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TOILERS OF THE SEA.

We ride on the back of the wave,
We dip in the trough of the sea;
Our boat is stout and our hearts are brave,
As fishermen's hearts should be.

For winds may be fierce and strong,
And the waves may be deep and long,
And those who weep are long,
Who wait for us three.

We laugh when the winds are fair,
And the nets drag heavily,
With the weight of fish, and there is no cure
For my fisher-boys and me.

But the winds may rage and roar,
And the surf beat on the shore,
And those who weep are long,
Who wait for us three.

The toll and danger and strife;
Yet we love the greedy sea,
That gives us bread for a wretched life,
Bread for my wife and me.

But the winds in anger churn,
And the winds seem cruel and stern,
To those who wait and yearn
To welcome us three.

We laugh when the wind is light,
But my heart is heavy in me,
Sometimes when I think of my wife at night,
And the perils of the sea.

For winds may be fierce and strong,
And the waves may be deep and long,
And those who weep are long,
Who wait for us three.

THE MECHANIC'S LESSON.

Some five years ago I was a lieutenant
in a marching regiment, and quartered
in a large garrison-town in England. My
duties consisted of the usual round of
morning and afternoon parades, visiting
the men's dinners and teas, and other
regular work. In addition to this, we
had occasionally to mount guard, and to
pass twenty-four hours in a sort of half-
imprisonment.

It is one of the regulations of the service
that when officers or men are on
guard they should always be in a state
of readiness to "fall in" on parade at a
moment's notice. If you feel the field-officer
and desire rest, you must take it whilst
you are buttoned up to the throat, and
strapped down at the heels; a lounge in
an arm-chair, or probably a little horizontal
refreshment upon a sofa, are the extent of
rest which an officer on guard
is supposed to indulge in.

Among my brother-subalterns in garri-
son, it was our usual practice to infringe
upon this strict letter of the law; and
when the principal part of our duty had
been accomplished, we used to indulge
ourselves by diverting our limbs of their
armor, and seeking refreshment between
the sheets of a little camp-bed that was
placed in the inner-guard-room.

It was part of the duties of an officer
on guard to visit all the sentries during
night, the time for visiting them being
usually a half of eight, or so after the field-
officer had visited the guard-room. The field-
officer being a colonel or major who was on
duty for the day, and who came once by
day and once by night to visit the guards,
and to see that all was as it should be.
There was no exact limit to the number
of times that this field officer might visit
the guards, but it was the usual thing,
and had become almost a custom, for him
to come once by day and once by night,
so that after the last visit the subaltern
usually waited an hour or so, walked
round the limits of his post, visited all
his sentries, and then turned into bed.

It was on a bitter cold morning in
January that my turn for guard came on.
I marched my men to their post, relieved
the old guard, and then, having gone
through the regular duty and di-
rected to pass the time until the field-
officer had visited me. The previous
evening I had been at a ball in the town,
and in consequence was very tired and
sleepy, and looked with considerable
reluctance at the period when I could re-
fringe myself by snoring and enjoying
a good snooze.

At length I heard the welcome chal-
lenge: "Who comes there?" which was
by the response, "Rounds!" "What
rounds?" "Grand rounds!" and "Guard
turn out!" was a signal which I willingly
obeyed, for I knew that in about one
hour afterwards I should be in the arms
of the god of sleep.

Slipping on my cloak and cap, and
grasping my sword, I placed myself in
front of the guard, and received the field-
officer, who briefly asked me if all was cor-
rect, directed me to dismiss my guard and
rode off without saying "Good-night,"
—a proceeding that I thought rather
formal. Giving directions to the sergeant
to call me in an hour, for the purpose of
visiting the sentries, I threw myself into
my arm-chair, and tried to read a novel.
The time passed very quickly, as I had
a nap or two, and the sergeant soon ap-
peared with a lantern to conduct me round
the sentries.

