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SONGS FROM BOOKS
THE YEARS BETWEEN AND PARODIES
1912

PREFACE

I HAVE collected in this volume practically all the verses and chapter-headings scattered through my books. In several cases where only a few lines of verse were originally used, I have given in full the song, etc., from which they were taken.

I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of the Clarendon Press in allowing me to print my verses from the ' School History of England.

CITIES AND THRONES AND POWERS

CITIES and Thrones and Powers,
Stand in Time's eye,
Almost as long as flowers,
Which daily die;
But, as new buds put forth
To glad new men,
Out of the spent and unconsidered Earth
The Cities rise again.

This season's Daffodil,
She never hears.
What change, what chance, what chill,
Cut down last year's:
But with bold countenance,
And knowledge small.
Esteems her seven days' continuance.
To be perpetual.

So Time that is o'er-kind,
To all that be.
Ordains us e'en as blind,



As bold as she:
That in our very death.
And burial sure,
Shadow to shadow, well-persuaded, saith,
'See how our works endure!'

THE RECALL

I AM the land of their fathers.
In me the virtue stays.
I will bring back my children,
After certain days.

Under their feet in the grasses
My clinging magic runs.
They shall return as strangers.
They shall remain as sons.

Over their heads in the branches
Of their new-bought, ancient trees,
I weave an incantation
And draw them to my knees.

Scent of smoke in the evening.
Smell of rain in the night,
The hours, the days and the seasons.
Order their souls aright;

Till I make plain the meaning
Of all my thousand years—
Till I fill their hearts with knowledge.
While I fill their eyes with tears.



THE CENTURION'S SONG

LEGATE, I had the news last night—my cohort ordered
home –

By ship to Portus Itius and thence by road to
Rome.

I've marched the companies aboard, the arms are stowed
below:

Now let another take my sword. Command me not to
go!

I've served in Britain forty years, from Vectis to the
Wall,

I have none other home than this, nor any life at all.

Last night I did not understand, but, now the hour draws
near

That calls me to my native land, I feel that land is here.

Here where, men say, my name was made, here where my work
was done,

Here where my dearest dead are laid—my wife—my wife and
son

Here where time, custom, grief and toil, age, memory,
service, love.

Have rooted me in British soil. Ah, how shall I remove?

For me this land, that sea, these airs, those folk and
fields suffice.

What purple Southern pomp can match our changeful Northern
skies,

Black with December snows unshed or pearled with
August haze,

The clanging arch of steel-gray March, or June's long
lighted days?

You'll follow widening Rhodanus till vine and olive lean
Aslant before the sunny breeze that sweeps Nemausus
clean

To Arelate's triple gate; but let me linger on.



Here where our stiff-necked British oaks confront Eur
oclydon!
You'll take the old Aurelian Road through shore
descending pines
Where, blue as any peacock's neck, the Tyrrhene Ocean
shines.
You'll go where laurel crowns are won, but will you e'er
forget
The scent of hawthorn in the sun, or bracken in the wet?
Let me work here for Britain's sake—at any task you
will

—
A marsh to drain, a road to make or native troops to
drill.
Some Western camp (I know the Pict) or granite Border
keep.
Mid seas of heather derelict, where our old messmates
sleep.

Legate, I come to you in tears—My cohort ordered home!
I've served in Britain forty years. What should I do
in Rome?
Here is my heart, my soul, my mind—the only life I know.—
I cannot leave it all behind. Command me not to go!

PUCK'S SONG

SEE you the ferny ride that steals
Into the oak-woods far?
O that was whence they hewed the keels
That rolled to Trafalgar.

And mark you where the ivy clings
To Bayham's mouldering walls?
O there we cast the stout railings
That stand around St. Paul's.



See you the dimpled track that runs
All hollow through the wheat?
O that was where they hauled the guns
That smote King Philip's fleet.

Out of the Weald, the secret Weald,
Men sent in ancient years.
The horse-shoes red at Flodden Field,
The arrows at Poitiers.

See you our little mill that clacks,
So busy by the brook?
She has ground her corn and paid her tax
Ever since Domesday Book.

See you our stilly woods of oak?
And the dread ditch beside?
O that was where the Saxons broke
On the day that Harold died.

See you the windy levels spread
About the gates of Rye?
O that was where the Northmen fled,
When Alfred's ships came by.

See you our pastures wide and lone,
Where the red oxen browse? there was a
City thronged and known,
Ere London boasted a house.

And see you, after rain, the trace
Of mound and ditch and wall? that was a
Legion's camping-place,
When Caesar sailed from Gaul.

And see you marks that show and fade,
Like shadows on the Downs?
O they are the lines the Flint Men made,
To guard their wondrous towns.



Trackway and Camp and City lost.
Salt Marsh where now is corn;
Old Wars, old Peace, old Arts that cease.
And so was England born!

She is not any common Earth,
Water or wood or air,
But Merlin's Isle of Gramarye,
Where you and I will fare.

THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS

THEY shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the coppice and heath,
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.

Yet, if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late.
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate
(They fear not men in the woods,
Because they see so few),
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew.
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes, As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods . . .
But there is no road through the woods.



A THREE-PART SONG

I'M just in love with all these three,
The Weald and the Marsh and the Down country;
Nor I don't know which I love the most,
The Weald or the Marsh or the white chalk coast!

I've buried my heart in a ferny hill,
Twix' a liddle low shaw an' a great high gill.
Oh hop-bine yaller an' wood-smoke blue,
I reckon you'll keep her middling true!

I've loosed my mind for to out and run
On a Marsh that was old when Kings begun.
Oh Romney Level and Brenzett reeds,
I reckon you know what my mind needs!

I've given my soul to the Southdown grass,
And sheep-bells tinkled where you pass.
Oh Firle an' Ditchling an' sails at sea,
I reckon you keep my soul for me!

THE RUN OF THE DOWNS

THE Weald is good, the Downs are best—
I'll give you the run of 'em, East to West.
Beachy Head and Winddoor Hill,
They were once and they are still,
Firle, Mount Caburn and Mount Harry
Go back as far as sums '11 carry.
Ditchling Beacon and Ghanctonbury Ring,
They have looked on many a thing.
And what those two have missed between 'em
I reckon Truleigh Hill has seen 'em.
Highden, Bignor and Duncton Down
Knew Old England before the Grown.



Linch Down, Treyford and Sunwood
Knew Old England before the Flood.
And when you end on the Hampshire side—
Butser's old as Time and Tide.
The Downs are sheep, the Weald is corn,
You be glad you are Sussex born!

BROOKLAND ROAD

I WAS very well pleased with what I knowed,
I reckoned myself no fool—
Till I met with a maid on the Brookland Road,
That turned me back to school.

Low down—low down!
Where the liddle green lanterns shine—
O maids, I've done with 'ee all but one,
And she can never be mine!

'Twas right in the midst of a hot June night,
With thunder duntin' round,
And I see'd her face by the fairy light
That beats from off the ground.

She only smiled and she never spoke,
She smiled and went away;
But when she'd gone my heart was broke
And my wits was clean astray.

O, stop your ringing and let me be—
Let be, O Brookland bells!
You'll ring Old Goodman ^ out of the sea,
Before I wed one else!

* Earl Godwin of the Goodwin Sands?
Old Goodman's Farm is rank sea sand.
And was this thousand year;



But it shall turn to rich plough land
Before I change my dear.

O, Fairfield Church is water-bound
From autumn to the spring;
But it shall turn to high hill ground
Before my bells do ring.

O, leave me walk on the Brookland Road,
In the thunder and warm rain—
O, leave me look where my love goed,
And p'raps I'll see her again!

Low down—low down!
Where the liddle green lanterns shine
O maids, I've done with 'ee all but one,
And she can never be mine!

THE SACK OF THE GODS

STRANGERS drawn from the ends of the earth,
jewelled and plumed were we;
I was Lord of the Inca race, and she was Queen
of the Sea.
Under the stars beyond our stars where the new-forged
meteors glow.
Hotly we stormed Valhalla, a million years ago.

Ever'neath high Valhalla Hall the well-tuned horns begin
When the swords are out in the underworld, and the
weary Gods come in.
Ever through high Valhalla Gate the Patient Angel goes,
He opens the eyes that are blind with hate—he joins the
hands of foes.
Dust of the stars was under our feet, glitter of stars
above—
Wrecks of our wrath dropped reeling down as we fought



and we spurned and we strove.
Worlds upon worlds we tossed aside, and scattered them
to and fro.
The night that we stormed Valhalla, a million years ago!

They are forgiven as they forgive all those dark wounds
and deep,
Their beds are made on the lap of Time and they lie
down and sleep.

They are forgiven as they forgive all those old wounds
that bleed,
They shut their eyes from their worshippers. They
sleep till the world has need.

She with the star I had marked for my own—I with my
set desire—
Lost in the loom of the Night of Nights—lighted by
worlds afire—
Met in a war against the Gods where the headlong me
tears glow,
Hewing our way to Valhalla, a million years ago!
They will come back—come back again, as long as the
red Earth rolls.
He never wasted a leaf or a tree. Do you think He
would squander souls?

THE KINGDOM

NOW we are come to our Kingdom,
And the State is thus and thus;
Our legions wait at the Palace gate—
Little it profits us,
Now we are come to our Kingdom!

Now we are come to our Kingdom,
And the Crown is ours to take—



With a naked sword at the Council board,
And under the throne the snake.
Now we are come to our Kingdom!

Now we are come to our Kingdom,
And the Realm is ours by right.
With shame and fear for our daily cheer.
And heaviness at night.
Now we are come to our Kingdom!

Now we are come to our Kingdom,
But my love's eyelids fall.
All that I wrought for, all that I fought for,
Delight her nothing at all.
My crown is of withered leaves,
For she sits in the dust and grieves.
Now we are come to our Kingdom!

TARRANT MOSS

I CLOSED and drew for my love's sake
That now is false to me,
And I slew the Reiver of Tarrant Moss
And set Dumeny free.

They have gone down, they have gone down,
They are standing all arow—
Twenty knights in the peat-water,
That never struck a blow!

Their armour shall not dull nor rust,
Their flesh shall not decay,
For Tarrant Moss holds them in trust.
Until the Judgment Day.

Their soul went from them in their youth.
Ah God, that mine had gone,



Whenas I leaned on my love's truth
And not on my sword alone!

Whenas I leaned on lad's belief
And not on my naked blade—
And I slew a thief, and an honest thief.
For the sake of a worthless maid.

They have laid the Reiver low in his place,
They have set me up on high,
But the twenty knights in the peat-water
Are luckier than I.

And ever they give me gold and praise
And ever I mourn my loss—
For I struck the blow for my false love's sake
And not for the Men of the Moss!

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S SONG

ENGLAND'S on the anvil—hear the hammers
Ring
Clanging from the Severn to the Tyne!
Never was a blacksmith like our Norman King—
England's being hammered, hammered, ham-
mered into line!

England's on the anvil! Heavy are the blows!
(But the work will be a marvel when it's done)
Little bits of Kingdoms cannot stand against their foes.
England's being hammered, hammered, ham-
mered into one!

There shall be one people—it shall serve one Lord—
(Neither Priest nor Baron shall escape!)
It shall have one speech and law, soul and strength and
sword.



England's being hammered, hammered, hammered into shape!

SIR RICHARD'S SONG (A.D. 1066)

I FOLLOWED my Duke ere I was a lover.
To take from England fief and fee;
But now this game is the other way over—
But now England hath taken me!

I had my horse, my shield and banner,
And a boy's heart, so whole and free;
But now I sing in another manner—
But now England hath taken me!

As for my Father in his tower,
Asking news of my ship at sea;
He will remember his own hour—
Tell him England hath taken me!

As for my Mother in her bower.
That rules my Father so cunningly,
She will remember a maiden's power—
Tell her England hath taken me!

As for my Brother in Rouen City,
A nimble and naughty page is he,
But he will come to suffer and pity—
Tell him England hath taken me!

As for my little Sister waiting
In the pleasant orchards of Normandie,
Tell her youth is the time for mating—
Tell her England hath taken me!



As for my Comrades in camp and highway.
That lift their eyebrows scornfully,
Tell them their way is not my way—
Tell them England hath taken me!

Kings and Princes and Barons famed,
Knights and Captains in your degree;
Hear me a little before I am blamed—
Seeing England hath taken me!

Howso great man's strength be reckoned,
There are two things he cannot flee;
Love is the first, and Death is the second—
And Love in England hath taken me!

THE NORMAN BARON (A.D. 1100)

'MY son,' said the Norman Baron, * I am dying, and
you will be heir
To all the broad acres in England that William gave me for my
share
When we conquered the Saxon at Hastings, and a nice
little handful it is.
But before you go over to rule it I want you to under
stand this:—
'The Saxon is not hke us Normans. His manners are
not so polite,
But he never means anything serious till he talks about
justice and right;
When he stands like an ox in the furrow with his sullen
set eyes on your own,
And grumbles, "This isn't fair dealing," my son, leave the Saxon
alone.
*You can horsewhip your Gascony archers, or torture
your Picardy spears,



But don't try that game on the Saxon—you'll have the whole brood round your ears!

From the richest old Thane in the county to the poorest chained serf in the fields,
They'll be at you and on you like hornets, and, if you are wise, you will yield!

'But first you must master their language, their dialect, proverbs and songs,
Don't trust any clerk to interpret when they come with the tale of their wrongs.
Let them know that you know what they're saying; let them feel that you know what to say; Yes, even when you want to go hunting, hear them out if it takes you all day.
'They'll drink every hour of the daylight and poach every hour of the dark,
It's the sport not the rabbits they're after
(we've plenty of game in the park).
Don't hang them or cut off their fingers. That's wasteful as well as unkind, For a hard-bitten.
South-country poacher makes the
best man-at-arms you can find.

'Appear with your wife and the children at their weddings and funerals and feasts;
Be polite but not friendly to Bishops; be good to all poor parish-priests; Say "we," "us" and "ours" when you're talking instead of "you fellows" and "I."
Don't ride over seeds; keep your temper;
and never you tell 'em a lie!'

A TREE SONG (A.D. 1200)

OF all the trees that grow so fair,
Old England to adorn,



Greater are none beneath the Sun,
Than Oak, and Ash, and Thorn.
Sing Oak, and Ash, and Thorn, good sirs
(All of a Midsummer morn !)
Surely we sing no little thing.
In Oak, and Ash, and Thorn!

Oak of the Clay lived many a day
Or ever ^neas began;
Ash of the Loam was a lady at home
When Brut was an outlaw man.
Thorn of the Down saw New Troy Town (
From which was London born);
Witness hereby the ancientry
Of Oak, and Ash, and Thorn!

Yew that is old in churchyard mould,
He breedeth a mighty bow.
Alder for shoes do wise men choose.
And beech for cups also.
But when ye have killed, and your bowl is spilled,
And your shoes are clean outworn,
Back ye must speed for all that ye need,
To Oak, and Ash, and Thorn!

Ellum she hateth mankind, and waiteth
Till every gust be laid,
To drop a limb on the head of him
That anyway trusts her shade:
But whether a lad be sober or sad,
Or mellow with ale from the horn,
He will take no wrong when he lieth along
'Neath Oak, and Ash, and Thorn!

Oh, do not tell the Priest our plight.
Or he would call it a sin;
But—we have been out in the woods all night,
A-conjuring Summer in!
And we bring you news by word of mouth—



Good news for cattle and corn—
Now is the Sun come up from the South,
With Oak, and Ash, and Thorn!

Sing Oak, and Ash, and Thorn, good sirs
(All of a Midsummer morn!)
England shall bide till Judgment Tide,
By Oak, and Ash, and Thorn!

OLD MOTHER LAIDINWOOL

OLD Mother Laidinwool had nigh twelve months been dead.
She heard the hops was doing well an' so popped
up her head,
For she said:—"The lads I've picked with when
I was young and fair,
They're bound to be at hopping and I'm bound to meet
'em there!"

Let me up and go
Back to the work I know, Lord!
Back to the work I know, Lord!
For it's dark where I lie down, My Lord!
An' it's dark where I lie down!

Old Mother Laidinwool, she give her bones a shake.
An' trotted down the churchyard path as fast as she
could make.
She met the Parson walking, but she says to him, says
she:—
* Oh don't let no one trouble for a poor old ghost like me !
'Twas all a warm September an' the hops had flourished
grand, She saw the folks get into 'em with stockin's on their
hands;
An' none of 'em was foreigners but all which she had known,
And old Mother Laidinwool she blessed 'em every one.
She saw her daughters picking an' their childern them



beside, An' she moved among the babies an' she stilled 'em
when they cried.

She saw their clothes was bought not begged, an' they was clean
an' fat,

An' Old Mother Laidinwool she thanked the Lord for
that.

Old Mother Laidinwool she waited on all day
Until it come too dark to see an' people went away—
Until it come too dark to see an' lights began to show,
An' old Mother Laidinwool she hadn't where to go.

Old Mother Laidinwool she give her bones a shake,
An' trotted back to churchyard-mould as fast as she could make.
She went where she was bidden to an' there laid down
her ghost, . . . An ' the Lord have mercy on you in the Day you
need it most!

Let me in again.
Out of the wet an' rain. Lord!
Out of the dark an' rain. Lord!
For it's best as you shall say. My Lord!
An' it's best as you shall say!

CUCKOO SONG

(Spring begins in Southern England on the 14th April, on which
date the Old Woman lets the Cuckoo out oi her basket at
Heathfield Fair—locally known as Heffle Cuckoo Fair.)

TELL it to the locked-up trees,
Cuckoo, bring your song here!
Warrant, Act and Summons, please.
For Spring to pass along here!
Tell old Winter, if he doubt,
Tell him squat and square—a!
Old Woman!



Old Woman!
Old Woman's let the Cuckoo out
At Heffle Cuckoo Fair—a!

March has searched and April tried—
'Tisn't long to May now.
Not so far to Whitsuntide
And Cuckoo's come to stay now!
Hear the valiant fellow shout
Down the orchard bare—a!
Old Woman!
Old Woman!
Old Woman's let the Cuckoo out
At Heffle Cuckoo Fair—a!

When your heart is young and gay
And the season rules it—
Work your works and play your play
'Fore the Autumn cools it!
Kiss you turn and turn about,
But my lad, beware—a!
Old Woman!
Old Woman!
Old Woman's let the Cuckoo out
At Heffle Cuckoo Fair—a!

A CHARM

TAKE of English earth as much
As either hand may rightly clutch.
In the taking of it breathe
Prayer for all who lie beneath.
Not the great nor well-bespoke.
But the mere uncounted folk
Of whose life and death is none
Report or lamentation.
Lay that earth upon thy heart.



And thy sickness shall depart!

It shall sweeten and make whole
Fevered breath and festered soul;
It shall mightily restrain
Over-busy hand and brain;
It shall ease thy mortal strife
'Gainst the immortal woe of life,
Till thyself restored shall prove
By what grace the Heavens do move.

Take of English flowers these—
Spring's full-faced primroses,
Summer's wild wide-hearted rose.
Autumn's wall-flower of the close.
And, thy darkness to illumine,
Winter's bee-thronged ivy-bloom.
Seek and serve them where they bide
From Candlemas to Christmas-tide,
For these simples, used aright,
Can restore a failing sight.

These shall cleanse and purify
Webbed and inward-turning eye;
These shall show thee treasure hid.
Thy familiar fields amid;
And reveal (which is thy need)
Every man a King indeed!

THE PRAIRIE

* I SEE the grass shake in the sun for leagues on either
hand,
I see a river loop and run about a treeless land—
An empty plain, a steely pond, a distance diamond-clear, And
low blue naked hills beyond.
And what is that to fear?'



' Go softly by that river-side or, when you would depart,
You'll find its every winding tied and knotted round
your heart.

Be wary as the seasons pass, or you may ne'er outrun
The wind that sets that yellowed grass a-shiver 'neath
the Sun.'

*I hear the summer storm outblown—the drip of the grateful
wheat.

I hear the hard trail telephone a far-off horse's feet.
I hear the horns of Autumn blow to the wildfowl over
head; And I hear the hush before the snow. And what is that
to dread?'

*Take heed what spell the lightning weaves—what
charm the echoes shape—

Or, bound among a million sheaves, your soul may not
escape.

Bar home the door of summer nights lest those high
planets drown

The memory of near delights in all the longed-for town.'

'What need have I to long or fear?

Now, friendly, I behold

My faithful seasons robe the year in silver and in gold.

Now I possess and am possessed of the land where

I would be, And the curve of half Earth's generous breast shall
soothe and ravish me!'

CHAPTER HEADINGS

Plain Tales from the Hills

LOOK, you have cast out Love ! What Gods are these
You bid me please?

The Three in One, the One in Three? Not so!

To my own Gods I go.

It may be they shall give me greater ease

Than your cold Christ and tangled Trinities.

' Lispeth.'



When the Earth was sick and the Skies were gray.
And the woods were rotted with rain.
The Dead Man rode through the autumn day
To visit his love again.

His love she neither saw nor heard,
So heavy was her shame;
And tho' the babe within her stirred
She knew not that he came.
The Other Man.'

Cry 'Murder' in the market-place and each
Will turn upon his neighbour anxious eyes
That ask—'Art thou the man?' We hunted Cain

Some centuries ago across the world.
This bred the fear our own misdeeds maintain
To-day.
'His Wedded Wife,'

Go, stalk the red deer o'er the heather,
Ride, follow the fox if you can!
But, for pleasure and profit together,
Allow me the hunting of Man—
The chase of the Human, the search for the
Soul To its ruin—the hunting of Man.
'Pig.'

' Stopped in the straight when the race was his own!
Look at him cutting it—cur to the bone!
Ask ere the youngster be rated and chidden
What did he carry and how was he ridden?
Maybe they used him too much at the start;
Maybe Fate's weight-cloths are breaking his heart.'
'In the Pride of his Youth.'

And some are sulky, while some will plunge.
[So ho! Steady! Stand still, you!]
Some you must gentle, and some you must lunge,



[There! There! Who wants to kill you?]
Some—there are losses in every trade—
Will break their hearts ere bitted and made,
Will fight like fiends as the rope cuts hard,
And die dumb-mad in the breaking-yard.
'Thrown Away.'

The World hath set its heavy yoke
Upon the old white-bearded folk
Who strive to please the King.
God's mercy is upon the young,
God's wisdom in the baby tongue
That fears not anything.
'Tods' Amendment.'

Not though you die to-night, Sweet, and wail,
A spectre at my door, Shall mortal Fear make
Love immortal fail—
I shall but love you more,
Who, from Death's House returning, give me still
One moment's comfort in my matchless ill.
'By Word of Mouth.'

They burnt a corpse upon the sand—
The light shone out afar;
It guided home the plunging boats
That beat from Zanzibar.
Spirit of Fire, where'er Thy altars rise.
Thou art the Light of Guidance to our eyes!
'In Error.'

Ride with an idle whip, ride with an unused heel,
But, once in a way, there will come a day
When the colt must be taught to feel
The lash that falls, and the curb that galls, and the sting
of the rowelled steel.
'The Conversion of Aurelian McGoggin.'

It was not in the open fight



We threw away the sword,
But in the lonely watching
In the darkness by the ford,
The waters lapped, the night-wind blew.
Full-armed the Fear was born and grew,
From panic in the night.
'The Rout of the White Hussars.'

In the daytime, when she moved about me,
In the night, when she was sleeping at my side,—
I was wearied, I was wearied of her presence,
Day by day and night by night I grew to hate her—
Would God that she or I had died!
'The Bronckhorst Divorce Case.'

