

“Tragedy and Inspiration.”

*When “76 its course had run,
And “77 but scarce begun,
An folk wi’ resolution fired,
Tae greater aims wi’ zeal aspired.*

*’Twas then a major tragedy struck
At members o’ the Paiterson Kirk
On the first Sunday o’ the year
O’erwhelmed us a’ wi’ grief, an’ fear.*

*As tae the Kirk that morn I went
Tae praise the Lord, wi’ high intent
I little thocht what tragic scene
Wad be enacted fore my een.*

*There, to my ‘stonished, anguished gaze,
Oor brow wee Kirk, wi’ roof ablaze,
An’ movin on at sic a rate
Made sure destruction was its fate.*

*I, wi’ a fellow elder stood,
An’ gazed upon the House of God,
Whaur we’ve baith joy and sorrow seen,
The saut tear swam, in baith oor een.*

*But faur frae seein’ onything sinister,
Sic faith has stemmed frae oor wee minister,
He preached tae us, the next Lords day,
An’ frae the Auld Testament did say;*

*“Gird up your loins, guid members a’
An’ when misfortunes ye befa,
Ye’ve seen yer weel loved buildin’ burn,
Yer thochts tae Restoration turn.”*

*When Abraham, in the days of old,
The Bible has the story told,
When challenged by the Lord of Hosts
Tae sacrifice what he loved the most,*

*Was still prepared, wi’ unpraised knife
Tae tak’ his only dearsons life,
“Twas then God telt him tae desist,
An’ did the downward stroke arrest.*

*An’ so the Reverend Archie Small,
Drew a simile, in the wee Scout hall,
On just hoo fawr faith micht e tested
An’ doubting an’ despair resisted.*

*An’ frae oor wee Kirks charred remains,
Blackened timbers, an’ Holy stanes,
An inspiration micht ensue
Tae bind us ; an’ oor Faith Renew,
Resolved that naething will surpass us,
As Phoenix rose; frae out the ashes.*

Wm S McCoubrey