It was a terrible night, the wind blowing
hard, whilst the snow and sleet were
driving along before it. The thermometer
was several degrees below freezing,
and I felt that I deserved much from my
country for performing so conscientiously
my arduous duties. The sentries were
very much scattered, and I had to walk
nearly two miles to visit them all. I ac-
complished my task, however, and re-
turned to the guard-room, where I treated
myself to a stiff glass of grog, and
throwing off my regimentals, I jumped
into bed, feeling that I really deserved

it.

In a few minutes I was fast asleep, not
even dreaming of any of my fair partners
of the ball, but sound asleep. Suddenly
I became conscious of a great noise,
which sounded like a drum being beaten.
At first I did not realize my position,
and could not remember where I was,
but at last it flashed across me that I was
on guard, and something was the matter.
Jumping out of bed, I called to know
who was there.

The sergeant answered in a great hur-
ry, saying, "Sir, field-officer of the day
is coming, and the guard is turning out."

I rushed to my boots, pulled them on
over my unstocked feet; thrust my
sword-arch into my large regimental
cloak, which I pulled over me; jammed
my sword into my boot, and grasping
my sword, looked to the outward ob-
servance as though "fit for parade."

I was just in time to receive the field-
officer, who again asked me if my guard

was correct. I answered, "Yes, sir, all
correct." I could not imagine why my
guard should be visited twice, as such a
proceeding was very unusual, and per-
haps my tone seemed to imply that I was
surprised. Whether it was that, or whether
a treacherous gust of wind removed the
slightest taste in life of the end of my
night-shirt, I know not; but the field-
officer, instead of riding off when he re-
ceived my answer, turned his horse's
head in the opposite direction, and said,
"Now, sir, I want you to accompany me
round the sentries."

Had he told me that he wanted me to
accompany him to the regions beyond,
I should scarce have been more horri-
fied, for already I had found the change
of temperature between a warm bed in a
room and the outside air, and to walk
two miles on a windy, frosty night, with
no rain besides boots, night-shirt,
cloak, and was really suffering for one's
country, and no mistake. I dared not
show the slightest hesitation, however,
for fear the state of my attire might be
suspected, though I would have given
a week's pay to have escaped for only
five minutes. A non-commissioned officer
was ready with a lantern, and we
started on our tour of inspection.

The field-officer asked several questions
connected with the position and duties
of the sentries, to which I gave answers
as well as the chattering of my teeth
would permit me. The most nervous
work, however, was passing the gas-
lamps, which were placed at intervals of
one or two hundred yards. The wind
was blowing so fresh that it was with
difficulty I could hold my cloak around
me, and conceal the absence of my un-
dergarments. Every now and then an
extra gust of wind would come round a
corner, and quite defeat all the pre-
cautions which I had adopted to encounter
the steady gale. I managed to dodge in
the shade as much as possible, and more
than once ran the risk of being kicked
by the field-officer's horse, as I slunk be-
hind him when the gas-light might have
revealed my nakedness.

It was terribly cold, to be sure, the wind
and snow almost numbing my limbs.
I had a kind of faint hope that the field-
officer might think that I belonged to a
Highland regiment, and if he did observe
the scantiness of my attire, might believe
that the kilt would explain it. I strug-
gled and shivered on, knowing that all
things must have an end, and that my
"rounds" must come to an end before
long. But I feared that I should not
again get warm during the night.

We had nearly completed our tour, and
were within a few hundred yards of the
guard-room, when we passed the field-
officer's quarters. I fondly hoped that he
would not pass them, and that he would
dismiss me at the door, but I was rather
surprised to see a blaze of light come
from the windows, and to hear the sound of
music. It was evident that there was a
"hop" going on inside, and I already
began to tremble, from a sort of instinct
that even worse misfortunes were yet to
attend me.

My premonitions were true, for upon
reaching his door, my persecutor, in a
cheerful tone, said, "Well, we've
had a cold run; you must now come in
and take a glass of wine, and perhaps a
waltz will warm you."

"I'm really much obliged," I hastily
answered, "but I should not like to leave
my guard."

"Nonsense, nonsense, man; the guard
will be all right; you must come in."
This "must" he said in quite a deter-
mined tone.

I felt desperate, and again declared
that I thought I should be wrong to leave
my guard.