A stone's throw out on either hand
From that well-ordered road we tread,
And all the world is wild and strange:
Churel and ghoul and Djinn and sprite
Shall bear us company to-night,
For we have reached the Oldest Land
Wherein the Powers of Darkness range.
'In the House of Suddhoo.'

To-night, God knows what thing shall tide,
The Earth is racked and fain—
Expectant, sleepless, open-eyed;
And we, who from the Earth were made.
Thrill with our Mother's pain. 'False Dawn.'
Pit where the buffalo cooled his hide.
By the hot sun emptied, and blistered and dried;
Log in the reh-grass, hidden and lone;
Bund where the earth-rat's mounds are strown;
Cave in the bank where the sly stream steals;

Aloe that stabs at the belly and heels,
Jump if you dare on a steed untried—
Safer it is to go wide—go wide!
Hark, from in front where the best men ride:—



'Pull to the off, boys! Wide! Go wide!
' Cupid's Arrows.'

He drank strong waters and his speech was coarse;
He purchased raiment and forbore to pay;
He stuck a trusting junior with a horse,
And won gymkhanas in a doubtful way.
Then, 'twixt a vice and folly, turned aside
To do good deeds and straight to cloak them, hed.
*A Bank Fraud.'

COLD IRON

GOLD is for the mistress—silver for the maid—
Copper for the craftsman cunning at his trade.'
'Good!' said the Baron, sitting in his hall,
But Iron—Cold Iron—is master of them all.'

So he made rebellion 'gainst the King his liege,
Camped before his citadel and summoned it to siege.
'Nay!' said the cannoneer on the castle wall,
'But Iron—Cold Iron—shall be master of you all!'

Woe for the Baron and his knights so strong,
When the cruel cannon-balls laid 'em all along!
He was taken prisoner, he was cast in thrall,
And Iron—Cold Iron—was master of it all.

Yet his King spake kindly (ah, how kind a Lord!)
'What if I release thee now and give thee back thy
sword?' 'Nay!' said the Baron, 'mock not at my fall,
For Iron—Cold Iron—is master of men all.'

'Tears are for the craven, prayers are for the clown—
Halters for the silly neck that cannot keep a crown.'
'As my loss is grievous, so my hope is small,
For Iron—Cold Iron—must be master of men all!'



Yet his King made answer (few such Kings there be!) '
Here is Bread and here is Wine—sit and sup with me.
Eat and drink in Mary's Name, the whiles I do recall
How Iron—Cold Iron—can be master of men all!'

He took the Wine and blessed It. He blessed and brake the
Bread. With His own Hands He served Them, and presently
He said: 'See! These Hands they pierced with nails, outside
My city wall. Show Iron—Cold Iron—to be master of men all!

' Wounds are for the desperate, blows are for the strong, Balm
and oil for weary hearts all cut and bruised with
wrong. I forgive thy treason—I redeem thy fall—
For Iron—Cold Iron—must be master of men all

'Crowns are for the valiant—sceptres for the bold! Thrones and
powers for mighty men who dare to take and hold.'
'Nay!' said the Baron, kneeling in his hall, 'But Iron—
Cold Iron—is master of man all! Iron out of
Calvary is master of men all!'

MORNING SONG IN THE JUNGLE

ONE moment past our bodies cast
No shadow on the plain;
Now clear and black they stride our track,
And we run home again.
In morning hush, each rock and bush
Stands hard, and high, and raw:
Then give the Call: Good rest to all
That keep the Jungle Law!

Now horn and pelt our peoples melt
In covert to abide;
Now, crouched and still, to cave and hill
Our Jungle Barons glide.
Now, stark and plain, Man's oxen strain,



That draw the new-yoked plough;
Now, stripped and dread, the dawn is red
Above the lit talao.

Ho! Get to lair! The sun's aflare
Behind the breathing grass:
And creaking through the young bamboo
The warning whispers pass.
By day made strange, the woods we range
With blinking eyes we scan;
While down the skies the wild duck cries:
'The Day—the Day to Man!'

The dew is dried that drenched our hide,
Or washed about our way;
And where we drank, the puddled bank
Is crisping into clay.
The traitor Dark gives up each mark
Of stretched or hooded claw;
Then hear the Call: 'Good rest to all
That keep the Jungle Law!'

A CAROL

OUR Lord Who did the Ox command
To kneel to Judah's King,
He binds His frost upon the land
To ripen it for Spring—
To ripen it for Spring, good sirs,
According to His Word.
Which well must be as ye can see—
And who shall judge the Lord?

When we poor fenmen skate the ice
Or shiver on the wold,
We hear the cry of a single tree
That breaks her heart in the cold—



That breaks her heart in the cold, good sirs.
And rendeth by the board.
Which well must be as ye can see—
And who shall judge the Lord?
Her wood is crazed and little worth
Excepting as to burn.
That we may warm and make our mirth
Until the Spring return—
Until the Spring return, good sirs.
When people walk abroad.
Which well must be as ye can see—
And who shall judge the Lord?
God bless the master of this house,
And all who sleep therein!
And guard the fens from pirate folk,
And keep us all from sin,
To walk in honesty, good sirs.
Of thought and deed and word!
Which shall befriend our latter end—
And who shall judge the Lord?

'MY NEW-CUT ASHLAR'

MY new-cut ashlar takes the light
Where crimson-blank the windows flare.
By my own work before the night,
Great Overseer, I make my prayer.

If there be good in that I wrought,
Thy Hand compelled it, Master, Thine—
Where I have failed to meet
Thy Thought I know, through
Thee, the blame was mine.
One instant's toil to Thee denied
Stands all Eternity's offence.
Of that I did with Thee to guide
To Thee, through Thee, be excellence.



The depth and dream of my desire,
The bitter paths wherein I stray—
Thou knowest Who hast made the Fire,
Thou knowest Who hast made the Clay.

Who, lest all thought of Eden fade,
Bring'st Eden to the craftsman's brain—
Godlike to muse o'er his own Trade
And manlike stand with God again!

One stone the more swings into place
In that dread Temple of Thy worth.
It is enough that, through Thy Grace,
I saw nought common on Thy Earth.
Take not that vision from my ken—
Oh whatsoever may spoil or speed.
Help me to need no aid from men
That I may help such men as need!

EDDI'S SERVICE (A.D. 687)

EDDI, priest of St. Wilfrid
In the chapel at Manhood End,
Ordered a midnight service
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,
And the night was stormy as well.
Nobody came to service
Though Eddi rang the bell.

'Wicked weather for walking,'
Said Eddi of Manhood End.
'But I must go on with the service
For such as care to attend.'



The altar-candles were lighted,—
An old marsh donkey came,
Bold as a guest invited.
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,
The water splashed on the floor.
And a wet yoke-weary bullock
Pushed in through the open door.

'How do I know what is i[^]rcatest,
How do I know what is least?
That is My Father's business,'
Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

'But—three are gathered together—
Listen to me and attend.
I bring good news, my brethren!'
Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger
And a Stall in Bethlehem,
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,
That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,
They listened and never stirred,
While, just as though they were Bishops,
Eddi preached them The Word.

Till the gale blew off on the marshes
And the windows showed the day,
And the Ox and the Ass together
Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,
Said Eddi of Manhood End,
'I dare not shut His chapel
On such as care to attend.'



SHIV AND THE GRASSHOPPER

SHIV, who poured the harvest and made the winds to blow,
Sitting at the doorways of a day of long ago, Gave to each his
portion, food and toil and fate,
From the King upon the guddee to the Beggar at the
gate.

All things made he—Shiva the Preserver.
Mahadeo! Mahadeo! He made all,—
Thorn for the camel, fodder for the kine,
And mother's heart for sleepy head, little son of
mine!

Wheat he gave to rich folk, millet to the poor,
Broken scraps for holy men that beg from door to door;
Cattle to the tiger, carrion to the kite,
And rags and bones to wicked wolves without the wall
at night.

Naught he found too lofty, none he saw too low—
Parbati beside him watched them come and go;
Thought to cheat her husband, turning Shiv to jest—
Stole the little grasshopper and hid it in her breast.
So she tricked him, Shiva the Preserver.
Mahadeo! Mahadeo! turn and see!
Tall are the camels, heavy are the kine.
But this was Least of Little Things, Httle son of
mine!
When the dole was ended, laughingly she said,
'Master, of a million mouths is not one unfed?'
Laughing, Shiv made answer, 'All have had their part,
Even he, the little one, hidden next thy heart.'
From her breast she plucked it, Parbati the thief.
Saw the Least of Little Things gnawed a new-grown
leaf!
Saw and feared and wondered, making prayer to Shiv,
Who hath surely given meat to all that live.
All things made he—Shiva the Preserver.
Mahadeo! Mahadeo! He made all,—



Thorn for the camel, fodder for the kine,
And mother's heart for sleepy head, little son of
mine!

THE FAIRIES' SIEGE

I HAVE been given my charge to keep—
Well have I kept the same!
Playing with strife for the most of my life,
But this is a different game.
I'll not fight against swords unseen,
Or spears that I cannot view—
Hand him the keys of the place on your knees
'Tis the Dreamer whose dreams come true!

Ask for his terms and accept them at once,
Quick, ere we anger him, go! Never before have
I flinched from the guns.
But this is a different show.
I'll not fight with the Herald of God
(I know what his Master can do!)
Open the gate, he must enter in state,
'Tis the Dreamer whose dreams come true!

I'd not give way for an Emperor,
I'd hold my road for a King
To the Triple Crown I would not bow down—
But this is a different thing,
I'll not fight with the Powers of Air,
Sentry, pass him through! Drawbridge let fall, it's the
Lord of us all, The Dreamer whose dreams come true!



A SONG TO MITHRAS

(Hymn of the 30th Legion: circa A. D. 350)

MITHRAS, God of the Morning, our trumpets waken the Wall!
'Rome is above the Nations, but Thou art over all !

Now as the names are answered, and the guards are marched
away, Mithras, also a soldier, give us strength for the day!

Mithras, God of the Noontide, the heather swims in the
heat. Our helmets scorch our foreheads, our sandals burn our
feet. Now in the ungirt hour—now ere we blink and drowse,
Mithras, also a soldier, keep us true to our vows!

Mithras, God of the Sunset, low on the Western main—
Thou descending immortal, immortal to rise again!

Now when the watch is ended, now when the wine is drawn!
Mithras, also a soldier, keep us pure till the dawn!

Mithras, God of the Midnight, here where the great
bull dies, Look on thy children in darkness. Oh take our
sacrifice!

Many roads thou hast fashioned—all of them lead to
the Light:

Mithras, also a soldier, teach us to die aright!

gives him the Bath? 'I,' said the wet, Rank Jungle-sweat, Til
give him the Bath!

Who'll sing the psalms?

'We,' said the Palms.

'Ere the hot wind becalms,

We'll sing the psalms.'

Who lays on the sword?

'I,' said the Sun,

'Before he has done,

I'll lay on the sword.'

Who fastens his belt?

'I,' said Short-Rations, 'I know all the fashions

Of tightening a belt!'

Who gives him his spur?

'I,' said his Chief,

Exactng and brief, 'I'll give him the spur.'



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THE NEW KNIGHTHOOD

Who'll shake his hand?
'I,' said the Fever,
'And I'm no deceiver,
I'll shake his hand.'

Who brings him the wine?
*I,' said Quinine,
'It's a habit of mine.
I'll come with the wine.'

Who'll put him to proof?
'I,' said All Earth,
'Whatever he's worth,
I'll put to the proof.'

Who'll choose him for Knight?
'I,' said his Mother,
'Before any other.
My very own Knight.'

And after this fashion, adventure to seek,
Was Sir Galahad made—as it might be last week!

HARP SONG OF THE DANE WOMEN

WHAT is a woman that you forsake her,
And the hearth-fire and the home-acre,
To go with the old gray Widow-maker?

She has no house to lay a guest in—
But one chill bed for all to rest in,
That the pale suns and the stray bergs nest in.

She has no strong white arms to fold you,



But the ten-times-fmgering weed to hold you—
Out on the rocks where the tide has rolled you.

Yet, when the signs of summer thicken,
And the ice breaks, and the birch-buds quicken.
Yearly you turn from our side, and sicken—

Sicken again for the shouts and the slaughters.
You steal away to the lapping waters.
And look al your ship in her winter quarters.

You forget our mirth, and talk at the tables,
The kine in the shed and the horse in the stables
To pitch her sides and go over her cables.

Then you drive out where the storm-clouds swallow,
And the sound of your oar-blades, falling hollow,
Is all we have left through the months to follow.

Ah, what is Woman that you forsake her,
And the hearth-firc and the home-acre,
To go with the old gray Widow-maker?

THE THOUSANDTH MAN

ONE man in a thousand, Solomon says,
Will stick more close than a brother.
And it's worth while seeking him half your days
If you find him before the other.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine depend
On what the world sees in you.

But the Thousandth Man will stand your friend
With the whole round world agin you.
'Tis neither promise nor prayer nor show
Will settle the finding for 'ee.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em go



By your looks or your acts or your glory.
But if he finds you and you find him,
The rest of the world don't matter;
For the Thousandth Man will sink or swim
With you in any water.

You can use his purse with no more talk
Than he uses yours for his spendings.
And laugh and meet in your daily walk
As though there had been no lendings.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em call
For silver and gold in their dealings;
But the Thousandth Man he's worth 'em all,
Because you can show him your feelngs.

His wrong's your wrong, and his right's your right,
In season or out of season.
Stand up and back it in all men's sight—
With that for your only reason!
Nine hundred and ninety-nine can't bide
The shame or mocking or laughter,
But the Thousandth Man will stand by your side
To the gallows-foot—and after!

THE WINNERS

WHAT is the moral? Who rides may read.
When the nigh L is thick and the tracks are blind
A friend at a pinch is a friend indeed,
But a fool to wait for the laggard behind.
Down to Gehenna or up to the Throne,
He travels the fastest who travels alone.

White hands cling to the tightened rein,
Slipping the spur from the booted heel,
Tenderest voices cry 'Turn again,'
Red Hps tarnish the scabbarded steel,



High hopes faint on a warm hearth-stone—
He travels the fastest who travels alone.

One may fall but he falls by himself—
Falls by himself with himself to blame,
One may attain and to him is pelf.
Loot of the city in Gold or Fame.
Plunder of earth shall be all his own
Who travels the fastest and travels alone.

Wherefore the more ye be holpen and stayed
Stayed by a friend in the hour of toil,
Sing the heretical song I have made—
His be the labour and yours be the spoil.
Win by his aid and the aid disown—
He travels the fastest who travels alone.

'BROWN BESS'

IN the days of lace-ruffles, perukes, and brocade,
Brown Bess was a partner whom none could de-
spise—
An outspoken, flinty-hpped, brazen-faced jade,
With a habit of looking men straight in the eyes.
At Blenheim and Ramillies fops would confess
They were pierced to the heart by the charms of Brown
Bess.
Though her sight was not long and her weight was not
small, Yet her actions were winning, her language was clear;
And every one bowed as she opened the ball
On the arm of some high-gaitered, grim grenadier.
Half Europe admitted the striking success
Of the dances and routs that were given by Brown Bess.
When ruffles were turned into stiff leather stocks
And people wore pigtails instead of perukes.
Brown Bess never altered her iron-gray locks.
She knew she was valued for more than her looks. '



Oh, powder and patches was always my dress,
And I think I am killing enough,' said Brown Bess.
So she followed her red-coats, whatever they did,
From the heights of Quebec to the plains of Assaye,
From Gibraltar to Acre, Cape Town and Madrid,
And nothing about her was changed on the way;
(But most of the Empire which now we possess
Was won through those years by old-fashioned Brown
Bess.)

In stubborn retreat or in stately advance,
From the Portugal coast to the cork-woods of Spain,
She had puzzled some excellent Marshals of France
Till none of them wanted to meet her again:
But later, near Brussels, Napoleon—no less—
Arranged for a Waterloo ball with Brown Bess.

She had danced till the dawn of that terrible day—
She danced on till dusk of more terrible night.
And before her linked squares his Ixittalions gave way.
And her long fierce quadrilles put his lancers to flight.
And when his gilt carriage drove off in the press,

I have danced my last dance for the world !' said Brown
Bess. If you go to Museums—there's one in Whitehall—
Where old weapons are shown with their names writ
beneath. You will find her, upstanding, her back to the wall,
As stiff as a ramrod, the flint in her teeth. And if ever we
English have reason to bless Any arm save our mothers', that
arm is Brown Bess!

A ST. HELENA LULLABY

HOW far is St. Helena from a little child at play?
What makes you want to wander there with all the world
between?
Oh, Mother, call your son again or else he'll run away.
(No one thinks of winter when the grass is green !)



'How far is St. Helena from a fight in Paris street?'
I haven't time to answer now—the men are falling
fast. The guns begin to thunder, and the drums begin to beat.
(If you take the first step you will take the last!)

'How far is St. Helena from the field of Austerlitz?'
You couldn't hear me if I told—so loud the cannons
roar. But not so far for people who are living by their wits.
(‘Gay go up’ means ‘Gay go down’ the wide world
o'er!)

'How far is St. Helena from an Emperor of France?'
I cannot see—I cannot tell—the crowns they dazzle
so. The Kings sit down to dinner, and the Queens stand up
to dance. (After open weather you may look for snow!)

*How far is St. Helena from the Capes of Trafalgar?'
A longish way—a longish way—with ten year more
to run.
It's South across the water underneath a setting star.
(What you cannot finish you must leave undone!)

*How far is St. Helena from the Beresina ice?'
An ill way—a chill way—the ice begins to crack.
But not so far for gentlemen who never took advice.
(When you can't go forward you must e'en come back !)

'How far is St. Helena from the field of Waterloo?'
A near way—a clear way—the ship will take you soon. A
pleasant place for gentlemen with little left to do.
(Morning never tries you till the afternoon!)

'How far from St. Helena to the Gate of Heaven's
Grace?' That no one knows—that no one knows—and no one
ever will.
But fold your hands across your heart and cover up
your face,
And after all your trapesings, child, lie still.



CHIL'S SONG

THESE were my companions going forth by night—
(For Chil! Look you, for Chil!)"

" Now come I to whistle them the ending of the fight.
(Chil ! Vanguards of Chil !)

Word they gave me overhead of quarry newly slain,
Word I gave them underfoot of buck upon the plain.
Here's an end of every trail—they shall not speak again!
They that called the hunting-cry—they that followed
fast—

(For Chil! Look you, for Chil!)

They that bade the sambhur wheel, or pinned him as he
passed—

(Chil! Vanguards of Chil!)

They that lagged behind the scent—they that ran be
fore.

They that shunned the level horn—they that overbore. Here's an
end of every trail—they shall not follow more.

These were my companions.

Pity 'twas they died! (For Chil! Look you, for Chil!)

Now come I to comfort them that knew them in their
pride.

(Chil! Vanguards of Chil!)

Tattered flank and sunken eye, open mouth and red,
Locked and lank and lone they lie, the dead upon their
dead. Here's an end of every trail—and here my hosts are
fed!

THE CAPTIVE

NOT with an outcry to Allah nor any complaining
He answered his name at the muster and stood
to the chaining.

When the twin anklets were nipped on the leg-bars that



held them,
He brotherly greeted the armourers stooping to weld
them.
Ere the sad dust of the marshalled feet of the chain-gang
swallowed him
Observing him nobly at ease, I alighted and followed
him.
Thus we had speech by the way, but not touching his
sorrow—
Rather his red Yesterday and his regal To-morrow,
Wherein he stately moved to the click of his chains
unregarded.
Nowise abashed but contented to drink of the potion
awarded. Saluting aloofly his Fate, he made swift with his story.
And the words of his mouth were as slaves spreading
carpets of glory Embroidered with names of the Djinns—a
miraculous weaving—
But the cool and perspicuous eye overbore unbeliev-
ing.
So I submitted myself to the limits of rapture—
Bound by this man we had bound, amid captives his
capture—
Till he returned me to earth and the visions departed. But on
him be the Peace and the Blessing; for he was
great-hearted!

THE PUZZLER

THE Celt in all his variants from Builth to Ballyhoo,
His mental processes are plain—one knows what he will do,
And can logically predicate his finish by his start;
But the English—ah, the English—they are quite a race
apart.
Their psychology is bovine, their outlook crude and raw.
They abandon vital matters to be tickled with a straw,
But the straw that they were tickled with—the chaff that they
were fed with—



They convert into a weaver's beam to break their foeman's head
with.

For undemocratic reasons and for motives not of State, They
arrive at their conclusions—largely inarticulate.

Being void of self-expression they confide their views to
none; But sometimes in a smoking-room, one learns why things
were done.

Yes, sometimes in a smoking-room, through clouds of 'Ers' and
'Ums' ObUquely and by inference illumination comes,

On some step that they have taken, or some action they
approve—

Embellshd with the argot of the Upper Fourth Remove.

In telegraphic sentences, half nodded to their friends.

They hint a matter's inwardness—and there the matter

ends. And while the Celt is talking from Valencia to

Kirkwall, The English—ah, the English!—don't say anything at
all!

THE REEDS OF RUNNYMEDE

AT Runnymede, at Runnymede,

What say the reeds at Runnymede?

The hssom reeds that give and take,

That bend so far, l)ut never break,

They keep the sleepy Thames awake

With tales of John at Runnymede.

At Runnymede, at Runnymede,

Oh hear the reeds at Runnymede! '

You mustn't sell, delay, deny,

A freeman's right or liberty,

It wakes the stubborn Enghshry,

We saw 'em roused at Runnymede!

When through our ranks the Barons came,

With little thought of praise or blame.

But resolute to play the game.



They lumbered up to Runnymede;
And there they launched in solid line.
The first attack on Right Divine—
The curt, uncompromising "Sign!"
That settled John at Runnymede.

'At Runnymede, at Runnymede,
Your rights were won at Runnymede!
No freeman shall be fined or bound,
Or dispossessed of freehold ground,
Except by laul judgment found
And passed upon him by his peers!—
Forget not, after all these years.
The charter signed at Runnymede.'

And still when mob or monarch lays
Too rude a hand on English ways,
The whisper wakes, the shudder plays,
Across the reeds at Runnymede.
And Thames, that knows the moods of kings,
And crowds and priests and suchlike things,
Rolls deep and dreadful as he brings
Their warning down from Runnymede!

HADRAMAUTI

WHO knows the heart of the Christian?
How does he reason?
What are his measures and balances? Which
is his season For laughter, forbearance or bloodshed, and what
devils move him
When he arises to smite us? I do not love him.
He invites the derision of strangers—he enters all places.
Booted, bareheaded he enters. With shouts and em
braces He asks of us news of the household whom we reckon
nameless. Certainly Allah created him forty-fold shameless.
So it is not in the Desert. One came to me weeping



—
The Avenger of Blood on his track—I took him in keeping,
Demanding not whom he had slain, I refreshed him,
I fed him As he were even a brother.
But Eblis had bred him.
He was the son of an ape, ill at ease in his clothing,
He talked with his head, hands and feet. I endured him
with loathing.
Whatever his spirit conceived his countenance showed it As a
frog shows in a mud-puddle.
Yet I abode it!
I fingered my beard and was dumb, in silence confront
ing him. His soul was too shallow for silence, e'en with Death
hunting him.
I said: "Tis his weariness speaks,' but, when he had
rested, He chirped in my face like some sparrow, and, presently,
jested!
Wherefore slew I that stranger? He brought me dis
honour. I saddled my mare, Bijli, I set him upon her. I gave him
rice and goat's flesh. He bared me to
laughter. When he was gone from my tent, swift I followed
after. Taking my sword in my hand. The hot wine had filled
him. Under the stars he mocked me—therefore I killed him!

