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Pan Pipes

By J. B. MONTGOMERY-MCGOVERN

Because I have brought back from my wanderings
Only my pan-pipes—cut in the cane-brake,
Before I went piping away—
Men called me wastrel, and sneering ask
Where is the treasure that I went forth to seek.
When I tell them I have it here in my pipes,
They laugh and nudge one another, thinking me mad.
Only my pipes know that the treasure
Which I lost in my wanderings—
When life took me for its plaything,
As I would have taken life—
Lies here in their heart,
And at the touch of my lips in the dusk,
When the bitter, begging day is done,
I find again my treasure;
Wealth which the world can not filch,
In form which I, foolish,
Cannot fling away,
Yet men call me mad,
Or pity—or sneer.