"I'll take the responsibility," said the
demon; "so come along"; saying which,
he grasped my arm, and almost dragged
me into the porch of his quarters.

When we entered the house, and were
exposed to the light of the hall-lamps, I
fancied I saw a slight twinkle in the eye
of the officer, and began to wonder whether
he really knew of my predicament and
wished to have his joke. He, however,
gave no other intimations that I saw, but
quickly took off his cloak, and said that I
had better do the same. Seeing me
hesitate, he said, "Come, look alive; off
with it!"

Further remonstrance, I found, would
be useless, so that there was no help for
me but a full confession. Summoning my
courage, and fearing to hesitate, I blurted
out, "Colonel, I've no trousers on!"

"The deuce you haven't?" he said.

"Well, you'd better go and put them
on, and then come here as soon as possi-
ble and have a glass of something warm."

I rushed out of his quarters, half de-
termined not to return. I was fully
awake now, and shivered like a half-
drowned dog; but no sooner had I dressed
myself than the colonel's servant came
over to say that a quadrille was waiting
for me.

I determined to put a bold face on the
matter, and entered the drawing-room,
where a party of about fifty had assem-
bled. It was evident by the titters of
the young ladies, the grins of the men,
and the subdued smiles of the dowagers,
that my story was known.

The colonel had told it as a good joke
to the major, who had whispered it to
his wife; she had breathed it into the ear
of two of her friends, and in about ten
minutes every person in the room knew
that a young subaltern had unwillingly
gone his rounds in his night-shirt.

As long as I stayed in that garrison I
was a standing joke. When the girls saw
me they always looked away and smiled,
and it seemed as impossible for me to
obtain a serious answer from any of them
as for a clown to preach a sermon. They
even seemed afraid to dance with me,
fearing, as I afterwards heard, to look at
my legs, lest I might be deficient in some
article of raiment. I soon exchanged
and went into another regiment, and
years afterwards heard my own advan-
ture related in a crowded room, all the
details of the story being true except the

name of the performer—my misfortune
having been attributed to an unfortunate
fellow who died in India.

I never went to bed on guard after
that night.

A South American Forest.

Strange was the contrast between hu-
man poverty and natural wealth. We
were on the borders of a virgin forest,
and the over-powering beauty of vegeta-
tion even erased all memory of the squalor
and lifelessness of La Mona. Our road
—a mere path—suddenly entered this
seemingly impenetrable forest, where the
branches crossed overhead, producing a
delightful shade. The curious forms of
tropical life were all attractive to one who
had recently rambled over the compara-
tively bleak hills of New England. De-
light is a weak term to express the feel-
ings of a naturalist who for the first time
wanders in a South American forest. The
superb banana, the great charm of equa-
torial vegetation, tossed out luxuriantly
its glossy green leaves, eight feet in
length; the slender but graceful bamboo
shot heavenward, straight as an arrow;
and many species of palm bore aloft their
feathery heads, impossibly light and
elegant. On the branches of the inde-
pendent trees sat tufts of parasites, many
of them orchids, which are here epiphy-
tal; and countless creeping plants, whose
long flexible stems entwined snake-like
around the trunks, or formed gigantic
loops and coils among the limbs. Be-
neath this world of foliage above, thick
beds of mosses covered the ground, and
a boundless variety of ferns attracted the
eye by their beautiful patterns. It is
easy to specify the individual objects of
admiration in these grand scenes, but it
is not possible to give an adequate idea
of the higher feelings of wonder, aston-
ishment and devotion which fill and ele-
vate the mind. This road to the Andes
is a paradise to the contemplative man.
Here, in the midst of a tropical forest,
says Bates, "akin to the ocean in its
effect on the mind. Man feels so com-
pletely his insignificance and the vastness
of nature." The German traveler Bur-
meister observes that "the contempla-
tion of a Brazilian forest produced on
him a painful impression, on account of
the vegetation displaying a spirit of rest-
less selfishness, eager emulation and
craftiness." He thought the softness,
carelessness and repose of European
woodland scenery were far more pleas-
ing and that these formed one of the
causes of the superior moral character of
European nations. Live and let live is
not the maxim taught in these tropical
forests, and it is equally clear that self-
ishness is not wanting among the peo-
ple. Here, in view of so much competi-
tion among organized beings, is the spot
to a voyager, Darwin's Origin of Species.
We have thought that the vegetation un-
der the equator was a fitter emblem of
the human world than the forest of our
temperate zone. There is here no set
time for decay and death, but we stand
amid the living and the dead; flowers
and leaves are falling, while fresh ones
are bounding into life. Then, too, the
numerous parasitic plants using of their
neighbors as instruments for their own
advancement, inaptly represent a cer-
tain human class—Andes and Amazon.