GALLIC 'S SONG

(And Gallio cared for none of these things.
Acts xviii. 17)

ALL day long to the judgment-seat
The crazed Provincials drew—
All day long at their ruler's feet
Howled for the blood of the Jew.
Insurrection with one accord
Banded itself and woke,
And Paul was about to open his mouth
When Achaia's Deputy spoke—



'Whether the God descend from above
Or the Man ascend upon high,
Whether this maker of tents be Jove
Or a younger deity—
I will be no judge between your gods
And your godless bickerings.
Lictor, drive them hence with rods.
I care for none of these things!

* Were it a question of lawful due
Or Caesar's rule denied, Reason would
I should bear with you
And order it well to be tried;
But this is a question of words and names.
I know the strife it brings.
I will not pass upon any your claims.
I care for none of these things.

'One thing only I see most clear,
As I pray you also see. Claudius
Csesar hath set me here Rome's Deputy to be.
It is Her peace that ye go to break—
Not mine, nor any king's,
But, touching your clamour of
"Conscience sake,
I care for none of these things.

' Whether ye rise for the sake of a creed,
Or riot in hope of spoil.
Equally will I punish the deed.
Equally check the broil;
Nowise permitting injustice at all
From whatever doctrine it springs—
But—whether ye follow Priapus or Paul,
I care for none of these things.'



THE BEES AND THE FLIES

A FARMER of the Augustan Age
Perused in Virgil's golden page,
The story of the secret won From
Proteus by Gyrene's son—
How the dank sea-god showed the swain
Means to restore his hives again.
More briefly, how a slaughtered bull
Breeds honey by the bellyful.

The egregious rustic put to death
A bull by stopping of its breath.
Disposed the carcass in a shed
With fragrant herbs and branches spread.
And, having thus performed the charm,
Sat down to wait the promised swarm.

Nor waited long. The God of Day
Impartial, quickening with his ray
Evil and good alike, beheld
The carcass—and the carcass swelled.
Big with new birth the belly heaves
Beneath its screen of scented leaves,
Past any doubt, the bull conceives!

The farmer bids men bring more hives
To house the profit that arrives;
Prepares on pan, and key and kettle,
Sweet music that shall make 'em settle;
But when to crown the work he goes,
Gods! What a slink salutes his nose!
Where are the honest toilers?
Where The gravid mistress of their care?
A busy scene, indeed, he sees,
But not a sign or sound of bees.
Worms of the riper grave unhid
By any kindly coffin Ud,



Obscene and shameless to the light
Seethe in insatiate appetite.
Through putrid offal, while above
The hissing blow-fly seeks his love.
Whose offspring, supping where they supt,
Consume corruption twice corrupt.

ROAD-SONG OF THE BANDAR-LOG

HERE we go in a flung festoon,
Half-way up to the jealous moon!
Don't you envy our pranceful bands?
Don't you wish you had extra hands?
Wouldn't you like if your tails were—so—
Curved in the shape of a Cupid's bow ?
Now you're angry, but—never mind,
Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!

Here we sit in a branchy row.
Thinking of beautiful things we know;
Dreaming of deeds that we mean to do.
All complete, in a minute or two—
Something noble and grand and good.
Won by merely wishing we could.
Now we're going to—never mind.
Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!

All the talk we ever have heard
Uttered by bat or beast or bird—
Hide or fm or scale or feather—
Jabber it quickly and all together!
Excellent! Wonderful! Once again!
Now we are talking just like men.
Let's pretend we are . . . never mind,
Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!



This is the way of the Monkey-kind!
Then join our leaping lines that scumfish through the
pines,
That rocket by wlicre, light and high, the wild-grape
swings.
By the rubbish in our wake, and the noble noise we make.
Be sure, be sure, we're going to do some splendid things!

'OUR FATHERS ALSO'

THRONES, Powers, Dominions, Peoples, Kings,
Are changing 'neath our hand;
Our fathers also see these things.
But they do not understand.

By—they are by with mirth and tears,
Wit or the works of Desire—
Cushioned about on the kindly years
Between the wall and the fire.

The grapes are pressed, the corn is shocked—
Standeth no more to glean;
For the Gates of Love and
Learning locked When they went out between.

All lore our Lady Venus bares,
Signalled it was or told
By the dear lips long given to theirs
And longer to the mould.

All Profit, all Device, all Truth
Written it was or said
By the mighty men of their mighty youth,
Which is mighty being dead.

The film that floats before their eyes
The Temple's Veil they call;



And the dust that on the Shewbread lies
Is holy over all.

Warn them of seas that slip our yoke
Of slow-conspiring stars—
The ancient Front of Things unbroke
But heavy with new wars?

By—they are by with mirth and tears,
Wit or the waste of Desire—
Cushioned about on the kindly years
Between the wall and the fire.

CHAPTER HEADINGS

The Naulahka

WE meet in an evil land
That is near to the gates of hell.
I wait for thy command
To serve, to speed or withstand.
And thou sayest, I do not well?

Oh Love, the flowers so red
Are only tongues of flame,
The earth is full of the dead.
The new-killed, restless dead.
There is danger beneath and o'erhead;
And I guard thy gates in fear
Of peril and jeopardy,
Of words thou canst not hear,
Of signs thou canst not see—
And thou sayest 'tis ill that I come?

This I saw when the rites were done,
And the lamps were dead and the Gods alone.
And the gray snake coiled on the altar stone.
Ere I fled from a Fear that I could not see,



And the Gods of the East made mouths at me.
Now, it is not good for the
Christian's health to hustle the Aryan brown,
For the Christian riles, and the Aryan smiles, and he weareth the
Christian down;
And the end of the fight is a tombstone white, with the name of
the late deceased,
And the epitaph drear: 'A fool Ues here who tried to
hustle the East.'

Beat off in our last fight were we?
The greater need to seek the sea.
For Fortune changeth as the moon
To caravel and picaroon.
Then Eastward Ho! Or Westward Ho!
Whichever wind may meetest blow.
Our quarry sails on either sea,
Fat prey for such bold lads as we.
And every sun-dried buccaneer
Must hand and reef and watch and steer,
And bear great wrath of sea and sky
Before the plate-ships wallow by.
Now as our tall bows take the foam,
Let no man turn his heart to home,
Save to desire treasure more
And larger warehouse for his store,
When treasure trove from Santos
Bay Shall make our sea-washed village gay.

Because I sought it far from men
In deserts and alone;
I found it burning overhead,
The jewel of a Throne.
Because I sought—I sought it so
And spent my days to find—
It blazed one moment ere it left
The blacker night behind!

When a lover hies abroad



Looking for his love,
Azrael smiling sheathes his sword.
Heaven smiles above. Earth and sea
His servants be
And to lesser compass round
That his love be sooner found.

There was a strife 'twixt man and maid—
Oh that was at the birth of time!
But what befell 'twixt man and maid.
Oh that's beyond the grip of rhyme.
'Twas, 'Sweet, I must not bide with you,'
And, 'Love, I cannot bide alone';
For both were young and both were true,
And both were hard as the nether stone.

There is pleasure in the wet wet clay,
When the artist's hand is potting it;
There is pleasure in the wet wet lay,
When the poet's pad is blotting it;
There is pleasure in the shine of your picture on the
line At the Royal Acade-my;
Bui the pleasure felt in these is as chalk to Cheddar
cheese, When it comes to a well-made Lie.
To a quite unwreckable Lie, To a most impeccable Lie! To a
water-tight, fireproof, angle-iron, sunk-hinge, time
lock, steel-faced Lie!
Not a private hansom Lie, But a pair-and-brougham Lie,
Not a little-place-at-Tooting, but a country-house-with
shooting And a ring-fence-deer-park Lie.
We be the Gods of the East—
Older than all—
Masters of Mourning and Feast,
How shall we fall?
Will they gape for the husks that ye proffer.
Or yearn to your song?
And we—have we nothing to offer Who ruled them so long—
In the fume of the incense, the clash of the cymbal, the blare of
the conch and the gong?



Over the strife of the schools Low the day burns—
Back with the kine from the pools
Each one returns
To the life that he knows where the altar-flame glows and the
tulsi is trimmed in the urns.

The Light that Failed
So we settled it all when the storm was done
As comfy as comfy could be; And
I was to wait in the barn, my dears,
Because I was only three. And
Teddy would run to the rainbow's foot
Because he was five and a man;
And that's how it all began, my dears.
And that's how it all began.

If I have taken the common clay
And wrought it cunningly In the shape of a
God that was digged a clod, The greater honour to me.'
' If thou hast taken the common clay.
And thy hands be not free
From the taint of the soil, thou hast made thy spoil
The greater shame to thee.'

The wolf-cub at even lay hid in the corn,
Where the smoke of the cooking hung gray:
He knew where the doe made a couch for her fawn,
And he looked to his strength for his prey.
But the moon swept the smoke-wreaths away,
And he turned from his meal in the villagers close.
And he bayed to the moon as she rose.
The lark will make her hymn to God,
The partridge call her brood.
While I forget the heath I trod.
The fields wherein I stood.

'Tis dule to know not night from morn,
But greater dule to know
I can but hear the hunter's horn



That once I used to blow.
There were three friends that buried the fourth,

The mould in his mouth and the dust in his eyes,
And they went south and east and north—
The strong man fights but the sick man dies.

There w[^]ere three friends that spoke of the dead—
The strong man fights but the sick man dies—
'And would he were here with us now,' they said,
'The sun in our face and the wind in our eyes.'

Yet at the last, ere our spearmen had found him.
Yet at the last, ere a sword-thrust could save,
Yet at the last, with his masters around him,
He spoke of the Faith as a master to slave.

Yet at the last, though the Kafirs had maimed him,
Broken by bondage and wrecked by the reiver,
Yet at the last, tho' the darkness had claimed him,
He called upon Allah, and died a Believer!

A BRITISH-ROMAN SONG (A. D. 406)

MY father's father saw it not,
And I, behke, shall never come
To look on that so-holy spot—
The very Rome—

Crowned by all Time, all Art, all Might,
The equal work of Gods and Man,
City beneath whose oldest height—
The Race began!

Soon to send forth again a brood,



Unshakeable, we pray, that clings,
To Rome's thrice-hammered hardihood—
In arduous things.

Strong heart with triple armour bound.
Beat strongly, for thy life-blood runs.
Age after Age, the Empire round—
In us thy Sons,

Who, distant from the Seven Hills,
Loving and serving much, require
Thee—thee to guard 'gainst home-born ills,
The Imperial Fire!

A PICT SONG

ROME never looks where she treads.
Always her heavy hooves fall,
On our stomachs, our hearts or our heads;
And Rome never heeds when we bawl.
Her sentries pass on—that is all,
And we gather behind them in hordes,
And plot to reconquer the Wall,
With only our tongues for our swords.

We are the Little Folk—we!
Too little to love or to hate.
Leave us alone and you'll see
How we can drag down the State!
We are the worm in the wood!
We are the rot at the root!
We are the germ in the blood!
We are the thorn in the foot!

Mistletoe killing an oak—
Rats gnawing cables in two—
Moths making holes in a cloak—
How they must love what they do!



Yes—and we Little Folk too,
We are busy as they—
Working our works out of view—
Watch, and you'll see it some day!

No indeed! We are not strong,
But we know Peoples that are.
Yes, and we'll guide them along,
To smash and destroy you in War!
We shall be slaves just the same?
Yes, we have always been slaves.
But you—you will die of the shame.
And then we shall dance on your graves!

We are the Little Folk—we, etc.

THE PICTS' WORK

WHEN Rome was rotten-ripe to her fall,
And the sceptre passed from her hand,
The pestilent Picts leaped over the wall
To harry the British land.

The little dark men of the mountain and waste,
So quick to laughter and tears,
They came panting with hate and haste
For the loot of five hundred years.

They killed the trader, they sacked the shops.
They ruined temple and town—
They swept like wolves through the standing crops
Crying that Rome was down.

They wiped out all that they could find
Of beauty and strength and worth.
But they could not wipe out the Viking's Wind,
That brings the ships from the North.



They could not wipe out the North-East gales,
Nor what those gales set free—
The pirate ships with their close-reefed sails,
Leaping from sea to sea.

They had forgotten the shield-hung hull
Seen nearer and more plain,
Dipping into the troughs like a gull,
And gull-like rising again.

The painted eyes that glare and frown,
In the high snake-headed stem,
Searching the beach while her sail comes down,
They had forgotten them!

There was no Count of the Saxon Shore
To meet her hand to hand.
When she took the beach with a lunge and a roar,
And the pirates rushed inland!

DANE-GELD

It is always a temptation to an armed and agile nation, • To call
upon a neighbour and to say :—
' We invaded you last night—we are quite prepared
to fight, Unless you pay us cash to go away.'
(Waltz-time)

And that is called asking for Dane-geld,
And the people who ask it explain
That you've only to pay 'em the Dane-geld
And then you'll get rid of the Dane!

It is always a temptation to a rich and lazy nation,
To puff and look important and to say:
—



'Though we know we should defeat you, we have not the time to meet you, We will therefore pay you cash to go away.'

And that is called paying the Dane-geld;

But we've proved it again and again,

That, once you have paid him the Dane-geld, You never get rid of the Dane.

It is wrong to put temptation in the path of any nation,

Eor fear they should succumb and go astray,

So when you are requested to pay up or be molested,

You will find it better policy to say:—

'We never pay any one Dane-geld,

No matter how trifling the cost,

For the end of that game is oppression and shame,

And the nation that plays it is lost!'

THE STRANGER

THE Stranger within my gate,

He may be true or kind,

But he does not talk my talk—

I cannot feel his mind.

I see the face and the eyes and the mouth,

But not the soul behind.

The men of my own stock

They may do ill or well,

But they tell the lies I am wonted to.

They are used to the lies I tell.

We do not need interpreters

When we go to buy and sell.

The Stranger within my gates,

He may be evil or good, But

I cannot tell what powers control—

What reasons sway his mood;

Nor when the Gods of his far-off land



May repossess his blood.
The men of my own stock,
Bitter bad they may be,
But, at least, they hear the things
I hear, And see the things I see;
And whatever I think of them and their likes
They think of the likes of me.

This was my father's behest
And this is also mine:
Let the corn be all one sheaf—
And the grapes be all one vine,
Ere our children's teeth are set on edge
By bitter bread and wine.

'RIMINI'

(Marching Song of a Roman Legion of the Later Empire)

WHEN I left Rome for Lalage's sake
By the Legions' road to Rimini,
She vowed her heart was mine to take
With me and my shield to Rimini
(Till the Eagles flew from Rimini.)
And I've tramped Britain, and
I've tramped Gaul, And the
Pontic shore where the snow-flakes fall
As white as the neck of Lalage—
(As cold as the heart of Lalage!)
And I've lost Britain, and I've lost Gaul,
And I've lost Rome, and worst of all,
I've lost Lalage!

When you go by the Via Aurelia,
As thousands have travelled before.
Remember the Luck of the Soldier
Who never saw Rome any more!



Oh dear was the sweetheart that kissed him.
And dear was the mother that bore,
But his shield was picked up in the heather,
And he never saw Rome any more!
And he left Rome, etc.

When you go by the Via Aurelia
That runs from the City to Gaul,
Remember the Luck of the Soldier
Who rose to be master of all!

I le carried the sword and the buckler,
He mounted his guard on the Wall, Till the
Legions elected him Caesar,
And he rose to be master of all!
And he left Rome, etc.
It's twenty-five marches to Narbo,
It's forty-five more up the Rhone,
And the end may be death in the heather
Or life on an Emperor's throne.
But whether the Eagles obey us,
Or we go to the Ravens—alone, I'd sooner be
Lalage's lover Than sit on an Emperor's throne!
We've all left Rome for Lalage's sake, etc.

*POOR HONEST MEN'
(A. D. 1800)

YOUR jar of Virginny Will cost you a guinea,
Which you reckon too much by five shillings or
ten;
But light your churchwarden
And judge it according,
When I've told you the troubles of poor honest men.
From the Capes of the Delaware,
As you are well aware, We sail with tobacco for
England—but then, Our own British cruisers,



They watch us come through, sirs,
And they press half a score of us poor honest men!
Or if by quick sailing
(Thick weather prevailing)
We leave them behind
(as we do now and then)
We are sure of a gun from
Each frigate we run from,
Which is often destruction to poor honest men!

Broadsides the Atlantic
We tumble short-handed.
With shot-holes to plug and new canvas to bend,
And ofT the Azores, Dutch,
Dons and Monsieurs
Are waiting to terrify poor honest men.

Napoleon's embargo
Is laid on all cargo
Which comfort or aid to
King George may intend;
And since roll, twist and leaf,
Of all comforts is chief.
They try for to steal it from poor honest men!

With no heart for fight.
We take refuge in flight.
But fire as we run, our retreat to defend.
Until our stern-chasers
Cut up her fore-braces.
And she flies up the wind from us poor honest men!

Twix' the Forties and Fifties
South-eastward the drift is,
And so, when we think we are making
Land's End, Alas, it is Ushant
With half the King's Navy, Blockading
French ports against poor honest men!



But they may not quit station
(Which is our salvation)
So swiftly we stand to the
Nor'ard again; And finding the tail of
A homeward-bound convoy.
We slip past the SciUies like poor honest men.

Twix' the Lizard and Dover
We hand our stult over, Though
I may not inform how we do it, nor when;
But a hght on each quarter
Low down on the water Is well
understandd by poor honest men!

Even then we have dangers
From meddlesome strangers
Who spy on our business and are not content
To take a smooth answer,
Except with a handspike . . .
And they say they are murdered by poor honest men

!To be drowned or be shot
Is our natural lot,
Why should we, moreover, be hanged in the end—
After all our great pains
For to dangle in chains
As though we were smugglers, not poor honest men?

THE BOATS OF NEWHAVEN

THE boats of Newhaven and Folkestone and
Dover To Dieppe and Boulogne and to Calais cross over;
And in each of those runs there is not a square yard
Where theEngsh and French haven't fought and fought
hard!
If the ships that were sunk could be floated once more,
They'd stretch like a raft from the shore to the shore,



And we'd see, as we crossed, every pattern and plan
Of ship that was built since sea-fighting began.
There'd be biremes and brigantines, cutters and sloops.
Cogs, carracks and galleons with gay gilded poops—
Hoys, caravels, ketches, corvettes and the rest,
As thick as regattas, from Ramsgate to Brest.
But the galleys of Csesar, the squadrons of Sluys,
And Nelson's crack frigates are hid from our eyes, \\here the
high Seventy-fours of Napoleon's days Lie down with
Deal luggers and French chasse-marees.
They'll answer no signal—they rest on the ooze
With their honeycombed guns and their skeleton crews—
And racing above them, through sunshine or gale.
The Cross-Channel packets come in with the Mail.

Then the poor sea-sick passengers,
English and French, Must open their trunks on the
Custom-house bench,
While the officers rummage for smuggled cigars
And nobody thinks of our bloodthirsty wars!

***WHEN THE GREAT ARK'**

WHEN the Great Ark, in Vigo Bay,
Rode stately through the half-manned fleet.
From every ship about her way
She heard the mariners entreat—
'Before we take the seas again
Let down your boats and send us men!
'We have no lack of victual here
With work—God knows!—enough for all.
To hand and reef and watch and steer,
Because our present strength is small.
While your three decks are crowded so
Your crews can scarcely stand or go.
* In war, your numbers do but raise
Confusion and divided will;



In storm, the mindless deep obeys
Not multitudes but single skill;
In calm, your numbers, closely pressed.
Do breed a mutiny or pest.
'We, even on unchallenged seas,
Dare not adventure where we would.
But forfeit brave advantages
For lack of men to make 'em good;
Whereby, to England's double cost,
Honour and profit both are lost!'

THE SONG OF VALLEY FORGE

I WAS not while England's sword unsheathed
I Put half a world to flight, I
Nor while their new-built cities breathed
Secure behind her might;
Not while she poured from Pole to Line
Treasure and ships and men—

These worshippers at Freedom's shrine
They did not quit her then!
Not till their foes were driven forth
By England o'er the main—
Not till the Frenchman from the North
Had gone, with shattered Spain;
Not till the clean-swept ocean showed
No hostile flag unrolled.
Did they remember what they owed
To Freedom—and were bold!
The snow lies thick on Valley Forge,
The ice on the Delaware,
But the poor dead soldiers of King George
They neither know nor care—
Not though the earliest primrose break
On the sunny side of the lane.
And scuffling rookeries awake
Their England's spring again.



They will not stir when the drifts are gone
Or the ice melts out of the bay,
And the men that served with Washington
Lie all as still as they.

They will not stir though the mayflower blows
In the moist dark woods of pine,
And every rock-strewn pasture shows
Mullein and columbine.
Each for his land, in a fair fight,
Encountered, strove, and died,
And the kindly earth that knows no spite

Covers them side by side.
She is too busy to think of war;
She has all the world to make gay,
And, behold, the yearly flowers are

Where they were in our fathers' day!
Golden-rod by the pasture wall
When the columbine is dead.
And sumach leaves that turn, in fall,
Bright as the blood they shed.

PROPHETS AT HOME

PROPHETS have honour all over the Earth,
Except in the village where they were born; 'here such as knew
them boys from birth,
Nature-ally hold 'em in scorn.
Prophets arc naughty and young and vain.
They make a won' erful grievance of it.
(You can see by their writings how they complain),
Rut O, 'tis won' erful good for the Prophet!
There's nothing Nineveh Town can give
(Nor being swallowed by whales between),
Makes up for the place where a man's folk live,



Which don't care nothing what he has been.
He might ha' been that, or he might ha' been this.
But they love and they hate him for what he is.

THE DUTCH IN THE MEDWAY

IF war were won by feasting,
Or victory by song,
Or safety found in sleeping sound.
How England would be strong!
But honour and dominion
Are not maintained so.
They're only got by sword and shot,
And this the Dutchmen know!
The moneys that should feed us.
You spend on your delight,
How can you then have sailor-men
To aid you in your fight?
Our fish and cheese are rotten,
Which makes the scurvy grow—
We cannot serve you if we starve.
And this the Dutchmen know!
Our ships in every harbour
Be neither whole nor sound,
And, when we seek to mend a leak.
No oakum can be found.
Or, if it is, the caulkers.
And carpenters also.
For lack of pay have run away,
And this the Dutchmen know!

Mere powder, guns, and bullets,
We scarce can get at all.
Their price was spent in merriment
And revel at Whitehall,
While we in tattered doublets



From ship to ship must row,
Beseeching friends for odds and ends
And this the Dutchmen know!
No King will heed our warnings,
No Court will pay our claims—
Our King and Court for their disport
Do sell the very Thames! For, now
De Ruyter's topsails.
Off naked Chatham show,
We dare not meet him with our fleet
And this the Dutchmen know!

JURAL AND TUBAL CAIN

JUBAL sang of the Wrath of God
And the curse of thistle and thorn—
But Tubal got him a pointed rod,
And scrabbled the earth for corn.

Old—old as that early mould,
Young as the sprouting grain—
Yearly green is the strife between
Jubal and Tubal Cain!

Jubal sang of the new-found sea,
And the love that its waves divide—
But Tubal hollowed a fallen tree
And passed to the farther side.

