured her 'twould be cruel not to tell me all that there
was to know,
As it would greatly assist my recovery, which up till then
had been dreadfully slow ;
And this is the tale that she told me, as I lay in that
hospital bed,
A tale mingled with her own repentance for the many hard
words she had said,
“ You'd been but two days in this place, Jack, when there
came a loud knock at the door,
And a man said he'd come round to see me, a man that
I'd not seen before ;
He asked very kindly about you, and spoke of you, Jack,
as a brother,
And said something about man's first duty was always to
help one another ;
He said they had heard with deep sorrow of your very sad
accident,
And he'd been asked by the brothers to come round and
see how you stood with the rent.
I told him nothing was owing, but now you was taken
away,
I didn't know whatever I should do, for we hadn't the
money to pay,
When he quickly told me not to worry, for the rent would
be regularly paid,
And for all other little necessities provision was going to
be made,
I tried my best, Jack, to thank him, and asked who these
brothers could be,
But he assured me that no thanks were needed by the
members of the R.A.O.B.
Oh, Jack, can you ever forgive me for the many cruel
things I have said
Of those to whom should have been given nothing but
praises instead ? ”
And then, in words soft and low, Sir, she reverently
whispered to me,
“ May God, in His infinite mercy, bless and prosper the
R.A.O.B.”
And, taking my hand in hers, Sir, tightly pressed it—and
then,
As I lay there so helpless and weak, Sir, I quietly answered
—“ Amen.”