The Emperor and the Queen.

The cable reports that Napoleon, the
ex-Emperor of France, yesterday visited
Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. It is
not likely that the details of the inter-
view will ever be made public. The in-
terviewing reporter who would attempt
to be present at the scene would proba-
bly get no nearer than the outside wall
of the castle.

It is easy, however, to imagine that the
visit must have been a rather exciting
incident to both the hostess and her guest.
Napoleon can not forget his last visit to
England nearly a score of years ago, when
he had just made himself master of France
by an act of wholesale murder, when he
was welcomed to London by obsequious
officials and by the acclamations of a cu-
rious and not unfriendly multitude. Then
he received the freedom of the city of
London. At Windsor Castle he was
made a Knight of the Order of the Gar-
ter, and was welcomed to the residence of
the Queen and the head of the most pow-
erful continental nation. This, indeed,
was the first of the many personal tri-
umphs which this remarkable adventure
was destined to enjoy.

A few years later, Queen Victoria re-
turned his visit, and Paris welcomed a
most dazzling festivities the monarch of
England. The example of the Queen
was soon followed; and the Sultan of
Turkey, the King of Prussia and the
Czar of Russia were in turn the guests
of Napoleon. The minor kings and
princes of Europe flocked to Paris,
to behold the glories of his new Empire.
The King of Italy, however, always
held aloof, though if any monarch had
cause for gratitude to Napoleon, it was
he. The Queen of Spain, to travel, kept
away until she became an exile without
a throne; and then she hastened to
Paris to bask in the sunshine of imperi-
alism.

Queen Victoria will, of course, have
too much to talk to the ex-Emperor to
what business in life the ex-Imperial
Prince will now devote himself, and Na-
poleon will certainly not be rude enough
to hint at the possible spread of the re-
volutionary spirit of England, and the
contingent danger of the Guelph dynas-
ty. He cannot very well tell his host-
ess what he thinks of her relative the
Emperor of Germany; nor can he hint
at the desirability of the Queen's re-
turning his visit. But if they are in a
retrospective and Shakespearean mood,
which is not at all probable—they can
both.

All upon the ground,
And tell the tale of the death of kings;
How some have been deposed—
The ex-Emperor giving his personal ex-
perience on the latter point.

"A daughter was born to the Sultan of
Lahore, two weeks ago. Can that
child be properly called a calf?"

The next great undertaking before the
American people is the unbundling and
development of the National Domain.
We have to subdue, that we may inherit,
our generous portion of the earth. We
are coming to the close of our first cen-
tury, and having attained such majority,
may enter upon and possess our estate.
The wealth of the nation lies in the land,
and we must dig it out. Nor can we de-
legate the task to the mainly ignorant la-
borers coming to us from other lands;
we need to give it our own intelligence
and our own muscle—and we have
shown that we are not the people to
shirk such necessity. Indeed, we are al-
ready making a competent beginning—
opening lines of transportation, making
permanent peace with the Indians, learn-
ing the methods of organized coloniza-
tion—and may call ourselves fairly ready
to go to work. Agriculture, then, is to
be our main business in years to come.
We are to be a nation of farmers; and it
is worth while to consider what sort of
farmers we are likely to turn out.

Man makes circumstances, circumstances
make men. Accepting this antithesis,
we should look for new types of charac-
ter under the new conditions obtaining
in this country, where, also, the require-
ments