Black—black as the hurricane-wrack,
Salt as the under-main—
Bitter and cold is the hate they hold—
Jubal and Tubal Cain!

Jubal sang of the golden years
When wars and wounds shall cease—
But Tubal fashioned the hand-flung spears



And showed his neighbours peace.
New—new as the Nine-point-two,
Older than Lamech's slain—
Roaring and loud is the feud avowed Twix'
Jubal and Tubal Cain!

Ill Jubal sang of the cliffs that bar
And the peaks that none may crown—
But Tubal clambered by jut and scar
And there he buildcd a town.

High—high as the snowsheds lie,
Low as the culverts drain—
Wherever they be they can never agree
Jubal and Tubal Cain!

THE VOORTREKKER

THE gull shall whistle in his wake, the blind wave break in fire.
He shall fulfil God's utmost will, unknowing his
desire.

And he shall see old planets change and alien stars arise.
And give the gale his seaworn sail in shadow of new skies.
Strong lust of gear shall drive him forth and hunger arm
his hand,

To win his food from the desert rude, his pittance from
the sand.

His neighbours' smoke shall vex his eyes, their voices
break his rest.

He shall go forth till south is north sullen and dis
possessed.

He shall desire loneliness and his desire shall bring,
Hard on his heels, a thousand wheels, a People and a
King.

He shall come back on his own track, and by his scarcecooled
camp

There shall he meet the roaring street, the derrick and the stamp:



There shall he blaze a nation's ways with hatchet and
with brand.
Till on his last-won wilderness an Empire's outposts stand.

A SCHOOL SONG

IT ET us now praise famous men'—
Men of little showing—
—'For their work continueth,
And their work continueth,
Broad and deep continueth,
Greater than their knowing!
Western wind and open surge
Took us from our mothers,
Flung us on a naked shore
(Twelve bleak houses by the shore!
Seven summers by the shore!)
'Mid two hundred brothers.

There we met with famous men
Set in office o'er us;
And they beat on us with rods
Faithfully with many rods—
Daily beat us on with rods,
For the love they bore us!
Out of Egypt unto Troy—
Over Himalaya—
Far and sure our bands have gone—
Hy-Brasil or Babylon, Islands of the
Southern Run, And Cities of Cathaia!

And we all praise famous men—
Ancients of the College;
For they taught us common sense—
Tried to teach us common sense
Truth and God's Own Common Sense,



Which is more than knowledge!
Each degree of Latitude
Strung about Creation Seeth one or more of us
(Of one muster each of us),
Diligent in that he does. Keen in his vocation.
This we learned from famous men,
Knowing not its uses, When they showed, in daily work,
Man must finish off his work—
Right or wrong, his daily work—
And without excuses.
Servants of the Staff and chain,
Mine and fuse and grapnel—
Some before the face of Kings,
Stand before the face of Kings;
Bearing gifts to divers Kings—
Gifts of case and shrapnel.
This we learned from famous men
Teaching in our borders,
Who declared it was best. Safest, easiest, and best—
Expeditious, wise, and best—
To obey your orders.
Some beneath the farther stars
Bear the greater burden:
Set to serve the lands they rule,
(Save he serve no man may rule),
Serve and love the lands they rule;
Seeking praise nor guerdon.
This we learned from famous men.
Knowing not we learned it.
Only, as the years went by—
lonely, as the years went by—
Far from help as years went by,
Plainer we discerned it.
Wherefore praise we famous men
From whose bays we borrow—
They that put aside To-day—
All the joys of their To-day—
And with toil of their To-day
Bought for us To-morrow!



Bless and praise we famous men—
Men of little showing—
For their work continueth,
And Their work continueth,
Broad and deep continueth,
Great beyond their knowing!

THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

NOW this is the Law of the Jungle—as old and as true as the sky; And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the Wolf that shall break it must die.

As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk the Law runneth forward and back—

For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.

Wash daily from nose-tip to tail-tip; drink deeply, but never too deep;

And remember the night is for hunting, and forget not the day is for sleep.

The Jackal may follow the Tiger, but, Cub, when thy whiskers are grown.

Remember the Wolf is a hunter—go forth and get food of thine own.

Keep peace with the Lords of the Jungle—the Tiger, the Panther, the Bear; And trouble not Hathi the Silent, and mock not the Boar in his lair.

When Pack meets with Pack in the Jungle, and neither will go from the trail,

Lie down till the leaders have spoken—it may be fair words shall prevail.

When ye fight with a Wolf of the Pack, ye must fight him alone and afar. Lest others take part in the quarrel, and the Pack be diminished by war.

The Lair of the Wolf is his refuge, and where he has made him his home, Not even the Head Wolf may enter, not even the



Council may come.

The Lair of the Wolf is his refuge, but where he has
digged it too plain.

The Council shall send him a message, and so he shall
change it again.

If ye kill before midnight, be silent, and wake not the woods
with your bay,

Lest ye frighten the deer from the crops, and the brothers go
empty away.

Ye may kill for yourselves, and your mates, and your cubs as
they need, and ye can;

But kill not for pleasure of killing, and seven times never kill
Man!

If ye plunder his Kill from a weaker, devour not all in
thy pride; Pack-Right is the right of the meanest; so leave him
the

head and the hide. the: law of the jungle

The Kill of the Pack is the meat of the Pack.

Ye must eat where it lies;

And no one may carry away of that meat to his lair, or
he dies.

The Kill of the Wolf is the meat of the Wolf.

He may do what he will, But, till he has given permission, the
Pack may not eat
of that Kill.

Cub-Right is the right of the Yearling.

From all of his Pack he may claim

Full-gorge when the killer has eaten ; and none may refuse him
the same.

Lair-Right is the right of the Mother.

From all of her year she may claim

One haunch of each kill for her litter; and none may deny
her the same.

Cave-Right is the right of the

Father—to hunt by himself for his own:

He is freed of all calls to the Pack; he is judged by the
Council alone.

Because of his age and his cunning, because of his gripe and his
paw, In all that the Law leaveth open, the word of the Head



Wolf is Law.

Now these are the Laws of the Jungle, and many and mighty are they; But the head and the hoof of the Law and the haunch and the hump is—Obey!

***A SERVANT WHEN HE REIGNETH'**

(For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear. For a servant when he reigneth, and a fool when he is filled with meat; for an odious woman when she is married, and an handmaid thai is heir to her mistress.—Prov. xxx. 21-23.)

THREE things make earth unquiet,
And four she cannot brook;
The godly Agur counted them
And put them in a book—

Those Four Tremendous Curses
With which mankind is cursed:
But a Servant when he Reigneth
Old Agur counted first.

An Handmaid that is Mistress
We need not call upon,
A Fool when he is full of Meat
Will fall asleep anon.

An Odious Woman
Married May bear a babe and mend,
But a Servant when He Reigneth
Is Confusion to the end.

His feet are swift to tumult.
His hands are slow to toil,
His ears are deaf to reason,
His lips are loud in broil.



He knows no use for power
Except to show his might,
He gives no heed to judgment
Unless it prove him right.

Because he served a master
Before his Kingship came,
And hid in all disaster
Behind his master's name.

So, when his Folly opens
The unnecessary hells,
A Servant when He Reigneth
Throws the blame on some one else.

His vows are lightly spoken.
His faith is hard to bind.
His trust is easy broken,
He fears his fellow-kind.

The nearest mob will move him
To break the pledge he gave—
Oh a Servant when He Reigneth
Is more than ever slave!

MY FATHER'S CHAIR

THERE are four good legs to my
Father's Chair Priest and
People and Lords and Crown.
I sit on all of 'em fair and square,
And that is the reason it don't break down.
I won't trust one leg, nor two, nor three.
To carry my weight when I sit me down,
I want all four of 'em under me—
Priest and People and Lords and Crown.
I sit on all four and I favour none—



Priest, nor People, nor Lords, nor Crown—
And I never tilt in my chair, my son.
And that is the reason it don't break down!
When your time comes to sit in my Chair,
Remember your Father's habits and rules,
Sit on all four legs, fair and square,
And never be tempted by one-legged stools!

'OUR FATHERS OF OLD'

EXCELLENT herbs had our fathers of old
Excellent herbs to ease their pain—
Alexanders and Marigold,
Eyebright, Orris, and Elecampane. Basil,
Rocket, Valerian, Rue
(Almost singing themselves they run).
Vervain, Dittany, Call-me-to-you—
Cowslip, Mehlot, Rose of the Sun.
Anything green that grew out of the mould
Was an excellent herb to our fathers of old.

Wonderful tales had our fathers of old—
Wonderful tales of the herbs and the stars—
The Sun was Lord of the Marigold,
Basil and Rocket belonged to Mars.

Pat as a sum in division it goes—
(Every plant had a star bespoke)—
Who but Venus should govern the Rose?
Who but Jupiter own the Oak?
Simply and gravely the facts are told
In the wonderful books of our fathers of old.

Wonderful little, when all is said.
Wonderful little our fathers knew.
Half their remedies cured you dead—
Most of their teaching was quite untrue—



Look at the stars when a patient is ill
(Dirt has nothing to do with disease).

Bleed and blister as much as you will,
Blister and bleed him as oft as you please.'
Whence enormous and manifold
Errors were made by our fathers of old.

Yet when the sickness was sore in the land,
And neither planets nor herbs assuaged,
They took their lives in their lancet-hand
And, oh, what a wonderful war they waged!
Yes, when the crosses were chalked on the door—
(Yes, when the terrible dead-cart rolled).

Excellent courage our fathers bore—
Excellent heart had our fathers of old.
None too learned, but nobly bold
Into the fight went our fathers of old.

If it be certain, as Galen says,
And sage Hippocrates holds as much—
'That those afflicted by doubts and dismays
Are mightily helped by a dead man's touch,'
Then, be good to us, stars above!
Then, be good to us, herbs below!
We are afflicted by what we can prove.
We are distracted by what we know. So—ah, so!

Down from your heaven or up from your mould,
Send us the hearts of our fathers of old!

BEFORE EDGEHILL

October, 1642

NAKED and gray the Cotswolds stand
Beneath the autumn sun,
And the stubble fields on either hand



Where Stour and Avon run.
There is no change in the patient land
That has bred us every one.
She should have passed in cloud and fire
And saved us from this sin
Of war—red war—'twixt child and sire,
Household and kith and kin, In the heart of a sleepy
Midland shire, With the harvest scarcely in.
But there is no change as we meet at last
On the brow-head or the plain.
And the raw astonished ranks stand fast
To slay or to be slain
By the men they knew in the kindly past
That shall never come again—
By the men they met at dance or chase,
In the tavern or the hall,
At the justice-bench and the market-place,

At the cudgel-play or brawl,
Of their own blood and speech and race,
Comrades or neighbours all!
More bitter than death this day must prove
Whichever way it go,
For the brothers of the maids we love
Make ready to lay low
Their sisters' sweethearts, as we move
Against our dearest foe.

Thank Heaven!
At last the trumpets peal
Before our strength gives way.
For King or for the Commonweal
No matter which they say,
The first dry rattle of new-drawn steel
Changes the world to-day!
Fathers in a wondrous age,
Ere yet the Earth was small,
Ensured to us an heritage,
And doubted not at all



That we, the children of their heart,
Which then did beat so high,
In later time should play like part
For our posterity.
A thousand years they steadfast built,
To 'vantage us and ours,
The Walls that were a world's despair.
The sea-constraining Towers:
Yet in their midmost pride they knew,
And unto Kings made known,
Not all from these their strength they drew.
Their faith from brass or stone.
Youth's passion, manhood's fierce intent.
With age's judgment wise,
They spent, and counted not they spent,
At daily sacrifice. Not lambs alone nor purchased doves
Or tithes of trader's gold—
Their lives most dear, their dearer loves.
They offered up of old.
Refraining e'en from lawful things,
They bowed the neck to bear
The unadorned yoke that brings
Stark toil and sternest care.
Wherefore through them is Freedom sure;
Wherefore through them we stand
From all but sloth and pride secure,
In a delightsome land.
Then, fretful, murmur not they gave
So great a charge to keep,
Nor dream that awestruck Time shall save
Their labour while we sleep.
Dear-bought and clear, a thousand year,
Our fathers' title runs. Make we likewise their sacrifice.
Defrauding not our sons.

THE RIVER'S TALE



TWENTY bridges from Tower to Kew
Wanted to know what the River knew,
For they were young and the Thames was old,
And this is the tale that the River told:—
' I walk my beat before London Town,
Five hours up and seven down.

Up I go and I end my run At
Tide-end-town, which is Teddington.
Down I come with the mud in my hands
And plaster it over the Maphn Sands.
But I'd have you know that these waters of mine
Were once a branch of the River Rhine,
When hundreds of miles to the East
I went And England was joined to the Continent.
' I remember the bat-winged lizard-birds.
The Age of Ice and the mammoth herds.
And the giant tigers that stalked them down
Through Regent's Park into Camden Town.

And I remember like yesterday
The earliest Cockney who came my way,
When he pushed through the forest that hned the Strand,
With paint on his face and a club in his hand.

He was death to feather and fm and fur.
He trapped my beavers at Westminster,
He netted my salmon, he hunted my deer,
He killed my herons off Lambeth Pier;
He fought his neighbour with axes and swords,
Flint or bronze, at my upper fords.
While down at Greenwich for slaves and tin
The tall Phoenician ships stole in,
And North Sea war-boats, painted and gay.
Flashed like dragon-flies Erith way;
And Norseman and Negro and Gaul and
Greek Drank with the Britons in Barking Creek,
And life was gay, and the world was new,
And I was a mile across at Kew!



But the Roman came with a heavy hand.
And bridged and roaded and ruled the land.
And the Roman left and the Danes blew in—
And that's where your history books begin!'

SONG OF THE FIFTH RIVER

WHEN first by Eden Tree,
The Four Great Rivers ran,
To each was appointed a
Man Her Prince and Ruler to be.

But after this was ordained
(The ancient legends tell),
There came dark Israel,
For whom no River remained.

Then He Whom the
Rivers obey Said to him:
'Fling on the ground
A handful of yellow clay.

And a Fifth Great River shall run,
Mightier than these Four,
In secret the Earth around;
And Her secret evermore,
Shall be shown to thee and thy Race.'

So it was said and done.
And, deep in the veins of Earth,
And, fed by a thousand springs
That comfort the market-place,
Or sap the power of Kings,
The Fifth Great River had birth,
Even as it was foretold—
The Secret River of Gold!



And Israel laid down
His sceptre and his crown,
To brood on that River bank,
Where the waters flashed and sank,
And burrowed in earth and fell,
And bided a season below.
For reason that none might know,
Save only Israel.
He is Lord of the Last—
The Fifth, most wonderful.

Flood. He hears Her thunder past
And Her Song is in his blood.
He can foresay: 'She will fall,'
For he knows which fountain dries
Behind which desert-belt
A thousand leagues to the South.
He can foresay: 'She will rise.'
He knows what far snows melt
Along what mountain-wall
A thousand leagues to the North.
He snuffs the coming drouth
As he snuffs the coming rain.
He knows what each will bring forth,
And turns it to his gain.

A Ruler without a Throne,
A Prince without a Sword,
Israel follows his quest.
In every land a guest,
Of many lands a lord,
In no land King is he.
But the Fifth Great River keeps
The secret of Her deeps
For Israel alone.
As it was ordered to be.



THE CHILDREN'S SONG

END of our Birth, we pledge to thee
Our love and toil in the years to be;
When we are grown and take our place,
As men and women with our race.
Father in Heaven who lovest all,
Oh help Thy children when they call;
That they may build from age to age.
An undefiled heritage.
Teach us to bear the yoke in youth,
With steadfastness and careful truth;
That, in our time. Thy Grace may give
The Truth whereby the Nations live.
Teach us to rule ourselves always,
Controlled and cleanly night and day;
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.
Teach us to look in all our ends,
On Thee for judge, and not our friends;
That we, with Thee, may walk uncowed
By fear or favour of the crowd.

Teach us the Strength that cannot seek,
By deed or thought, to hurt the weak;
That, under Thee, we may possess
Man's strength to comfort man's distress.
Teach us Dehght in simple things,
And Mirth that has no bitter springs;
Forgiveness free of evil done.
And Love to all men 'neath the sun!
Land of our Birth, our faith, our pride.
For whose dear sake our fathers died;
O Motherland, we pledge to thee.
Head, heart, and hand through the years to be!



PARADE-SONG OF THE CAMP ANIMALS

Elephants of the Gun-Teams

WE lent to Alexander the strength of Hercules,
The wisdom of our foreheads, the cunning of our knees.
We bowed our necks to service; they ne'er were loosed again,—
Make way there, way for the ten-foot teams
Of the Forty-Pounder train!

Gun-Bullocks

Those heroes in their harnesses avoid a cannon-ball. And what
they know of powder upsets them one and
all; Then we come into action and tug the guns again,
—

Make way there, way for the twenty yoke Of the Forty-Pounder
train!

Cavalry Horses

By the brand on my withers, the finest of tunes Is played by the
Lancers, Hussars, and Dragoons, And it's sweeter than 'Stables'
or 'Water' to me, The Cavalry Canter of 'Bonnie Dundee'!

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PARADE-SONG OF THE CAMP-ANIMALS

Then feed us and break us and handle and groom, And give us
good riders and plenty of room. And launch us in column of
squadron and see The Way of the War-horse to 'Bonnie
Dundee'!

Screw-Gun Mules

As me and my companions were scrambling up a hill. The path
was lost in rolhng stoncs, but we went forward
still; For we can wriggle and climb, my lads, and turn up
everywhere. And it's our delight on a mountain height, with a
leg or two to spare!

Good luck to every sergeant, then, that lets us pick our
road! Bad luck to all the driver-men that cannot pack a load! For
we can wriggle and climb, my lads, and turn up
everywhere. And it's our dehght on a mountain height, with a
leg or two to spare!



Commissariat Camels

We haven't a camelty tune of our own To help us trollop along.
But every neck is a hair-trombone
(Rtt-ta-ta-ta ! is a hair-trombone!) And this is our marching-
song:

Can't! Don't! Shan't! Won't!

Pass it along the line!

Somebody's pack has slid from his back,

'Wish it were only mine!

Somebody's load has tipped off in the road
Cheer for a halt and a
row!

Urrr! Yarrh! Grr! Arrh!

Somebody's catching it now!

All the Beasts Together

Children of the Camp are we,

Serving each in his degree;

Children of the yoke and goad. Pack and harness, pad and load.

See our line across the plain.

Like a heel-rope bent again,

Reaching, writhing, rolling far. Sweeping all away to war!

While the men that walk beside.

Dusty, silent, heavy-eyed. Cannot tell why we or they March
and suffer day by day. Children of the Camp are we,

Serving each in his degree;

Children of the yoke and goad, Pack and harness, pad and load.

CHAPTER HEADINGS

Beast and Man in India

THEY killed a child to please the

Gods In earth's young penitence,

And I have bled in that Babe's stead

Because of innocence.

I bear the sins of sinful men

That have no sin of my own;

They drive me forth to Heaven's wrath

Unpastured and alone.



I am the meat of sacrifice,
The ransom of man's guilt,
For they give my life to the altar knife
Wherever shrine is built.
'The Goat.'
Between the waving tufts of jungle-grass.
Up from the river as the twilight falls.
Across the dust-beclouded plain they pass
On to the village walls.
Great is the sword and mighty is the pen,
But greater far the labouring ploughman's blade,
For on its oxen and its husbandmen
An Empire's strength is laid. 'The Oxen.'
The lorn boughs trailing o'er the tusks aslant.
The saplings reeling in the path he trod.
Declare his might—our lord the Elephant,
Chief of the ways of God.
The black bulk heaving where the oxen pant.
The bowed head toiling where the guns careen.
Declare our might—our slave the Elephant,
And servant of the Queen. 'The Elephant.'
Dark children of the mere and marsh,
Wallow and waste and lea;
Outcaste they wait at the village gate
With folk of low degree.
Their pasture is in no man's land,
Their food the cattle's scorn;
Their rest is mire and their desire
The thicket and the thorn.
But woe to those who break their sleep,
And woe to those who dare
To rouse the herd-bull from his keep,
The wild boar from his lair!
'*Pigs and Buft'aloos.'
The beasts are very wise,
Their mouths are clean of lies;
They talk one to the other,
Bullock to bullock's brother
Resting after their labours.



Each in stall with his neighbours.
But man with goad and whip,
Breaks up their fellowship,

Shouts in their silky ears
Filling their souls with fears.
When he has ploughed the land,
He says:—'They understand.'
But the beasts in stall together.
Freed from the yoke and tether.
Say as the torn flanks smoke—
*Nay, 'twas the whip that spoke.'

Life's Handicap

There's a convict more in the Central
Jail Behind the old mud wall;
There's a lifter less on the Border trail,
And the Queen's peace over all,
Dear boys, The Queen's peace over all!
For we must bear our leader's blame.

On us the shame will fall,
If we lift our hand from a fettered land
And the Queen's peace over all. Dear boys,
The Queen's peace over all! 'The Head of the District.'
The doors were wide, the story saith.
Out of the night came the patient wraith,
He might not speak and he could not stir
A hair of the Baron's minniver.
Speechless and strengthless a shadow thin,
He roved the castle to find his kin.
And oh! 'twas a piteous sight to see
The dumb ghost follow his enemy!
'The Return of Imray.'

Before my Spring I garnered Autumn's gain,
Out of her time my field was white with grain,
The year gave up her secrets, to my woe.
Forced and deflowered each sick season lay,
In mystery of increase and decay.
I saw the sunset ere men see the day,



Y\ho am too wise in all I should not know.

'Without Benefit of Clergy.'

Many Inventions

And if ye doubt the tale I tell,
Steer through the South Pacific swell;
Go where the branching coral hives
Unending strife of endless lives,
Where, leagued about the 'wildered boat,
The rainbow jellies fill and float;
And, liling where the laver lingers,
The starfish trips on all her fingers;
Where, 'neath his myriad spines ashock.
The sea-egg ripples down the rock,
An orange wonder dimly guessed,
From darkness where the cuttles rest,
Moored o'er the darker deeps that hide
The blind while Sea-snake and his bride
Wlio, drowsing, nose the long-lost ships
Let down through darkness to their lips.

'A Matter of Fact.'

'Less you want your toes trod off you'd better get back
at once,
For the bullocks are walkin' two by two,
The byles are walkin' two by two,
The bullocks are walkin' two by two,
And the elephants bring the guns. Ho! Yuss!
Great—big—long—black—forty-pounder guns:
Jiggery-jolty to and fro,
Each as big as a launch in tow—
Blind—dumb—broad-breeched—beggars o' batteringguns.
'My Lord the Elephant.'
All the world over, nursing their scars,
Sit the old fighting-men broke in the wars—
Sit the old fighting-men, surly and grim,
Mocking the lilt of the conquerors' hymn.
Dust of the battle o'erwhelmed them and hid.
Fame never found them for aught that they did.
Wounded and spent to the lazar they drew.



Lining the road where the Legions roll through.
Sons of the Laurel who press to your meed,
(Worthy God's pity most—ye who succeed!)
Ere you go triumphing, crowned, to the stars,
Pity poor fighting men, broke in the wars!
'Collected.'

Kim Unlo whose use the pregnant suns are poised
With idiot moons and stars retracting stars?
Creep thou between—thy coming's all unnoised.
Heaven hath her high, as Earth her baser, wars.

Heir to these tumults, this affright, that fray
(By Adam's, father's, own, sin bound alway);
Peer up, draw out thy horoscope and say
Wich planet mends thy threadbare fate, or mars.

