Two Chronicling America Resources

The sifting of the Lusitania is a fearful thing. The loss of twelve hundred lives is terrible to contemplate. But it is just what the captain of the vessel said: "It is the fortune of war." Old Sherman gave a good definition of war and that definition stands good today. "War is hell." And you can't make anything else out of it. Whatever people go to war for except to kill one another. There is no such thing as civilized war. There is nothing civil about it. It is butchery and barbarism and does not belong to civilization. It is the brute force in us, holding sway and dominion.

The people who went on that vessel, whether American or otherwise, went on there with knowledge of what they might expect. If they were not willing to take the risk they should not have gone aboard. It was a bellicose ship—a ship of one of the warring nations and Germany had given fair notice that she was going to do the thing if she had the opportunity, and as we see it she had the opportunity.

The main track of the wind seems to have been about one hundred yards from the building, and it is the opinion of those who saw the storm that the suction of the whirl wind pulled the house over and that it roofed the barn of Mr. Shealy and took it from its foundation. Trees were torn up by the roots and the leaves on the shrubbery were cut to pieces.

The young cotton and the oats were twisted off which gives force to the theory that it was the whirling strong suction of the wind which drove the school house over.

It must have had a terrible and most irresistible force. One of the trees near the building had a pine driven straight into at about fifty feet from the ground just as if it had driven a wedge in there. Shealy says there is about a wagon load of boards from the building in the pines about a mile distant.

Mr. Shealy is a very strong man, always at work and always ready.