IF

—IF you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in hes.
Or being hated don't give way to hating.
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim.
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools.
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:



If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

OUTSONG IN THE JUNGLE

Baloo

FOR the sake of him who showed
One wise Frog the Jungle-Road,
Keep the Law the Man-Pack make
For thy bhnd old Baloo's sake!

Clean or tainted, hot or stale,
Hold it as it were the Trail,
Through the day and through the night,
Questing neither left nor right.

For the sake of him who loves
Thee beyond all else that moves.
When thy Pack would make thee pain,
Say: 'Tabaqui sings again.'



When thy Pack would work thee ill.
Say: 'Shere Khan is yet to kill.'
When the knife is drawn to slay.
Keep the Law and go thy way.
(Root and honey, palm and spathe,
Guard a cub from harm and scathe!)
Wood and Water, Wind and Tree,
Jungle-Favour go with thee!
Kaa

Anger is the egg of Fear—
Only lidless eyes are clear.
Cobra-poison none may leech.
Even so with Cobra-speech.

Open talk shall call to thee Strength,
whose mate is Courtesy.
Send no lunge beyond thy length;
Lend no rotten bough thy strength.

Gauge thy gape with buck or goat.
Lest thine eye should choke thy throat.
After gorging, wouldst thou sleep?
Look thy den be hid and deep.

Lest a wrong, by thee forgot,
Draw thy killer to the spot.
East and West and North and South,
Wash thy hide and close thy mouth.

(Pit and rift and blue pool-brim,
Middle-Jungle follow him!)
Wood and Water, Wind and Tree,
Jungle-Favour go with thee!
Bagheera

In the cage my life began;
Well I know the worth of Man.



By the Broken Lock that freed—
Man-cub, 'ware the Man-cub's breed!

Scenting-dew or starlight pale,
Choose no tangled tree-cat trail.
Pack or council, hunt or den.
Cry no truce with Jackal-Men.
Feed them silence when they say:
'Come with us an easy way.'

Feed them silence when they seek
Help of thine to hurt the weak.
Make no bandar's boast of skill;
Hold thy peace above the kill.

Let nor call nor song nor sign
Turn thee from thy hunting-line.
(Morning mist or twilight clear,
Serve him, Wardens of the Deer!)

Wood and Water, Wind and Tree,
Jungle-Favour go with thee!
The Three

On the trail that thou must tread
To the thresholds of our dread,
Where the Flower blossoms red;
Through the nights when thou shalt lie
Prisoned from our Mother-sky,
Hearing us, thy loves, go by;
In the dawns when thou shalt wake
To the toil thou canst not break,
Heartsick for the Jungle's sake:
Wood and Water, Wind and Tree,
Wisdom, Strength, and Courtesy,
Jungle-Favour go with thee!

THE PRODIGAL SON



(Western Version)

ERE come I to my own again,
Fed, forgiven and known again,
Claimed by bone of my bone again,
And cheered by flesh of my flesh.
The fatted calf is dressed for me,
But the husks have greater zest for me,
I think my pigs will be best for me.
So I'm oil to the Yards afresh.
I never was very refined, you see
(And it weighs on my brother's mind, you see),

But there's no reproach among swine, d'yt)u see. For being a bit
of a swine.

So I'm off with wallet and staff to eat The bread that is three
parts chaff to wheat, But glory be!—there's a laugh to it, Which
isn't the case when we dine.

My father glooms and advises me. My brother sulks and
despises me. And Mother catechises me Till I want to go out
and swear.

150

THE PRODIGAL SON

And, in spite of the butler's gravity, I know that the servants
have it I Am a monster of moral depravity. And I'm damned if I
think it's fair!

I wasted my substance, I know I did, On riotous living, so I did,
But there's nothing on record to show I did Worse than my
betters have done. They talk of the money I spent out there

—

They hint at the pace that I went out there

—

But they all forget I was sent out there Alone as a rich man's
son.

So I was a mark for plunder at once. And lost my cash (can you
wonder?) at once, But I didn't give up and knock under at once,
I worked in the Yards, for a spell. Where I spent my nights and
my days with hogs, And shared their milk and maize with hogs.
Till, I guess, I have learned what pays with hogs And—I have



that knowledge to sell!

So back I go to my job again, Not so easy to rob again, Or quite
so ready to sob agam On any neck that's around. I'm leaving.
Pater. Good-bye to you! God bless you, Mater! I'll write to you.
. . . I wouldn't be impolite to you. But, Brother, you are a
hound!

151

A SONG OF KABIR OH, light was the world that he weighed
in his hands! Oh, heavy the tale of his fiefs and his lands! He
has gone from the guddee and put on the shroud, And departed
in guise of bairagi avowed!

Now the white road to Delhi is mat for his feet. The sal and the
kikar must guard him from heat. His home is the camp, and the
waste, and the crowd

—
He is seeking the Way as bairagi avowed

!

He has looked upon Man, and his eyeballs are clear

—

(There was One; there is One, and but One, saith Kabir)

;

The Red Mist of Doing has thinned to a cloud

—

He has taken the Path for bairagi avowed!

To learn and discern of his brother the clod. Of his brother the
brute, and his brother the God, He has gone from the council
and put on the shroud ('Can ye hear?' saith Kabir), a bairagi
avowed!

152

I

THE NECESSITARIAN

KNOW not in Whose hands are laid To empty upon earth From
unsuspected ambushade The very Urns of Mirth;

W^ho bids the Heavenly Lark arise And cheer our solemn
round

—

The Jest beheld with streaming eyes And grovellings on the
ground;

Who joins the flats of Time and Chance Behind the prey



preferred, And thrones on Shrieking Circumstance The Sacredly
Absurd,

Till Laughter, voiceless through excess, Waves mute appeal and
sore, Above the midriff's deep distress,

For breath to laugh once more.

No creed hath dared to hail Him Lord, No raptured choirs
proclaim, And Nature's strenuous Overword Hath nowhere
breathed His Name.

153

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Yet, it must be, on wayside jape The selfsame Power bestows
The selfsame power as went to shape His Planet or His Rose.

154

THE JESTER

THERE are three degrees of bliss At the foot of Allah's Throne,
And the highest place is his Who saves a brother's soul At peril
of his own; There is the Power made known!

There are three degrees of bliss In the Gardens of Paradise, And
the second place is his Who saves his brother's soul By
excellent advice. For there the Glory lies!

There are three degrees of bliss And three abodes of the Blest,
And the lowest place is his Who has saved a soul by a jest And
a brother's soul in sport . . . But there do the Angels resort!

155

A SONG OF TRAVEL WHERE'S the lamp that Hero lit Once
to call Leander home? Equal Time hath shovelled it 'Neath the
wrack of Greece and Rome. Neither wait we any more That
worn sail which Argo bore.

Dust and dust of ashes close

All the Vestal Virgins' care; And the oldest altar shows But an
older darkness there. Age-encamped Oblivion

Tenteth every light that shone!

Yet shall we, for Suns that die, Wall our wanderings from
desire? Or, because the Moon is high,

Scorn to use a nearer fire? Lest some envious Pharaoh stir,
Make our lives our sepulchre?

Nay! Though Time with petty Fate Prison us and Emperors, By
our Arts do we create That which Time himself devours

—



Such machines as well may run
'Gainst the horses of the Sun.

156

A SONG OF TRAVEL

When we would a new abode, Space, our tyrant King no more,
I^ys the long lance of the road At our feet and flees before,
Breathless, ere we overwhelm, To submit a further realm!

157

M

THE TWO-SIDED MAN

UCH I owe to the Land that grew

—

More to the Life that fed

—

But most to Allah Who gave me two Separate sides to my head.
Much I reflect on the Good and the True In the Faiths beneath
the sun, But most upon Allah Who gave me two Sides to my
head, not one.

Wesley's following, Calvin's flock, White or yellow or bronze.
Shaman, Ju-ju or Angekok, Minister, Mukamuk, Bonze

—

Here is a health, my brothers, to you. However your prayers are
said. And praised be Allah Who gave me two Separate sides to
my head!

I would go without shirt or shoe,

Friend, tobacco or bread. Sooner than lose for a minute the two
Separate sides of my head!

158

'LUKANNON'

(Song of the breeding Seal. Aleutian Islands)

I

MET my mates in the morning (and oh, but I am
old!) Where roaring on the ledges the summer ground
swell rolled. I heard them lift the chorus that drowned the
breakers'

song

—

The Beaches of Lukannon—two million voices strong!
The song of pleasant stations beside the salt lagoons, The song



of blowing squadrons that shuffled down the
dunes. The song of midnight dances that churned the sea to
flame

—
The Beaches of Lukannon—before the sealers came!
I met my mates in the morning (I'll never meet them more !)
;

They came and went in legions that darkened all the
shore. And through the foam-flecked offing as far as voice
could reach We hailed the landing-parties and we sang them up
the
beach.

159

SONGS FROM BOOKS The Beaches of Lukannon—the
winter-wheat so tall

—
The dripping, crinkled lichens, and the sea-fog drench
ing all! The platforms of our playground, all shining smooth and
worn

!

The Beaches of Lukannon—the home where we were born

!

I meet my mates in the morning, a broken, scattered
band. Men shoot us in the water and club us on the land; Men
drive us to the Salt House like silly sheep and tame, And still we
sing Lukannon—before the sealers came.

Wheel down, wheel down to southward! Oh, Goover
ooska go! And tell the Deep-Sea Viceroy's the story of our woe;
Ere, empty as the shark's egg the tempest flings ashore. The
Beaches of Lukannon shall know their sons no more

!

160

AN ASTROLOGER'S SONG TO the Heavens above us look
and behold The Planets that love us All harnessed in gold! What
chariots, what horses Against us shall bide While the Stars in
their courses Do fight on our side?

All thought, all desires. That are under the sun, Are one with
their fires. As we also are one.

All matter, all spirit. All fashion, all frame, Receive and inherit



Their strength from the same.

Oh, man that deniest All power save thine own, Their power in the highest Is mightily shown. Not less in the lowest That power is made clear. (Oh, man, if thou knowest, What treasure is here!)

161

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Earth quakes in her throes, And we wonder for why. But the bhnd planet knows When her ruler is nigh

;

And, attuned since Creation To perfect accord, She thrills in her station And yearns to her Lord.

The waters have risen, The springs are unbound

—

The floods break their prison, And ravin around. No rampart withstands 'em. Their fury will last. Till the Sign that commands 'em

Sinks low or swings past.

Through abysses unproven, O'er gulfs beyond thought, Our portion is woven, Our burden is brought. Yet They that prepare it. Whose Nature we share, Make us who must bear it Well able to bear.

Though terrors o'ertake us

We'll not be afraid. No Power can unmake us Save that which has made.

162

AN ASTROLOGER'S SONG

Nor yet beyond reason Or hope shall we fall

—

All things have their season, And Mercy crowns all!
Then, doubt not, ye fearful

—

The Eternal is King

—

Up, heart, and be cheerful, And lustily sing:

—

What chariots, what horses,
Against us shall bide

While the Stars in their courses Do fight on our side?



163

***THE POWER OF THE DOG'**

THERE is sorrow enough in the natural way
From men and women to fill our day;
But when we are certain of sorrow in
store, Why do we always arrange for more ?
Brothers and Sisters, I bid you beware
Of giving your heart to a dog to tear.
Buy a pup and your money will buy
Love unflinching that cannot lie

—

Perfect passion and worship fed
By a kick in the ribs or a pat on
the head.

Nevertheless, it is hardly fair
To risk your heart for a dog to
tear.

When the fourteen years which Nature permits
Are closing in asthma, or tumour, or fits,
And the vet's unspoken prescription
runs To lethal chambers or loaded guns,
Then you will find— it's your own affair,
But . . . you've given your heart to a dog to
tear.

When the body that lived at your single will,
When the whimper of welcome, is stilled (how still!).
When the spirit that answered your every mood
Is gone—wherever it goes—for good.
You ^^All discover how much you care,
And will give your heart to a dog to tear.

164

THE POWER OF THE DOG'

We've sorrow enough in the natural way.
When it comes to burying Christian clay.
Our loves are not given, but only lent,
AL compound interest of cent per cent.
Though it is not always the case, I believe.
That the longer we've kept 'em, the more do
we grieve For, when debts are payable,
right or wrong, A short-time loan
is as bad as a long

—

So why in—Heaven (before we are there)
Should we give our hearts to a dog to tear ?

165

THE RABBI'S SONG

IF

Thought can reach to Heaven, On Heaven let it dwell,
For fear thy Thought be given Like power to reach to Hell.
For fear the



desolation And darkness of thy mind
Perplex an habitation Which thou hast left behind.
Let nothing linger after

No whimpering ghost remain, In wall, or beam, or rafter. Of any
hate or pain. Cleanse and call home thy spirit. Deny her leave to
cast, On aught thy heirs inherit, The shadow of her past.
For think, in all thy sadness. What road our griefs may take;
Whose brain reflect our madness. Or whom our terrors shake.
For think, lest any languish By cause of thy distress

The arrows of our anguish Fly farther than we guess.
166

THE RABBI'S SONG

Our lives, our tears, as water, Are spilled upon the ground; God
giveth no man quarter. Yet God a means hath found. Though
faith and hope have vanished, And even love grows dim

A means whereby His banished Be not expelled from Him.
167

THE BEE BOY'S SONG

BEES! Bees! Hark to your bees! 'Hide from your neighbours as
much as you please, But all that has happened, to us you must
tell, Or else we will give you no honey to sell !

A maiden in her glory, Upon her wedding-day. Must tell her
Bees the story, Or else they'll fly away. Fly away—die away

Dwindle down and leave you! But if you don't deceive your
Bees, Your Bees will not deceive you.

Marriage, birth or buryin'. News across the seas, All you're sad
or merry in, You must tell the Bees, Tell 'em coming in an' out,
Where the Fanners fan,

'Cause the Bees are just about As curious as a man!

Don't you wait where trees are, When the lightnings play. Nor
don't you hale where Bees are. Or else they'll pme away.

168

THE BEE BOY'S SONG Pine away—dwine away



Anything to leave you! But if you never grieve your Bees, Your
Bees 'll never grieve you.

169

THE RETURN OF THE CHILDREN

NEITHER the harps nor the crowns amused, nor the cherubs'
dove-winged races

—

Holding hands forlornly the Children wandered beneath the
Dome, Plucking the radiant robes of the passers-by, and with
pitiful faces Begging what Princes and Powers refused:—'Ah,
please will you let us go home?'

Over the jewelled floor, nigh weeping, ran to them Mary the
Mother, Kneeled and caressed and made promise with kisses,
and drew them along to the gateway

—

Yea, the all-iron unbribeable Door which Peter must guard and
none other. Straightway She took the Keys from his keeping,
and opened and freed them straightway.

Then, to Her Son, Who had seen and smiled, She said

:

'On the night that I bore Thee, What didst Thou care for a love
beyond mine or a heaven that was not my arm? Didst Thou push
from the nipple, Child, to hear the angels adore Thee? When we
two lay in the breath of the kine?' And He
said:

—'Thou hast done no harm.'

170

THE RETURN OF THE CHILDREN

So through the Void the Children ran homeward merrily hand in
hand, Looking neither to left nor right where the breathless
Heavens stood still; And the Guards of the Void resheathed
their swords, for they heard the Command: * Shall I that have
suffered the children to come to Me hold them against their
will?'

171

MERROW DOWN

I

HERE runs a road by Merrow Down A grassy track to-day it is

—



An hour out of Guildford town, Above the river Wey it is.
Here, when they heard the horse-bells ring, The ancient Britons
dressed and rode To watch the dark Phoenicians bring Their
goods along the Western Road.

Yes, here, or hereabouts, they met To hold their racial talks and
such

—

To barter beads for Whitby jet, And tin for gay shell torques and
such.

But long and long before that time (When bison used to roam on
it) Did Taffy and her Daddy climb That Down, and had their
home on it.

Then beavers built in BroadsLonebrook And made a swamp
where Bramley stands; And bears from Shere would come and
look For Taffimai where Shamley stands.

172

MERROW DOWN

The Wey, that Taffy called Wagai, Was more than six times
bigger then; And all the Tribe of Tegumai They cut a noble
figure then

!

II

Of all the Tribe of Tegumai Who cut that figure, none remain,

—

On Merrow Down the cuckoos cry

—

The silence and the sun remain.

But as the faithful years return And hearts unwounded sing
again, Comes Taffy dancing through the fern To lead the Surrey
spring again.

Her brows are bound with bracken-fronds. And golden elf-locks
fly above; Her eyes are bright as diamonds And bluer than the
sky above.

In mocassins and deer-skin cloak, Unfearing, free and fair she
flits. And Hghts her little damp-wood smoke To show her
Daddy where she flits.

For far—oh, very far behind. So far she cannot call to him,
Comes Tegumai alone to find The daughter that was all to him.

173



THE LOOKING-GLASS

(A Country Dance) QUEEN Bess was Harry's daughter. Stand forward partners all! >^In ruff and stomacher and gown She danced King Philip down-a down, And left her shoe to show 'twas true

(The very tune I'm playing you) In Norgem at Brickwall!
The Queen was in her chamber, and she was middhng old, Her petticoat was satin, and her stomacher was gold. Backwards and forwards and sideways did she pass, Making up her mind to face the cruel looking-glass. The cruel looking-glass that will never show a lass As comely or as kindly or as young as what she was!

Queen Bess was Harry's daughter. Now hand your partners all!

The Queen was in her chamber, a-combing of her hair. There came Queen Mary's spirit and It stood behind her chair, Singing 'Backwards and forwards and sideways may you pass. But I will stand behind you till you face the looking-glass. The cruel looking-glass that will never show a lass As lovely or unlucky or as lonely as I was!'

174

THE LOOKING-GLASS

Queen Bess was Harry's daughter. Now turn your partners all!

The Queen was in her chamber, a-weeping very sore. There came Lord Leicester's spirit and It scratched upon the door, Singing 'Backwards and forwards and sideways may you pass, But I will walk beside you till you face the looking-glass. The cruel looking-glass that will never show a lass, As hard and unforgiving or as wicked as you was!'

Queen Bess was Harry's daughter. Now kiss your partners all!

The Queen was in her chamber, her sins were on her head. She looked the spirits up and down and stately she said:

'Backwards and forwards and sideways though I've been, Yet I am Harry's daughter and I am England's Queen!'



And she faced the looking-glass (and whatever else
there was), And she saw her day was over and she saw her
beauty
pass In the cruel looking-glass, that can always hurt a lass More
hard than any ghost there is or any man there
was!

175

THE QUEEN'S MEN

VALOUR and Innocence Have latterly gone hence To certain
death by certain shame attended. Envy—ah! even to tears!

—

The fortune of their years Which, though so few, yet so divinely
ended.

Scarce had they lifted up Life's full and fiery cup, Than they had
set it down untouched before Lhem. Before their day arose
They beckoned it to close

—

Close in confusion and destruction o'er them.

They did not stay to ask What prize should crown their task,
Well sure that prize was such as no man strives for; But passed
into eclipse, Her kiss upon their lips

—

Even Belphoebe's, whom they gave their lives for!

176

THE BELLS AND THE QUEEN, 1911

' /^^\ AY go up and gay go down I Y To ring the Bells of
London Town.* V--^ When London Town's asleep in bed
You'll hear the Bells ring overhead.

In excelsis gloria!

Ring for Victoria, Ringing for their mighty mistress—ten
years dead

!

Here is more gain than Gloriana guessed. Than Gloriana
guessed or Indies bring

—

Than golden Indies bring. A Queen confessed, A Queen
confessed that crowned her people King. Her people King, and
crowned all Kings above. Above all Kings have crowned their
Queen \.\<'v



love

—

Have crowned their love their Queen, their Queen their
love

!

Denying her, we do ourselves deny, Disowning her are we
ourselves disowned. Mirror was she of our fidelity, And
handmaid of our destiny enthroned; The very marrow of
Youth's dream, and still Yoke-mate of wisest Age that worked
her will

!

177

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Our fathers had declared to us her praise. Her praise the years
had proven past all speech, And past all speech our loyal hearts
always, Always our hearts lay open, each to each; Therefore
men gave their treasure and their blood To this one woman—for
she understood!

Four o' the clock! Now all the world is still. Oh, London Bells,
to all the world declare The Secret of the Empire—read who
will! The Glory of the People—touch who dare!

The Bells: Power that has reached itself all kingly powers, St.
Margaret's: By love o'erpowered

—

St. Martin's: By love o'erpowered

—

St. Clement Danes: By love o'erpowered. The greater power
confers!

The Bells: For we were hers, as she, as she was ours, Bow
Bells: And she was ours

—

St. Paul's: And she was ours

—

Westminster: And she was ours, As we, even we, were hers

!

The Bells: As we were hers!

178

THE CITY OF SLEEP OVER the edge of the purple down.
Where the single lamplight gleams, Know ye the road to the



Merciful Town That is hard by the Sea of Dreams

—
Where the poor may lay their wrongs away, And the sick may forget to weep? But we—pity us! Oh, pity us! We wakeful; ah, pity us!

—
We must go back with Policeman Day

—
Back from the City of Sleep

!
Weary they turn from the scroll and crown, Fetter and prayer and plough

—
They that go up to the Merciful Town, For her gates are closing now. It is their right in the Baths of Night Body and soul to steep. But we—pity us! ah, pity us! We wakeful; oh, pity us!

—
We must go back with Policeman Day

—
Back from the City of Sleep!

Over the edge of the purple down, Ere the tender dreams begin, Look—we may look—at the Merciful Town, But we may not enter in!

179

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Outcasts all, from her guarded wall Back to our watch we creep

:

We—pity us! ah, pity us! We wakeful; oh, pity us!

—
We that go back with Policeman Day Back from the City of Sleep!

180

THE WIDOWER

FOR a season there must be pain

—
For a little, little space

I shall lose the sight of her face, Take back the old Ufe again While She is at rest in her place.

For a season this pain must endure. For a little, little while I



shall sigh more often than smile Till Time shall work me a cure,
And the pitiful days beguile.

For that season we must be apart, For a little length of years,
Till my life's last hour nears. And, above the beat of my heart, I
hear Her voice in my ears.

But I shall not understand

—

Being set on some later love, Shall not know her for whom I
strove, Till she reach me forth her hand Saying ' Who but I have
the right?

,

And out of a troubled night Shall draw me safe to the land.

181

CHAPTER HEADINGS

Just So Stories WHEN the cabin port-holes are dark and green
Because of the seas outside; When the ship goes wop (with a
wobble between) And the steward falls into the soup-tureen,
And the trunks begin to shde; When Nursey lies on the floor in
a heap, And Mummy tells you to let her sleep, And you aren't
waked or washed or dressed, Why, then you will know (if you
haven't guessed) You're 'Fifty North and Forty West!' 'How the
Whale got his Throat.'

The Camel's hump is an ugly lump Which well you may see at
the Zoo; But uglier yet is the hump we get From having too
little to do.

Kiddies and grown-ups too-oo-oo, If we haven't enough to do-
oo-oo. We get the hump

—

Cameelious hump

—

The hump that is black and blue!

We climb out of bed with a frouzly head And a snarly-yarly
voice.

182

CHAPTER HEADINGS

We shiver and scowl and we grunt and we growl At our bath
and our boots and our toys;

And there ought to be a corner for me (And I know there is one
for you) When we get the hump



—
Cameelious hump

—
The hump that is black and blue!
The cure for this ill is not to sit still, Or frowst with a book by
the fire; But to take a large hoe and a shovel also, And dig till
you gently perspire;
And then you will fmd that the sun and the wind, And the Djinn
of the Garden too, Have lifted the hump

—
The horrible hump

—
The hump that is black and blue!
I get it as well as you-oo-oo

—
If I haven't enough to do-oo-oo! We all get hump

—
Cameehous hump

—
Kiddies and grown-ups too! *How the Camel got his Hump.'
I am the Most Wise Baviaan, saying in most wise tones, 'Let us
melt into the landscape—^just us two by our
lones.' People have come—in a carriage—calling. But Mummy
is there. . . . Yes, I can go if you take me—^Nurse says she don't
care. 183

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Let's go up to the pig-styes and sit on the farmyard rails
!

Let's say things to the bunnies, and watch 'em skitter
their tails! Let's—oh, anything, daddy, so long as it's you and
me, And going truly exploring, and not being in till tea! Here's
your boots (I've brought 'em), and here's your
cap and stick, And here's your pipe and tobacco. Oh, come
along out of it—quick! 'How the Leopard got his Spots.'
I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I knew)

;
Their names are What and Why and When And How and
Where and Who. I send them over land and sea, I send them
east and west; But after they have worked for me, I give them



all a rest.

I let them rest from nine till five, For I am busy then. As well as
breakfast, lunch, and tea, For they are hungry men. But
difTerent folk have difTerent views; I know a person small

—

She keeps ten million serving-men, Who get no rest at all

!

She sends 'em abroad on her own affairs, From the second she
opens her eyes

—

One million Hows, two million Wheres, And seven million
Whys! 'The Elephant's Child.'

184

CHAPTER HEADINGS

This is the mouth-filling song of the race that was run by a
Boomer. Run in a single burst—only event of its kind

—

Started by Big God Nqong from Warrigaborrigarooma, Old
Man Kangaroo first, Yellow-Dog Dingo behind.

Kangaroo bounded away, his back-legs working like
pistons

—

Bounded from morning till dark, twenty-five feet at a
bound. Yellow-Dog Dingo lay like a yellow cloud in the dis
tance

—

Much too busy to bark. My! but they covered the ground

!

Nobody knows where they went, or followed the track
that they flew in.

For that Continent hadn't been given a name. They ran thirty
degrees, from Torres Straits to the Leeuwin (Look at the Atlas,
please), then they ran back as they
came.

S 'posing you could trot from Adelaide to the Pacific, For an
afternoon's run—half what these gentlemen did

—

You would feel rather hot, but your legs would develop
terrific



—
Yes, my importunate son, you'd be a Marvellous Kid! 'The
Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo.'

I've never sailed the Amazon,

I've never reached Brazil; But the *Don' and 'Magdalena,' They
can go there when they will!

183

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Yes, weekly from Southampton, Great steamers, white and
gold, Go rolling down to Rio (Roll down—roll down to Rio!)

And I'd like to roll to Rio Some day before I'm old!

I've never seen a Jaguar, Nor yet an Armadill

—
O dilloing in his armour. And I s'pose I never will,
Unless I go to Rio These wonders to behold

—
Roll down—roll down to Rio

—
Roll really down to Rio

!

Oh, I'd love to roll to Rio Some day before I'm old! 'The
Beginning of the Armadilloes.'

China-going P. and O.'s Pass Pau Amma's playground close,
And his Pusat Tasek lies Near the track of most B. I.'s. N. Y. K.
and N. D. L. Know Pau Amma's home as well As the Fisher of
the Sea knows *Bens,' M. M.'s, and Rubattinos. But (and this is
rather queer) A. T. L.'s can not come here; O. and O. and D. O. A.
Must go round another way.

Orient, Anchor, Bibby, Hall, Never go that way at all.

186

CHAPTER HEADINGS

U. C. S would have a fit If it found itself on it. And if 'Beavers'
took their cargoes To Penang instead of Lagos, Or a fat Shaw-
Savill bore

Passengers to Singapore, Or a White Star were to try a

Little trip to Sourabaya, Or a B. S. A. went on

Past Natal to Cheribon, Then great Mr. Lloyds would come
With a wire and drag them home!

You'll know what my riddle means When you've eaten



mangosteens. 'The Crab that Played with the Sea.'

Pussy can sit by the fire and sing, Pussy can climb a tree. Or
play with a silly old cork and string To 'muse herself, not me.
But I like Binkie my dog, because He knows how to behave; So,
Binkie's the same as the First Friend was. And I am the Man in
the Cave!

Pussy will play man-Friday till It's time to wet her paw And
make her walk on the window-sill
(For the footprint Crusoe saw)

;

187

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Then she fluffles her tail and mews, And scratches and won't
attend. But Binkie will play whatever I choose, And he is my
true First Friend!

Pussy will rub my knees with her head Pretending she loves me
hard; But the very minute I go to my bed

Pussy runs out in the yard, And there she stays till the morning-
light; So I know it is only pretend; But Binkie, he snores at my
feet all night, And he is my Firstest Friend

!

'The Cat that Walked by Himself.'

There was never a Queen like Balkis, From here to the wide
world's end; But Balkis talked to a butterfly As you would talk
to a friend.

There was never a King like Solomon, Not since the world
began; But Solomon talked to a butterfly As a man would talk
to a man.

She was Queen of Sabaea

—

And he was Asia's Lord

—

But they both of 'em talked to butterflies When they took their
walks abroad! 'The Butterfly that Stamped.'

188

THE PRAYER OF MIRIAM COHEN

F

ROM the wheel and the drift of Things DeUver us, Good Lord,
And we will face the wrath of Kings, The faggot and the sword



!

Lay not Thy Works before our eyes, Nor vex us with Thy Wars,
Lest we should feel the straining skies O'ertrod by trampling
stars.

Hold us secure behind the gates Of saving flesh and bone, Lest
we should dream what dream awaits The soul escaped alone.

Thy Path, Thy Purposes conceal From our beleaguered realm.
Lest any shattering whisper steal Upon us and o'erwhelm.

A veil 'twixt us and Thee, Good Lord, A veil 'twixt us and Thee,
Lest we should hear too clear, too clear, And unto madness see!

189

THE SONG OF THE LITTLE HUNTER

ERE Mor the Peacock flutters, ere the Monkey People cry, Ere
Chil the Kite swoops down a furlong sheer, Through the Jungle
very softly flits a shadow and a sigh He is Fear, Little Hunter, he
is Fear! Very softly down the glade runs a waiting, watching
shade. And the whisper spreads and widens far and near. And
the sweat is on thy brow, for he passes even now

—
He is Fear, O Little Hunter, he is Fear!

Ere the moon has climbed the mountain, ere the rocks
are ribbed with light, When the downward-dipping trails are
dank and

drear. Comes a breathing hard behind thee—snuffle-snuff He
through the night

—
It is Fear, Little Hunter, it is Fear! On thy knees and draw the
bow; bid the shriUing arrow

go; In the empty, mocking thicket plunge the spear! But thy
hands arc loosed and weak, and the blood has
left thy cheek

—
It is Fear, Little Hunter, it is Fear!

190

THE SONG OF THE LITTLE HUNTER

When the heat-cloud sucks the tempest, when the
shvered pine-trees fall, When the blinding, blaring rain-squalls
lash and veer. Through the war-gongs of the thunder rings a
voice more loud than all



—
It is Fear, Little Hunter, it is Fear! Now the spates are banked
and deep; now the footless
boulders leap

—
Now the lightning shows each littlest leaf-rib clear

—
But thy throat is shut and dried, and thy heart against
thy side Hammers: Fear, Little Hunter—^this is Fear!
191

GOW'S WATCH

Act II. Scene 2.

The pavilion in the Gardens. Enter Ferdinand and the
King.

FERDINAND. Your tiercel's too long at hack, Sir. He's no
eyass But a passage-hawk that footed ere we caught him,
Dangerously free o' the air. Faith were he mine
(As mine's the glove he binds to for his tirings) I'd fly him with
a make-hawk. He's in yarak Plumed to the very point. So
manned so weathered! Give him the firmament God made him
for And what shall take the air of him?

The I'cing. A young wing yet Bold—overbold on the perch, but
think you, Ferdinand, He can endure the tall skies yonder?
Cozen Advantage out of the teeth of the hurricane? Choose his
own mate against the lammer-geier?

Ride out a night-long tempest, hold his pitch Between the
lightning and the cloud it leaps from, Never too pressed to kill?
Ferdinand. I'll answer for him. Bating all parable, I know the
Prince. There's a bleak devil in the young, my Lord,

192

GOW'S WATCH

God put it there to save 'em from their elders And break their
father's heart, but bear them scatheless Through mire and thorns
and blood if need be. Think What our prime saw! Such glory,
such achievements As now our children wondering at, examine
Themselves to see if they shall hardly equal. But what cared we
while we wrought the wonders? Nothing! The rampant deed
contented.

The King. Little enough, God knows! But afterwards? After



—
There comes the reckoning. I would save him that.
Ferdinand. Save him dry scars that ache of winter
nights, Worn out self-pity and as much of knowledge As makes
old men fear judgment? Then loose him

—
loose him

—
A' God's name loose him to adventure early! And trust some
random pike, or half-backed horse.

Besides what's caught in Italy, to save him.

The King. I know. I know. And yet. . . . What stirs in the
garden?

Enter Gow and a Gardener bearing the Prince's body.

Ferdinand. (Gods give me patience!) Gow and a gardener
Bearing some load along in the dusk to the dunghill. Nay—a
dead branch— But as I said, the Prince

—
The King. They've set it down. Strange they should work so
late.

193

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Gow (setting down the body). Hark, you unsanctified fool
while I set out our story. We found it, this side the North Park
wall which it had climbed to pluck nectarines from the alley.
Hark again! There was a nectarine in its hand when we found
it, and the naughty brick that slipped from the coping beneath its
foot and so caused its death, lies now under the wall for the
King

to see.

The King (above). The King to see! Why should he? Who's the
man?

Gow. That is your tale. Swerve from it by so much as the
breadth of my dagger and here's your instant reward. You heard
not, saw not, and by the Horns of ninefold-cuckolded Jupiter
you thought not nor dreamed not anything more or other!

The King. Ninefold-cuckolded Jupiter. That's a rare oath! Shall
we look closer?

Ferdinand. Not yet, my Lord! (I cannot hear him



breathe.)

Gardener. The North Park wall? It was so. Plucking nectarines. It shall be. But how shall I say if any ask why our Lady the Queen

—
Gow (stabs him). Thus! Hie after the Prince and tell him y'are the first fruits of his nectarine tree. Bleed there behind the laurels.

The King. Why did Gow buffet the clown? What said he? I'll go look.

Ferdinand (above). Save yourself! It is the King!
Enter the King and Ferdinand to Gow.

194

GOW'S WATCH

Gow. God save you! This was the Prince!

The King. The Prince ! Not a dead branch? (Un covers the face.) My flesh and blood! My son! my son! my son!
Ferdinand (to Gow). I had feared something of this. And that fool yonder? Gow. Dead, or as good. He cannot speak.

Ferdinand. Better so.

The King. ' Loosed to adventure early ! ' Tell the tale.

Gow. Saddest truth alack! I came upon him not a half hour since, fallen from the North Park wall over against the Deer-park side—dead—dead!—a nectarine in his hand that the dear lad must have climbed for, and

plucked the very instant, look you, that a brick slipped on the coping. 'Tis there now. So I lifted him, but his neck was as you see—and already cold. The King. Oh, very cold. But why should he have troubled to climb? He was free of all the fruit in my garden, God knows! . . . What, Gow?

Gow. Surely, God knows!

The King. A lad's trick. But I love him the better for it. . . . True, he's past loving. . . . And now we must tell our Queen. What a coil at the day's end! She'll grieve for him. Not as I shall, Ferdinand, but as youth for youth. They were much of the same age. Playmate for playmate. See, he wears her colours. That is the knot she gave him last—last . . . Oh God! When was yesterday? Ferdinand. Come in! Come in, my Lord. There's a dew falling. 195



SONGS FROM BOOKS

The King. He'll take no harm of it. Til follow presently. . . . He's all his mother's now and none of mine

Her very face on the bride-pillow. Yet I tricked her. But that was later—and she never guessed. I do not think he sinned much—he's too young

Much the same age as my Queen. God must not judge him Too hardly for such slips as youth may fall in. But I'll entreat that Throne. (Prays by the body.)

Gow. The Heavens hold up still. Earth opens not and this dew's mere water. What shall a man think of it all? (To Gardener.) Not dead yet, sirrah? I bade you follow the Prince. Despatch!

Gardener. Some kind soul pluck out the dagger. Why did you slay me? I'd done no wrong. I'd ha' kept it secret till my dying day. But not now—not now! I'm dying. The Prince fell from the Queen's chamber window. I saw it in the nut alley. He w[^]as

Ferdinand. But what made you in the nut alley a I that hour?

Gardener. No wrong. No more than another man's wife. Jocasta of the still-room. She'd kissed me good

night too; but that's over with the rest. . . . I've stumbled on the Prince's beastly loves, and I pay for all. Let me pass!

Gow. Count it your fortune, honest man. You would have revealed it to your woman at the next meeting. You flesh-mongers are all one feather. (Plucks out the dagger.)

19G

GOW'S WATCH

Go in peace and lay your death to Fortune's door, lie's sped—thank Fortune! Ferdinand. Who knows not Fortune, glutton on easy thrones,

Stealing from feasts as rare to coney-catch

Privily in the hedgerows for a clown, With that same cruel-lustful hand and eye, Those nails and wedges, that one hammer and lead, And the very gerb of long-stored lightning loosed Yesterday 'gainst some King. The King. I have pursued with



prayers where my heart warns me My soul shall overtake

—
Enter the Queen.

The King. Look not! Wait till I tell you, dearest.

. . . Air! . . .

'Loosed to adventure early'

. . . I go late. (Dies.)

Gow. So ! God hath cut off the Prince in his pleasures. Gow, to save the King, hath silenced one poor fool who knew how it befell, and now the King's dead, needs only that the Queen should kill Gow and all's safe for her this side o' the Judgment. .

. . . Senor Fer

dinand, the wind's easterly. I'm for the road. Ferdinand. My horse is at the gate. God speed you. Whither?

Gow. To the Duke, if the Queen does not lay hands on me before. However it goes, I charge you bear witness, Senor Ferdinand, I served the old King faithfully. To the death, Senor Ferdinand—to the death! 197

THE WISHING GAPS

LIFE'S all getting and giving. I've only myself to give. -' What shall I do for a living?

I've only one life to live. End it? I'll not find another. Spend it? But how shall I best? Sure the wise plan is to live hke a man. And Luck may look after the rest!

Largesse! Largesse, Fortune!

Give or hold at your will. If I've no care for Fortune Fortune must follow me still.

Bad Luck, she is never a lady But the commonest wench on the street, Shuffling, shabby and shady,

Shameless to pass or meet. Walk with her once—it's a weakness! Talk to her twice—it's a crime! Thrust her away when she gives you 'good day And the besom won't board you next time.

Largesse! Largesse, Fortune! What is Your Ladyship's mood? If I've no care for Fortune, My Fortune is bound to be good! 198

THE WISHING GAPS

Good Luck she is never a lady But the cursedest quean aUve! Tricksey, wincing and jady,

Kittle to lead or drive. Greet her—she's hailing a stranger! Meet



her—she's busking to leave. Let her alone for a shrew to the bone, And the hussy comes plucking your sleeve! Largesse! Largesse, Fortune!

I'll neither follow nor flee. If I don't run after Fortune Fortune must run after me

!

199

*BY THE HOOF OF THE WILD GOAT BY the Hoof of the Wild Goat uptossed From the chff where she lay in the Sun, Fell the Stone To the Tarn where the daylight is lost; So she fell from the light of the Sun, And alone!

Now the fall was ordained from the first. With the Goat and the Cliff and the Tarn, But the Stone Knows only her life is accursed, As she sinks from the light of the Sun, And alone!

Oh Thou Who hast builded the World! Oh Thou Who hast hghted the Sun! Oh Thou Who hast darkened the Tarn! Judge Thou The sin of the Stone that was hurled By the goat from the hght of the Sun, As she sinks in the mire of the Tarn, Even now—even now—even now!

200

THE DAWN WIND

AT two o'clock in the morning, if you open your /-A window and listen, ^ *- You will hear the feet of the Wind that is going to call the sun. And the trees in the shadow rustle and the trees in the

moonlight glisten, And though it is deep, dark night, you feel that the night is done.

So do the cows in the field. They graze for an hour and lie down, Dozing and chewing the cud; or a bird in the ivy wakes, Chirrup one note and is still, and the restless Wind strays on, Fidgeting far down the road, till, softly, the darkness breaks.

Back comes the Wind full strength with a blow like an angel's wing. Gentle but waking the world, as he shouts: 'The Sun! The Sun!' And the light floods over the fields and the birds begin to

sing, And the Wind dies down in the grass. It is Day and his work is done.



201

SONGS FROM BOOKS

So when the world is asleep, and there seems no hope of her
waking Out of some long, bad dream that makes her mutter and
moan, Suddenly, all men arise to the noise of fetters breaking,
And every one smiles at his neighbour and tells him his soul is
his own!

202

SONG OF THE RED WAR-BOAT

(A.D. 683)

SHOVE off from the wharf-edge ! Steady

!

Watch for a smooth ! Give way

!

If she feels the lop already

She'll stand on her head in the bay. It's ebb—it's dusk—it's
blowing, The shoals are a mile of white, But (snatch her along!)
we're going To find our master to-night.

For we hold that in all disaster Of shipwreck, storm, or sword,
A Man must stand by his Master When once he has pledged his
word.

Raging seas have we rowed in, But we seldom saw them thus,
Our master is angry with Odin

—

Odin is angry with us! Heavy odds have we taken. But never
before such odds. The Gods know they are forsaken. We must
risk the wrath of the Gods! 203

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Over the crest she flies from,

Into its hollow she drops, Cringes and clears her eyes from The
wind-torn breaker-tops, Ere out on the shrieking shoulder
Of a hill-high surge she drives. Meet her! Meet her and hold
her!

Pull for your scoundrel lives!

The thunders bellow and clamour The harm that they mean to
do! 1 here goes Thor's own Hammer Cracking the dark in two!
Close! But the blow has missed her, Here comes the wind of the
blow! Row or the squall '11 twist her Broadside on to it!—Row!
Heark 'ee, Thor of the Thunder, We are not here for a jest



—
For wager, warfare or plunder. Or to put your power to test.
This work is none of our wishing

—
We would house at home if we might

—
But our master is wrecked out fishing. We go to find him to-
night.

For we hold that in all disaster

—
As the Gods Themselves have said— A Man must stand by his
Master Till one of the two is dead.

201

SONG OF THE RED WAR-BOAT

That is our way of thinking, Now you can do as you will. While
we try to save her from sinking And hold her head to it still.
Bale her and keep her moving, Or she'll break her back in the
trough. . Who said the weather's improving, Or the swells are
taking off?

Sodden, and chafed and aching. Gone in the loins and knees

—
No matter—the day is breaking. And there's far less weight to
the seas! Up mast, and finish baling

—
In oars, and out with the mead

—
The rest will be two-reef sailing. . . . That was a night indeed!
But we hold that in all disaster (And faith, we have found it
true!) If only you stand by your master, The Gods will stand by
you!

205

HUNTING-SONG OF THE SEEONEE PACK

AS the dawn was breaking the Sambhur belled

—
L\ Once, twice and again! ^ ^ And a doe leaped up, and a doe
leaped up From the pond in the wood where the wild deer sup.

This I, scouting alone, beheld, Once, twice and again!

As the dawn was breaking the Sambhur belled



Once, twice and again! And a wolf stole back, and a wolf stole
back To carry the word to the waiting pack, And we sought and
we found and we bayed on his track Once, twice and again!
As the dawn was breaking the Wolf Pack yelled Once, twice
and again! Feet in the jungle that leave no mark! Eyes that can
see in the dark—the dark! Tongue—give tongue to it! Hark!
hark! Once, twice and again!

206

BLUE ROSES

ROSES red and roses white Plucked I for my love's delight. She
would none of all my posiesBade me gather her blue roses.
Half the world I wandered through, Seeking where such flowers
grew. Half the world unto my quest Answered me with laugh
and jest.
Home I came at wintertide, But my silly love had died,
Seeking with her latest breath Roses from the arms of Death.
It may be beyond the grave She shall find what she would have.
Mine was but an idle quest

—

Roses white and red are best.

207

o

A RIPPLE SONG

NCE a ripple came to land
In the golden sunset burning

—

Lapped against a maiden's hand, By the ford returning.
Dainty foot and gentle breast

—

Here, across, be glad and rest. 'Maiden, wait,' the ripple saith;
'Wait awhile, for I am Death!'
' Where my lover calls I go

—

Shame it were to treat him coldly'Twas a fish that circled so.
Turning over boldly.'
Dainty foot and tender heart, Wait the loaded ferr^{^^}-cart.
'Wait, ah, wait!' the ripple saith; 'Maiden, wait, for I am Death!'
' When my lover calls I haste

—



Dame Disdain was never wedded!' Ripple-ripple round her waist.

Clear the current eddied.

208

A RIPPLE SONG

Foolish heart and faithful hand,

Little feet that touched no land. Far away the ripple sped,

Ripple—ripple—running red

!

209

E

PSYCHE AND THE CHILDREN

YES aloft, over dangerous places, The children follow where Psyche flies. And, in the sweat of their upturned faces, Slash with a net at the empty skies.

So it goes they fall amid brambles. And sting their toes on the nettle-tops.

Till after a thousand scratches and scrambles, They wipe their brows and the hunting stops.

Then to quiet them comes their father And stills the riot of pain and grief. Saying, 'Little ones, go and gather Out of my garden a cabbage-leaf.

'You will find on it whorls and clots of

Dull gray eggs that, properly fed, Turn, by way of the worm, to lots of Radiant Psyches raised from the dead.'

'Heaven is beautiful. Earth is ugly,' The three-dimensioned preacher saith, So we must not look where the snail and the slug lie For Psyche's birth. . . . And that is our death!

210

T

MY LADY'S LAW

HE Law whereby my lady moves Was never Law to me, But 'tis enough that she approves. Whatever Law it be.

For in that Law, and by that Law, My constant course I'll steer; Not that I heed or deem it dread, Bui that she holds it dear.

Tho' Asia sent for my content Her richest argosies, Those would I spurn, and bid return,

If that should give her ease.

With equal heart I'd watch depart Each spiced sail from sight,



Sans bilLerness, desiring less
Great gear than her dehght.
Though Kings made swift with many a gift My proven sword to
hire

—
I would not go nor serve 'em so

—
Except at her desire.

211

SONGS FROM BOOKS

With even mind, I'd put behind Adventure and acclaim, And
clean give o'er, esteeming more Her favour than my fame.
Yet such am I, yea such am I

—
Sore bond and freest free, The Law that sways my lady's ways
Is mystery to me!

212

o

THE NURSING SISTER

(Maternity Hospital)

UR sister sayeth such and such. And we must bow to her
behests; Our sister toileth overmuch. Our httle maid that hath no
breasts.

A field untilled, a web unwove, A flower withheld from sun or
bee. An alien in the courts of Love, And—teacher unto such as
we!

We love her, but we laugh the while. We laugh, but sobs are
mixed with laughter; Our sister hath no time to smile, She
knows not what must follow after.

Wind of the South, arise and blow. From beds of spice thy locks
shake free; Breathe on her heart that she may know, Breathe on
her eyes that she may see.

Alas! we vex her with our mirth, And maze her with most
tender scorn, Who stands beside the gates of Birth, Herself a
child—a child unborn! 213

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Our sister saycLh such and such, And we must bow to her
behests; Our sister toileth overmuch, Our httle maid that hath no
breasts.



214

A

THE LOVE SONG OF IIAR DYAL

LONE upon the housetops to the North I turn and watch the
hghtning in the sky, The glamour of thy footsteps in the North.
Come back to me, Beloved, or I die.
Below my feet the still bazar is laid

—

Far, far below the weary camels lie

—

The camels and the captives of thy raid. Come back to me,
Beloved, or I die!

My father's wife is old and harsh with years, And drudge of all
my father's house am I— My bread is sorrow and my drink is
tears. Come back to me. Beloved, or I die!

215

A DEDICATION

A ND they were stronger hands than mine Z-X That digged the
Ruby from the earth

—

-^ ^ More cunning brains that made it worth The large desire of
a king, And stouter hearts that through the brine Went down the
perfect Pearl to bring.

Lo, I have wrought in common clay Rude figures of a rough-
hewn race,

Since pearls strew not the market-place In this my town of
banishment, Where with the shifting dust I play, And eat the
bread of discontent.

Yet is there life in that I make. thou who knowest, turn and see

—

As thou hast power over me So have I power over these
Because I wrought them for thy sake, And breathed in them
mine agonies. Small mirth was in the making—now I lift the
cloth that cloaks the clay.

And, wearied, at thy feet I lay My wares, ere I go forth to sell.
The long bazar will praise, but thou

—

Heart of my heart—have I done well ? 216

I



MOTHER O' MINE

F I were hanged on the highest hill, Mother o' mine, mother o' mine! I know whose love would follow me still, Mother o' mine, mother o' mine!

If I were drowned in the deepest sea, Mother o' mine, mother o' mine! I know whose tears would come down to me, Mother o' mine, mother o' mine!

If I were damned of body and soul, I know whose prayers would make me whole, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

217

THE ONLY SON

SHE dropped the bar, she shol the bolt, she fed the fire anew, For she heard a whimper under the sill and a great gray paw came through. The fresh flame comforted the hut and shone on the roofbeam. And the Only Son lay down again and dreamed that he dreamed a dream. The last ash fell from the withered log with the click of a

falling spark. And the Only Son woke up again, and called across the dark:

—

'Now was I born of womankind and laid in a mother's breast? For I have dreamed of a shaggy hide whereon I went to rest? And was I born of womankind and laid on a father's arm? For I have dreamed of clashing teeth that guarded me from harm. And was I born an Only Son and did I play alone? For I have dreamed of comrades twain that bit me to the bone. And did I break the barley-cake and steep it in the tyre? For I have dreamed of a youngling kid new-riven from the byre.

218

THE ONLY SON

For I have dreamed of a midnight sky and a midnight call to blood And red-mouthed shadows racing by, that thrust me from my food. 'Tis an hour yet and an hour yet to the rising of the moon, But I can see the black roof-tree as plain as it were noon. 'Tis a league and a league to the Lena Falls where the trooping blackbuck go; But I can hear the little fawn that bleats behind the doe. 'Tis a league and a league to the Lena Falls



where the crop and the upland meet, But I can smell the wet
dawn-wind that wakes the
sprouting wheat. Unbar the door, I may not bide, but I must out
and see If those are wolves that wait outside or my own kin to
me!

She loosed the bar, she slid the bolt, she opened the door
anon. And a gray bitch-wolf came out of the dark and fawned
on the Only Son!

219

MOWGLI'S SONG AGAINST PEOPLE

I WILL let loose against you the fleet-fooled vines

I will call in the Jungle to stamp out your Unes! The roofs shall
fade before it, The house-beams shall fall, And the Karela, the
bitter Karela,

Shall cover it all!

In the gates of these your councils my people shall sing. In the
doors of these your garners the Bat-folk shall
cling;

And the snake shall be your watchman, By a hearthstone
unswept; For the Karela, the bitter Karela, Shall fruit where ye
slept!

Ye shall not see my strikers; ye shall hear them and
guess; By night, before the moon-rise, I will send for my cess,
And the wolf shall be your herdsman By a landmark removed,
For the Karela, the bitter Karela, Shall seed where ye loved

!

I will reap your fields before you at the hands of a host; Ye shall
glean behind my reapers for the bread that is lost

;

And the deer shall be your oxen

220

MOWGLI'S SONG AGAINST PEOPLE

On a headland untilled, For the Karela, the bitter Karela, Shall
leaf where ye build

!

I have untied against you the club-footed vines

I have sent in the Jungle to swamp out your lines! The trees—



the trees are on you

!

The house-beams shall fall, And the Karela, the bitter Karela,
Shall cover you all

!

221

o

ROMULUS AND REMUS

H, little did the Wolf-Child care
When first he planned his home,
What city should arise and bear
The weight and state of Rome.

A shiftless, westward-wandering tramp,
Checked by the Tiber flood,
He reared a wall around his camp
Of uninspired mud.

But when his brother leaped the Wall
And mocked its height and make.
He guessed the future of it all
And slew him for its sake.

Swift was the blow—swift as the thought
Which showed him in that hour
How unbelief may bring to naught
The early steps of Power.

Foreseeing Time's imperilled hopes
Of Glory, Grace, and Love

—

All singers, Caesars, artists, Popes

—

Would fail if Remus throve. 222

ROMULUS AND REMUS

He sent his brother to the Gods,
And, when the fit was o'er,
Went on collecting turves and clods
To build the Wall once more!

223

THE EGG-SHELL THE wind took off with the sunset

—

The fog came up with the tide,
When the Witch of the North
took an Egg-shell
With a little Blue Devil inside.

'Sink,' she said, 'or swim,' she said, 'It's all you will get from
me. And that is the finish of him!' she said, And the Egg-shell
went to sea.

The wind fell dead with the midnight

—

The fog shut down like a sheet,
When the Witch of the North
heard the Egg-shell
Feeling by hand for a fleet.



'Get!' she said, 'or you're gone,' she said, But the little Blue Devil said 'No!' 'The sights are just coming on,' he said. And he let the Whitehead go.

The wind got up with the morning

And the fog blew off with the rain, When the Witch of the North saw the Egg-shell And the little Blue Devil again. 'Did you swim?' she said. 'Did you sink?' she said, And the Little Blue Devil replied: 'For myself I swam, but I think,' he said. 'There's somebody sinking outside.'

224

THE KING AND THE CHILDREN ONCE on a time was a King anxious to understand What was the wisest thing a man could do for

his land. Most of his population hurried to answer the question. Each with a long oration, each with a new suggestion. They interrupted his meals, he wasn't safe in his bed from 'em, They hung round his neck and heels, and at last His Majesty fled from 'em.

He put on a leper's cloak (people leave lepers alone). Out of the window he broke, and abdicated his throne. All that rapturous day, while his Court and his Ministers mourned him. He danced on his own highway till his own Policemen warned him. Gay and cheerful he ran (lepers don't cheer as a rule) Till he found a philosopher-man teaching an infant school.

The windows were open wide, the King sat down on the grass, And heard the children inside reciting 'Our King is an Ass.'

225

SONGS FROM BOOKS

The King popped in his head ' Some people would call this treason, But I think you are right,' he said; 'will you kindly give me your reason?'

Lepers in school are as rare as kings with a leper's dress on, But the class didn't stop or stare; it calmly went on with the lesson:

'The wisest thing, we suppose, that a man can do for his land. Is the work that lies under his nose, with the tools that



lie under his hand.' The King whipped off his cloak, and stood in his crown

before 'em. He said:—'My dear little folk, "Ex ore parvulorum" (Which is Latin for "Children know more than grownups would credit") You have shown me the road to go, and I propose to tread it.'

Back to his Kingdom he ran, and issued a Proclamation, 'Let every living man return to his occupation!' Then he explained to the mob that cheered in his palace and round it, 'I've been to look for a job, and Heaven be praised I've found it!'

226

THE KING'S TASK

AFTER the sack of the City, when Rome was sunk to a name, — In the years that the heights were darkened, or ever St. Wilfrid came. Low on the borders of Britain (the ancient poets sing) Between the Chiff and the Forest there ruled a Saxon King. Stubborn all were his people from cottar to overlord

—
Not to be cowed by the cudgel, scarce to be schooled by the sword;

Quick to turn at their pleasure, cruel to cross in their mood. And set on paths of their choosing as the hogs of Andred's Wood. Laws they made in the Witan—the laws of flaying and fme

—
Common, ioppage and pannage, the theft and the track of kine

—
Statutes of tun and market for the fish and the malt and the meal

—
The tax on the Bramber packhorse and the tax on the Hastings keel. Over the graves of the Druids and under the wreck of Rome, Rudely but surely they bedded the plinth of the days to come.

227

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Behind the feet of the Legions and before the Norse man's ire, Rudely but greatly begat they the framing of state and



shire.

Rudely but deeply they laboured, and their labour
stands till now. If we trace on our ancient headlands the twist of
their

eight-ox plough. There came a king from Ilamtun, by Bosenham
he

came, He filled Use with slaughter, and Lewes he gave to flame.
He smote while they sat in the Witan—sudden he smote and
sore, That his fleet was gathered at Selsea ere they mustered at
Cymen's Ore. Blithe went the Saxons to battle, by down and
wood and

mere, But thrice the acorns ripened ere the western mark was
clear. Thrice was the beechmast gathered and the Beltane fires
burned Thrice, and the beeves were salted thrice ere the host
returned. They drove that king from Hamtun, by Bosenham o'er
thrown, Out of Rugnor to Wilton they made his land their own.
Camps they builded at Gilling, at Basing and Alresford, But
wrath abode in the Saxons from cottar to over
lord. Wrath at the weary war-game, at the foe that snapped and
ran Wolf-wise feigning and flying, and wolf-wise snatching his
man.

228

THE KING'S TASK

Wrath for their spears unready, their levies new to the
blades

—

Shame for the helpless sieges and the scornful ambus
cades. At hearth and tavern and market, wherever the tale was
told, Shame and wrath had the Saxons because of their boasts
of old. And some would drink and deny it, and some would pray
and atone; But the most part, after their anger, avouched that the
sin was their own. Wherefore, girding together, up to the Witan
they came, And as they had shouldered their bucklers so did they

shoulder their blame. For that was the wont of the Saxons (the
ancient poets

sing), And first they spoke in the Witan and then they spoke
to the King: ' Edward King of the Saxons, thou knowest from
sire to



son, One is the King and his People—in gain and ungain one.
Count we the gain together. With doubtings and spread dismays
We have broken a foolish people—but after many days. Count
we the loss together. Warlocks hampered our
arms. We were tricked as by magic, we were turned as by
charms. We went down to the battle and the road was plain to
keep. But our angry eyes were holden, and we struck as they
strike in sleep

—
229

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Men new shaken from slumber, sweating, with eyes
a-stare,

Little blows uncertain dealt on the useless air. Also a vision
betrayed us and a lying tale made bold That we looked to hold
what we had not and to have what we did not hold

:

That a shield should give us shelter—that a sword should give
us power, A shield snatched up at a venture and a hilt scarce
handled an hour: That being rich in the open, we should be
strong in the
close

—

And the Gods would sell us a cunning for the day that we met
our foes. This was the work of wizards, but not with our foe
they

bide, In our own camp we took them, and their names are Sloth
and Pride. Our pride was before the battle; our sloth ere we
lifted

spear. But hid in the heart of the people as the fever hides in
the mere,

Waiting only the war-game, the heat of the strife to
rise As the ague fumes round Oxeney when the rotting reed
bed dries. But now we are purged of that fever—cleansed by the
letting of blood. Something leaner of body—something keener
of mood. And the men new-freed from the levies return to the
fields again. Matching a hundred battles, cottar and lord and
thane,

230



THE KING'S TASK

And they talk aloud in the temples where the ancient war-gods
are. They thumb and mock and belittle the holy harness of
war. They jest at the sacred chariots, the robes and the gilded
staff— These things fill them with laughter, they lean on their
spears and laugh. The men grown old in the war-game, hither
and thither
they range

—
And scorn and laughter together are sire and dam of change

;

And change may be good or evil—but we know not what it will
bring. Therefore our King must teach us. That is thy task,
King!

231

TOGETHER WHEN Horse and Rider each can trust the other
everywhere, It takes a fence and more than a fence Lo pound
that happy pair; For the one will do what the other demands,
although he is beaten and blown, And when it is done, they can
live through a run that
neither could face alone.

When Crew and Captain understand each other to the
core, It takes a gale and more than a gale to put their ship
ashore; For the one will do what the other commands, although
they are chilled to the bone. And both together can live through
weather that neither
could face alone.

When King and People understand each other past a
doubt, It takes a foe and more than a foe to knock that country
out

;

For the one will do what the other one asks as soon as the need
is known, And hand in hand they can make a stand which
neither could make alone!

232

TOGETHER

This wisdom had Ehzabeih and all her subjects too, For she was
theirs and they were hers, as well the Spaniard knew; For when
his grim Armada came to conquer the Nation and Throne, Why,



back to back they met an attack that neither
could face alone!

It is not wealth nor talk nor trade nor schools nor even
the Vote, Will save your land when the enemy's hand is
tightening round your throat. But a King and a People who
thoroughly trust each other in all that is done Can sleep on their
bed without any dread—for the world will leave 'em alone!

233

CHAPTER HEADINGS

The Jungle Books NOW Chil the Kite brings home the night
That Mang the Bat sets free

The herds are shut in byre and hut For loosed till dawn are we.
This is the hour of pride and power, Talon and tush and claw.
Oh hear the call !—Good hunting all That keep the Jungle Law!
' Mowgli's Brothers.'

His spots are the joy of the Leopard: his horns are the
BufTalo's pride. Be clean, for the strength of the hunter is
known by the
gloss of his hide. If ye find that the bullock can toss you, or Ihe
heavy browed Sambhur can gore; Ye need not stop work to
inform us. We knew it ten
seasons before. Oppress not the cubs of the stranger, but hail
them as Sister and Brother, For though they are little and fubsy,
it may be the Bear
is their mother. * 'There is none like to me!' says the Cub in the
pride of
his earliest kill;

234

CHAPTER HEADINGS

But the Jungle is large and the Cub he is small. Let him think
and be still.

'Kaa's Hunting.' The stream is shrunk—the pool is dry, And we
be comrades, thou and I; With fevered jowl and dusty flank
Each jostling each along the bank; And, by one drouthy fear
made still.

Foregoing thought of quest or kill. Now 'neath his dam the fawn
may see, The lean Pack-wolf as cowed as he, And the tall buck,
unflinching, note The fangs that tore his father's throat. The



pools are shrunk—the streams are dry. And we be playmates,
thou and I, Till yonder cloud—Good Hunting!—loose The rain
that breaks our Water Truce. 'How Fear Came.'

What of the hunting, hunter bold? Brother, the watch was long
and cold. What of the quarry ye went to kill?

Brother, he crops in the jungle still. Where is the power that
made your pride? Brother, it ebbs from my flank and side.
Where is the haste that ye hurry bj'^? Brother, I go to my lair to
die!

'Tiger! Tiger!'

Veil them, cover them, wall them round

—

Blossom, and creeper, and weed

—

Let us forget the sight and the sound, The smell and the touch of
the breed?

235

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Fat black ash by the altar-stone, Here is the white-foot rain, And
the does bring forth in the fields unsown, And noon shall
affright them again; And the blind walls crumble, unknown,
o'erthrown. And none shall inhabit again!

'Letting in the Jungle.'

These are Lhc Four that are never content, that have never been
filled since the Dews began

—

Jacala's mouth, and the glut of the Kite, and the hands of the
Ape, and the Eyes of Man. *The King's Ankus.' For our white
and our excellent nights—for the nights of swift running.

Fair ranging, far-seeing, good hunting, sure cunning! For the
smells of the dawning, untainted, ere dew has
departed

!

For the rush through the mist, and the quarry blind
started ! For the cry of our mates when the sambhur has
wheeled and is standing at bay! For the risk and the riot of
night! For the sleep at the lair-mouth by day! It is met, and we
go to the fight. Bay! bay! 'Red Dog.'

Man goes to Man ! Cry the challenge through the Jun



gle! He that was our Brother goes away. Hear, now, and judge,
ye People of the Jungle,

Answer, who shall turn him—who shall stay? 236

CHAPTER HEADINGS

Man goes to Man! He is weeping in the Jungle: He that was our
Brother sorrows sore! Man goes to Man! (Oh, we loved him in
the Jungle!) To the Man-Trail where we may not follow more.
'The Spring Running.'

At the hole where he went in Red-Eye called to Wrinkle-Skin.
Hear what little Red-Eye saith

:

'Nag, come up and dance with death!'

Eye to eye and head to head, (Keep the measure, Nag.) This
shall end when one is dead;'

(At thy pleasure, Nag.)

Turn for turn and twist for twist

(Run and hide thee, Nag.) Hah! The hooded Death has missed!

(Woe betide thee. Nag!)

'Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.'

Oh! hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us, And black are
the waters that sparkled so green. The moon, o'er the combers,
looks downward to find us At rest in the hollows that rustle
between. Where billow meets billow, there soft be thy pillow;
Ah, weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease! The storm shall not
wake thee, nor shark overtake thee, Asleep in the arms of the
slow-swinging seas. 'The White Seal.'

237

SONGS FROM BOOKS

You mustn't swim till you're six weeks old, Or your head will be
sunk by your heels; And summer gales and Killer Whales Are
bad for baby seals. Are bad for baby seals, dear rat. As bad as
bad can be; But splash and grow strong, And you can't be
wrong, Child of the Open Sea! 'The White Seal.'

I will remember what I was, I am sick of rope and chain. I will
remember my old strength and all my forest

affairs. I will not sell my back to man for a bundle of sugar-
cane. I will go out to my own kind, and the wood-folk in



their lairs.

I will go out until the day, until the morning break, Out to the winds' untainted kiss, the waters' clean caress. I will forget my ankle-ring and snap my picket-stake. I will revisit my lost loves, and playmates masterless! 'Toomai of the Elephants.'

The People of the Eastern Ice, they are melting like the snow

They beg for coffee and sugar; they go where the white men go. The People of the Western Ice, they learn to steal and fight; They sell their furs to the trading-post; they sell their souls to the white.

238

CHAPTER HEADINGS

The People of the Southern Ice, they trade with the whaler's crew; Their women have many ribbons, but their tents are torn and few. But the People of the Elder Ice, beyond the white man's ken

Their spears are made of the narwhal-horn, and they are the last of the Men!

'Quiquern.'

When ye say to Tabaqui, *My Brother!' when ye call the Hyena to meat. Ye may cry the Full Truce with Jacala—the Belly that runs on four feet. 'The Undertakers.'

The night we felt the earth would move We stole and plucked him by the hand, Because we loved him with the love That knows but cannot understand.

And when the roaring hillside broke, And all our world fell down in rain, We saved him, we the Little Folk; But lo! he does not come again!

Mourn now, we saved him for the sake Of such poor love as wild ones may. Mourn ye! Our brother will not wake. And his own kind drive us away! 'The Miracle of Purun Bhagat.'

239

POSEIDON'S LAW WHEN the robust and Brass-bound Man commissioned first for sea

His fragile raft, Poseidon laughed, and

'Mariner,' said he, 'Behold, a Law immutable I lay on thee and



thine, That never shall ye act or tell a falsehood at my shrine.

* Let Zeus adjudge your landward kin whose votive meal and salt
At easy-cheated altars win oblivion for .the fault. But you
the unhoodwinked wave shall test—the immediate gulf
condemn

—
Except ye owe the Fates a jest, be slow to jest with them.

*Ye shall not clear by Greekly speech, nor cozen from your
path The twinkling shoal, the leeward beach, and Hadria's
white-lipped wrath; Nor tempt with painted cloth for wood my
fraudavenging hosts; Nor make at all, or all make good, your
bulwarks and your boasts.

' Now and henceforward serve unshod, through wet and wakeful
shifts, A present and oppressive God, but take, to aid, my
gifts—

240

POSEIDON'S LAW

The wide and windward-opening? eye, the large and lav
ish hand, The soul that cannot tell a lie—except upon the land!
In dromond and in catafract—wet, wakeful, windwardeyed

—
He kept Poseidon's Law intact (his ship and freight
beside). But, once discharged the dromond's hold, the bireme
beached once more, Splendaciously mendacious rolled the
Brass-bound Man
ashore.

The thranite now and thalamite are pressures low and
high, And where three hundred blades bit white the twin
propellers ply: The God that hailed, the keel that sailed, are
changed beyond recall. But the robust and Brass-bound Man he
is not changed
at all!

From Punt returned, from Phormio's Fleet, from Javan and
Gadire, He strongly occupies the seat about the tavern fire. And,
moist with much Falernian or smoked Massilian
juice, Revenges there the Brass-bound Man his long-enforced
truce

!

241



A TRUTHFUL SONG THE Bricklayer: I tell this tale, which is strictly true, Just by way of convincing you How very little, since things were made, Things have altered in the building trade.

A year ago, come the middle of March, We was building flats near the Marble Arch, When a thin young man with coal-black hair Game up to watch us working there.

Now there wasn't a trick in brick or stone That this young man hadn't seen or known; Nor there wasn't a tool from trowel to maul But this young man could use 'em all!

Then up and spoke the plumbyers bold. Which was laying the pipes for the hot and cold; ' Since you with us have made so free, WiU you kindly say what your name might be?'

The young man kindly answered them

:

'It might be Lot or Methusalem, Or it might be Moses (a man I hate), Whereas it is Pharaoh surnamcd the Great.

242

A TRUTHFUL SONG

'Your glazing is new and your plumbing's strange, But otherwise I perceive no change, And in less than a month if you do as I bid I'd learn you to build me a Pyramid!'

The Sailor:

I tell this tale, which is stricter true, Just by way of convincing you How very little, since things was made, Things have altered in the shipwright's trade.

In Blackwall Basin yesterday A China barque re-fitting lay; When a fat old man with snow-white hair Came up to watch us working there.

Now there wasn't a knot which the riggers knew But the old man made it—and better too; Nor there wasn't a sheet, or a lift, or a brace, But the old man knew its lead and place.

Then up and spake the caulkyers bold. Which was packing the pump in the after-hold; 'Since you with us have made so free. Will you kindly tell what your name might be?'

,

The old man kindly answered them: 'It might be Japheth, it might be Shem, Or it might be Ham (though his skin was dark). Whereas it is Noah, commanding the Ark.



243

SONGS FROM BOOKS

'Your wheel is new and your pumps are strange, But otherwise I
perceive no change, And in less than a week, if she did not
ground,

I'd sail this hooker the wide world round!'

Both: We tell these tales, which are strictest true. Just by way of
convincing you, How very little, since things w[^]as made,
Anything alters in any one's trade.

244

A SiMUGGLERS' SONG

IF

you wake at midnight, and hear a horse's feet, Don't go drawing
back the bUnd, or looking in the
street. Them that ask no questions isn't told a He. Watch the
wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by

!

Five and twenty ponies,
Trotting through the dark

—

Brandy for the Parson,

'Baccy for the Clerk;

Laces for a lady, letters for a spy, And watch the wall, my
darling, while the Gentlemen
go by!

Running round the woodlump if you chance to find Little
barrels, roped and tarred, all full of brandy-wine. Don't you
shout to come and look, nor use 'em for your
play. Put the brishwood back again—and they'll be gone next
day!

If you see the stable-door setting open wide; If you see a tired
horse lying down inside; If your mother mends a coat cut about
and tore; If the lining's wet and warm—don't you ask no more!

245

SONGS FROM BOOKS

If you meet King George's men, dressed in blue and red, You be
careful what you say, and mindful what is said. I f they call you
'pretty maid, ' and chuck you 'neath the
chin, Don't you tell where no one is, nor yet where no one's



been!

Knocks and footsteps round the house—whistles after dark

—

You've no call for running out till the house-dogs bark. Trusty's here, and Pincher's here, and see how dumb they be

—

They don't fret to follow when the Gentlemen go by!

If you do as you've been told, 'hkely there's a chance. You'll be give a dainty doll, all the way from France, With a cap of Valenciennes, and a velvet hood

—

A present from the Gentlemen, along o' being good! Five and twenty ponies.

Trotting through the dark, Brandy for the Parson,

'Baccy for the Clerk. Them that asks no questions isn't told a lie

—

Watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by

!

246

KING HENRY VII. AND THE SHIPWRIGHTS

(A.D. 1487)

HARRY, our King in England, from London town is gone, And comen to Hamuli on the Hoke in the countic of Suthampton. For there lay 'The Mary of the Tower,' his ship of war so strong, And he would discover, certaynely, if his shipwrights did him wrong.

I Ic told not none of his setting forth, nor yet where he would go, (But only my Lord of Arundel), and meanly did he show, In an old jerkin and patched hose that no man might him mark. With his frieze hood and cloak above, he looked like any clerk.

He was at Hamuli on the Hoke about the hour of the tide, And saw the ' Mary' haled into dock, the winter to abide. With all her tackle and habiliments which are the King his own; But then ran on his false shipwrights and stripped her to the bone.

247

SONGS FROM BOOKS



They heaved the main-mast overboard, that was of a trusty tree, And they wrote down it was spent and lost by force of weather at sea. But they sawen it into planks and strakes as far as it might go, To maken beds for their own wives and little children also.

There was a knave called Slingawai, he crope beneath the deck, Crying: *Good felawes, come and see! The ship is nigh

a wreck! For the storm that took our tall main-mast, it blew so fierce and fell. Alack! it hath taken the kettles and pans, and this brass

pott as well!

With that he set the pott on his head and hied him up the hatch. While all the shipwrights ran below to find what they might snatch; All except Bob Brygandyne and he was a yeoman good, He caught Slingawai round the waist and threw him on to the mud.

'I have taken plank and rope and nail, without the King his leave. After the custom of Portesmouth, but I will not suffer a thief.

Nay, never lift up thy hand at me! There's no clean hands in the trade

—

Steal in measure,' quo' Brygandyne. 'There's measure in all things made!'

248

KING HENRY VII. AND THE SHIPWRIGHTS

'Gramercy, yeoman!' said our King. 'Thy counsel liketh me.' And he pulled a whistle out of his neck and whistled whistles three. Then came my Lord of Arundel pricking across the down, And behind him the Mayor and Burgesses of merry Suthampton town.

They drew the naughty shipwrights up, with the kettles in their hands, And bound them round the forecastle to wait the King's commands. But 'Since ye have made your beds,' said the King, 'ye needs must lie thereon. For the sake of your wives and little ones—felawes, get you gone!'

When they had beaten Slingawai, out of his own lips, Our King



appointed Brygandyne to be Clerk of all his ships. 'Nay, never lift up thy hands to me—there's no clean hands in the trade. But steal in measure,' said Harry our King. 'There's measure in all things made!'

God speed the 'Mary of the Tower,' the 'Sovereign' and 'Grace Dieu,' The 'Sweepstakes' and the 'Mary Fortune,' and the 'Henry of Bristol' too!

All tall ships that sail on the sea, or in our harbours stand. That they may keep measure with Harry our King and peace in Engeland!

249

THE SONG OF THE MACHINES We were taken from the ore-bed and the mine, We were melted in the furnace and the pit

—
We were cast and wrought and hammered to design, We were cut and filed and tooled and gauged to fit. Some water, coal, and oil is all we ask. And a thousandth of an inch to give us play, And now if you will set us to our task, We will serve you four-and-twenty hours a day!

We can pull and haul and push and lift and drive. We can print and plough and weave and heat and light. We can run and jump and swim and fly and dive, We can see and hear and count and read and write!

Would you call a friend from half across the world? If you'll let us have his name and town and state, You shall see and hear your crackling question hurled Across the arch of heaven while you wait. Has he answered? Does he need you at his side? You can start this very evening if you choose. And take the Western Ocean in the stride Of thirty thousand horses and some screws!

250

THE SONG OF THE MACHINES

The boat-express is waiting your command

!

You will find the 'Mauretania' at the quay. Till her captain turns the lever 'neath his hand, And the monstrous nine-decked city goes to sea.

Do you wish to make the mountains bare their head And lay their new-cut forests at your feet? Do you want to turn a river in its bed, And plant a barren wilderness with wheat? Shall we



pipe aloft and bring you water down From the never-failing
cisterns of the Snows, To work the mills and tramways in your
town, And irrigate your orchards as it flows?

It is easy! Give us dynamite and drills! Watch the iron-
shouldered rocks lie down and quake As the thirsty desert-level
floods and fills, And the valley we have dammed becomes a
lake!

But remember, please, the Law by which we live, We are not
built to comprehend a lie. We can neither love nor pity nor
forgive. If you make a slip in handling us you die! We are
greater than the Peoples or the Kings

—
Be humble, as you crawl beneath our rods!

—
Our touch can alter all created things, We are everything on
earth—except The Gods!

Though our smoke may hide the Heavens from
your eyes. It will vanish and the stars will shine again. Because,
for all our power and weight and size. We are nothing more
than children of your brain

!

251

THE WET LITANY WHEN the water's countenance Blurs
'twixt glance and second glance; When our tattered smokes
forerun, Ashen 'neath a silvered sun; When the curtain of the
haze Shuts upon our helpless ways

—
Hear the Channel Fleet at sea; Libera nos Domine!

When the engines' bated pulse

Scarcely thrills the nosing hulls; When the wash along the side
Sounds, a sudden, magnified; When the intolerable blast Marks
each blindfold minute passed;

When the fog-buoy's squattering flight Guides us through the
haggard night; When the warning bugle blows; When the
lettered doorways close; When our brittle townships press,
Impotent, on emptiness;

When the unseen leadsmen lean

Questioning a deep unseen;

252



THE WET LITANY

When their lessened count they tell To a bridge invisible; When
the hid and perilous

Cliffs return our cry to us;

When the treble thickness spread Swallows up our next-ahead;
,When her siren's frightened whine Shows her sheering out of
line; When, her passage undiscerned, We must turn where she
has turned, Hear the Channel Fleet at sea; Libera nos Domine!

253

BIG STEAMERS OH, where are you going to, all you Big
Steamers, With England's own coal, up and down the
salt seas?' ' We are going to fetch you your bread and your
butter, Your beef, pork, and mutton, eggs, apples, and cheese.'
'And where will you fetch it from, all you Big Steamers, And
where shall I write you when you are away?' ' We fetch it from
Melbourne, Quebec, and Vancouver, Address us at Hobart,
Hong-Kong, and Bombay.'

'But if anything happened to all you Big Steamers, And suppose
you were wrecked up and down the salt

sea?' ' Why you'd have no colYee or bacon for breakfast, And
you'd have no muffms or toast for your tea.'

' rhen I'll pray for fine weather for all you Big Steamers, For
little blue billows and breezes so soft.' 'Oh, billows and breezes
don't bother Big Steamers, For we're iron below and steel-
rigging aloft.'

' Then I'll build a new lighthouse for all you Big Steamers, With
plenty wise pilots to pilot you through.'

'Oh, tlie Channel's as bright as a ball-room already, And pilots
are thicker than pilchards at Looe.'

251

BIG STEAMERS

'Then what can I do for you, all you Big Steamers, Oh, what can
I do for your comfort and good?' 'Send out your big warships to
watch your big waters. That no one may stop us from bringing
you food.

'For the bread that you eat and the biscuits you nibble, The
sweets that you suck and the joints that you

carve, They are brought to you daily by all us Big Steamers,
And if any one hinders our coming you'll starve!'



255

THE BALLAD OF MINEPIT SHAW ABOUT the time that
taverns shut And men can buy no beer. Two lads went up by the
keepers' hut To steal Lord Pelham's deer.
Night and the liquor was in their heads

They laughed and talked no bounds, Till they waked the keepers
on their beds And the keepers loosed the hounds.

They had killed a hart, they had killed a hind, Ready to carry
away, When they heard a whimper down the wind And they
heard a bloodhound bay.

They took and ran amongst the fern. Their crossbows in their
hand. Till they met a man with a green lantern That called and
bade 'em stand.

* What are ye doing, Flesh and Blood, And what's your foolish
will, That you must break into Minepit Wood And wake the
Folk of the Hill?'

256

THE BALLAD OF MINEPIT SHAW

' Oh, we've broke into Lord Pelham's park, And killed Lord
Pelham's deer, And if ever you heard a little dog bark You'll
know why we come here.

* We ask you let us go our way, As fast as we can flee, For if
ever you heard a bloodhound bay You'll know how pressed we
be.'

*Oh, lay your crossbows on the bank And drop the knife from
your hand. And though the hounds are at your flank I'll save you
where you stand!'

They laid their crossbows on the bank. They threw their knives
in the wood, And the ground before them opened and sank And
saved 'em where they stood.

*Oh, what's the roaring in our ears That strikes us well-nigh
dumb?' 'Oh, that is just how things appears
According as they come.'

'What are the stars before our eyes That strike us well-nigh
blind?' 'Oh, that is just how things arise According as you find.'

'And why's our bed so hard to the bones Excepting where it's
cold?'

'Oh, that's because it is precious stones Excepting where 'tis



gold.

257

SONGS FROM BOOKS

'Think it over as you stand, For I tell you without fail, If you haven't got into Fairyland You're not in Lewes Gaol.'

All night long they thought of it, And, come the dawn, they saw They'd tumbled into a great old pit, At the bottom of Minepit Shaw.

And the keepers' hound had followed 'em close, And broke her neck in the fall; So they picked up their knives and their crossbows And buried the dog. That's all.

But whether the man was a poacher too Or a Pharisee^ so bold

—

I reckon there's more things told than are true. And more things true than are told!

^A fairy.

258

•w

HERIOT'S FORD

HAT'S that that hirples at my side?' The foe that you must fight, my lord. *That rides as fast as I can ride?' The shadow of your might, my lord.

Then wheel my horse against the foe!' He's down and overpast, my lord. You war against the sunset glow, The judgment follows fast, my lord.

'Oh who will stay the sun's descent?' King Joshua he is dead, my lord. 'I need an hour to repent!' 'Tis what our sister said, my lord.

'Oh do not slay me in my sins!' You're safe awhile with us, my lord. 'Nay, kill me ere my fear begins!' We would not serve you thus, my lord.

'Where is the doom that I must face?' Three little leagues away, my lord. 'Then mend the horses' laggard pace!' We need them for next day, my lord. 259

SONGS FROM BOOKS 'Next day—next day! Unloose my cords!' Our sister needed none, my lord. You have no mind to face our swords, And—where can cowards run, my lord?

'You would not kill the soul alive?' 'Twas thus our sister cried, my lord. 'I dare not die with none to shrive,' But so our sister



died, my lord.

'Then wipe the sweat from brow and cheek,' It runnels forth
afresh, my lord. ' Uphold me—for the flesh is weak.' You've
finished with the Flesh, my lord.

260

FRANKIE'S TRADE OLD Horn to All Atlantic said

:

(A-hayO! TomeO!) *Now where did Frankie learn his trade?
For he ran me down with a three-reef mains*le.' (All round the
Horn!)

Atlantic answered:

—'Not from me! You'd better ask the cold North Sea, For he ran
me down under all plain canvas.' (All round the Horn!)

The North Sea answered:

—

'He's my man, For he came to me when he began

—

Frankie Drake in an open coaster.'

(All round the Sands!)

' I caught him young and I used him sore, So you never shall
startle Frankie more, Without capsizing Earth and her waters.'

(All round the Sands!)

' I did not favour him at all. I made him pull and I made him
haul

—

And stand his trick with the common sailors. (All round the
Sands!)

261

SONGS FROM BOOKS

* I froze him stiff and I flogged him bhnd, And kicked him home
with his road to fmd By what he could see in a three-day snow-
storm. (All round the Sands!)

' I learned him his trade o ' winter nights, 'Twixt Mardyk Fort
and Dunkirk lights On a five-knot tide with the forts a-firing.

(All round the Sands!)

'Before his beard began to shoot, I showed him the length of the
Spaniard's foot

—

And I reckon he clapped the boot on it later. (All round the



Sands!)

'If there's a risk which you can make. That's worse than he was used to take Nigh every week in the way of his business; (All round the Sands!)

' If there's a trick that you can try, Which he hasn't met in time gone by. Not once or twice, but ten times over; (All round the Sands!)

*If you can teach him aught that's new, (A-hayO! To me O!) I'll give you Bruges and Newport too, And the ten tall churches that stand between 'em,' Storm along, my gallant Captains! (All round the Horn !)

262

WITH DRAKE IN THE TROPICS

SOUTH and far south below the Line, Our Admiral leads us on,
Above, undreamed-of planets shine

The stars we knew are gone. Around, our clustered seamen mark
The silent deep ablaze With fires, through which the far-down shark

Shoots glimmering on his ways.

The sultry tropic breezes fail That plagued us all day through;
Like molten silver hangs our sail. Our decks are dark with dew.
Now the rank moon commands the sky, Ho! Bid the watch beware
x\nd rouse all sleeping men that lie

Unsheltered in her glare.

How long the time 'twixt bell and bell! How still our lanthorns burn!
How strange our whispered words that tell Of England and return!

Old towns, old streets, old friends, old loves, We name them each to each.
While the lit face of Heaven removes Them farther from our reach.

2C)3

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Now is the utmost ebb of night When mind and body sink, And
loneliness and gathering fright O'erwhelm us, if we think

Yet, look, where in his room apart, All windows opened wide.
Our Admiral thrusts away the chart And comes to walk outside.
Kindly, from man to man he goes, With comfort, praise, or jest.



Quick to suspect our childish woes. Our terror and unrest. It is
as though the sun should shine

—
Our midnight fears are gone! South and far south below the
Line Our Admiral leads us on!

264

THE JUGGLER'S SONG WHEN the drums begin to beat
Down the street, When the poles are fetched and guyed, When
the tight-rope's stretched and tied, When the dance-girls make
salaam, When the snake-bag wakes alarm, When the pipes set
up their drone. When the sharp-edged knives are thrown, When
the red-hot coals are shown, To be swallowed by and by

—
Arre Brethren, here come I

!

Stripped to loin-cloth in the sun Search me well and watch me
close

!

Tell me how my tricks are done

—
Tell me how the mango grows?

Give a man who is not made To his trade Swords to fling and
catch again, Coins to ring and snatch again. Men to harm and
cure again. Snakes to charm and lure again

—
He'll be hurt by his own blade, By his serpents disobeyed, By
his clumsiness bewrayed,

265

SONGS FROM BOOKS

By the people laughed to scorn. So 'tis not with juggler born!
Pinch of dust or withered flower, Chance-flung nut or borrowed
staff, Serve his need and shore his power,
Bind the spell or loose the laugh!

266

THORKILD'S SONG

THERE'S no wind along these seas, Out oars for Stavanger!
Forward all for Stavanger! So we must wake the white-ash
breeze,

Let fall for Stavanger! A long pull for Stavanger!



Oh, hear the benches creak and strain!
(A long pull for Stavanger!) She thinks she smells the Northland
rain

!

(A long pull for Stavanger!)

She thinks she smells the Northland snow. And she's as glad as
we to go.

She thinks she smells the Northland rime. And the dear dark
nights of winter-time.

She wants to be at her own home pier, To shift her sails and
standing gear.

She wants to be in her winter-shed, To strip herself and go to
bed.

Her very bolts are sick for shore, And we—we want it ten times
more

!

267

SONGS FROM BOOKS

So all you Gods that love brave men, Send us a three-reef gale
again

!

Send us a gale, and watch us come, With close-cropped canvas
slashing home!

But—there's no wind on all these seas, A long pull for
Stavanger! So we must wake the white-ash breeze, A long pull
for Stavanger!

268

*ANGUTIVAUN TAINA'

Song of the Returning Hunter (Esquimaux) OUR gloves are
stiff with the frozen blood. Our furs with the drifted snow, As
we come in with the seal—the seal! In from the edge of the floe.
Au jana! Aua! Oha! Haq! And the yelping dog-teams go, And
the long whips crack, and the men come back. Back from the
edge of the floe!

We tracked our seal to his secret place, ^ We heard him scratch
below, We made our mark, and we watched beside, Out on the
edge of the floe.

We raised our lance when he rose to breathe, We drove it
downward—so! And we played him thus, and we kiUed him



thus. Out on the edge of the floe.

Our gloves are glued with the frozen blood, Our eyes with the drifting snow; But we come back to our wives again, Back from the edge of the floe

!

269

SONGS FROM BOOKS

Au jana! Aua! Oha! Haq! And the loaded dog-teams go, And the wives can hear their men come back, Back from the edge of the floe!

270

SONG OF THE MEN'S SIDE

(Neolithic) ONCE we feared The Beast—when he followed us we ran, Ran very fast though we knew It was not right that The Beast should master Man; But what could we Flint-workers do? The Beast only grinned at our spears round his ears

—

Grinned at the hammers that we made; But now we will hunt him for the life with the Knife And this is the Buyer of the Blade!

Room for his shadow on the grass—let it pass! To left and right—stand clear! This is the Buyer of the Blade—be afraid! This is the great god Tyr!

Tyr thought hard till he hammered out a plan, For he knew it was not right (And it is not right) that The Beast should master Man

;

So he went to the Children of the Night. He begged a Magic Knife of their make for our sake. When he begged for the Knife they said

:

'The price of the Knife you would buy is an eye!' And that was the price he paid.

271

SONGS FROM BOOKS Tell it to the Barrows of the Dead—run ahead! Shout it so the Women's Side can hear! This is the Buyer of the Blade—be afraid! This is the great god Tyr!

Our women and our little ones may walk on the Chalk, As far as we can see them and beyond. We shall not be anxious for our



sheep when we keep
Tally at the shearing-pond. We can eat with both our elbows on
our knees, if we
please, We can sleep after meals in the sun; For Shepherd of the
Twilight is dismayed at the Blade, Feet-in-the-Night have run!
Dog-without-a-Master goes away (Hai, Tyr aie!),
Devil-in-the-Dusk has run!

Then

:

Room for his shadow on the grass—let it pass! To left and
right—stand clear! This is the Buyer of the Blade—be afraid!
This is the great god Tyr

!

272

DARZEE'S CHAUNT

(Sung in honour of Rikki-tikki-tavi)

S

INGER and tailor am I

—

Doubled the joys that I know

—

Proud of my lilt to the sky, Proud of the house that I sew

—

Over and under, so weave I my music—so weave I the house
that I sew.

Sing to your fledglings again, Mother, lift up your head

!

Evil that plagued us is slain. Death in the garden lies dead.
Terror that hid in the roses is impotent—flung on the dunghill
and dead!

Who hath delivered us, who? Tell me his nest and his name.

Rikki, the vahant, the true,

Tikki, with eyeballs of flame, Rik-tikki-tikki, the ivory-fanged,
the hunter with eye
balls of flame.

Give him the Thanks of the Birds, Bowing with tail-feathers
spread!

273

SONGS FROM BOOKS



Praise him with nightingale-words

Nay, I will praise him instead. Hear! I will sing you the praise
of the bottle-tailed

Rikki, with eyeballs of red!

(Here Rikki-tikki interrupted, and the rest of the song
is lost.)

274

K

THE FOUR ANGELS

S Adam lay a-dreaming beneath the Apple Tree The Angel of
the Earth came down, and offered Earth in fee. But Adam did
not need it, Nor the plough he would not speed it,

Singing :

' Earth and Water, Air and Fire, What more can mortal man
desire?' (The Apple Tree's in bud.)

As Adam lay a-dreaming beneath the Apple Tree The Angel of
the Waters offered all the Seas in fee. But Adam would not take
'em. Nor the ships he wouldn't make 'em,

Singing:

'Water, Earth and Air and Fire, What more can mortal man
desire?' (The Apple Tree's in leaf.)

As Adam lay a-dreaming beneath the Apple Tree The Angel of
the Air he offered all the Air in fee. But Adam did not crave it.
Nor the flight he wouldn't brave it,

Singing:

'Air and Water, Earth and Fire, What more can mortal man
desire?' (The Apple Tree's in bloom.)

275

SONGS FROM BOOKS

As Adam lay a-dreaming beneath the Apple Tree The Angel of
the Fire rose up and not a word said he. But he wished a flame
and made it, And in Adam's heart he laid it,

Singing:

'Fire, Fire, burning Fire, Stand up and reach your heart's desire!'



(The Apple Blossom's set.)

As Adam was a-working outside of Eden-Wall, He used the Earth, he used the Seas, he used the Air and all;

And out of black disaster He arose to be the master Of Earth and Water, Air and Fire, But never reached his heart's desire!
(The Apple Tree's cut down!)

276

o

THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

UR England is a garden that is full of stately views. Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues, With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by; But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall, You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all—

The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks. The rollers, carts and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;

For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds, The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose, And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that

Grows; But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam, For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made By singing:—'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade. While better men than we go out and start their working lives

At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick, There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick. But it can find some needful job that's crying to be



done, For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.
Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till
further orders.

If it's only netting strawberries or killng slugs on bor
ders; And when your back stops aching and your hands begin
to harden. You will fmd yourself a partner in the Glory of the
Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God Who made him sees That
half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees, So when
your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray For
the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away! And the
Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

THE PRAYER

Y brother kneels, so saith Kabir, To stone and brass in heathen-
wise, But in my brother's voice I hear My own unanswered
agonies. His God is as his fates assign, His prayer is all the
world's—and mine!

THE END



Compilación de Obras
José María Heredia

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Compilación de Obra II José María Heredia

José María Heredia

De origen cubano, nace el 31 de diciembre de 1803, por el trabajo de su padre, Francisco Heredia Mieses, Oidor y Regente de la Real Audiencia de Caracas, se muda a Venezuela en 1810 para regresar en 1818 a Cuba, año en el que inicia sus estudios de Leyes en la Universidad de La Habana. En 1819, se establecen en México donde continúa sus estudios, sin embargo, la muerte de su padre en 1820, Heredia regresa con su madre y hermanas a



Cuba.

En 1823, se ve envuelto en la conspiración «Soles y Rayos de Bolívar» por lo que se ve obligado a marcharse a Estados Unidos, país del que admiraba sus instituciones políticas; en este periodo de tiempo contrajo tuberculosis, enfermedad que dieciséis años después le costaría la vida. Durante su exilio, escribe la «oda al Niágara» y publica la primera edición de sus poemas.

En 1825, aceptó la invitación el presidente de México Guadalupe Victoria y regresa a México. Durante los nueve que permaneció en el Estado de México fue periodista, diputado y magistrado además de bibliotecario, maestro y director del Instituto Científico y Literario cargo que desempeñó poco más de un año.

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