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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE CONGO, AND OTHER POEMS \*\*\*

## **THE CONGO AND OTHER POEMS**

**By Vachel Lindsay**

**[Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, Illinois Artist. 1879-1931.]**

**With an introduction by Harriet Monroe Editor of "Poetry"**

[Notes: The 'stage-directions' given in "The Congo" and those poems which are meant to be read aloud, are traditionally printed to the right side of the first line it refers to. This is possible, but impracticable, to imitate in a simple ASCII text. Therefore these 'stage-directions' are given on the line BEFORE the first line they refer to, and are furthermore indented 20 spaces and given bold print to keep it clear to the reader which parts are text and which parts directions.]

[This electronic text was transcribed from a reprint of the original edition, which was first published in New York, in September, 1914. Due to a great deal of irregularity between titles in the table of contents and in the text of the original, there are some slight differences from the original in these matters—with the more complete titles replacing cropped ones. In one case they are different enough that both are given, and "Twenty Poems in which...." was originally "Twenty Moon Poems" in the table of contents—the odd thing about both these titles is that there are actually twenty-TWO moon poems.]

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**THE CONGO AND OTHER POEMS**

## Introduction. By Harriet Monroe

When 'Poetry, A Magazine of Verse', was first published in Chicago in the autumn of 1912, an Illinois poet, Vachel Lindsay, was, quite appropriately, one of its first discoveries. It may be not quite without significance that the issue of January, 1913, which led off with 'General William Booth Enters into Heaven', immediately followed the number in which the great poet of Bengal, Rabindra Nath Tagore, was first presented to the American public, and that these two antipodal poets soon appeared in person among the earliest visitors to the editor. For the coming together of East and West may prove to be the great event of the approaching era, and if the poetry of the now famous Bengali laureate garners the richest wisdom and highest spirituality of his ancient race, so one may venture to believe that the young Illinois troubadour brings from Lincoln's city an authentic strain of the lyric message of this newer world.

It is hardly necessary, perhaps, to mention Mr. Lindsay's loyalty to the people of his place and hour, or the training in sympathy with their aims and ideals which he has achieved through vagabondish wanderings in the Middle West. And we may permit time to decide how far he expresses their emotion. But it may be opportune to emphasize his plea for poetry as a song art, an art appealing to the ear rather than the eye. The first section of this volume is especially an effort to restore poetry to its proper place—the audience-chamber, and take it out of the library, the closet. In the library it has become, so far as the people are concerned, almost a lost art, and perhaps it can be restored to the people only through a renewal of its appeal to the ear.

I am tempted to quote from Mr. Lindsay's explanatory note which accompanied three of these poems when they were first printed in 'Poetry'. He said:

"Mr. Yeats asked me recently in Chicago, 'What are we going to do to restore the primitive singing of poetry?' I find what Mr. Yeats means by 'the primitive singing of poetry' in Professor Edward Bliss Reed's new volume on 'The English Lyric'. He says in his chapter on the definition of the lyric: 'With the Greeks "song" was an all-embracing term. It included the crooning of the nurse to the child... the half-sung chant of the mower or sailor... the formal ode sung by the poet. In all Greek lyrics, even in the choral odes, music was the handmaid of verse.... The poet himself composed the accompaniment. Euripides was censured because Iophon had assisted him in the musical setting of some of his dramas.' Here is pictured a type of Greek work which survives in American vaudeville, where every line may be two-thirds spoken and one-third sung, the entire rendering, musical and elocutionary, depending upon the improvising power and sure instinct of the performer.

"I respectfully submit these poems as experiments in which I endeavor to carry this vaudeville form back towards the old Greek precedent of the half-chanted lyric. In this case the one-third of music must be added by the instinct of the reader. He must be Iophon. And he can easily be Iophon if he brings to bear upon the piece what might be called the Higher Vaudeville imagination....

"Big general contrasts between the main sections should be the rule of the first attempts at improvising. It is the hope of the writer that after two or three readings each line will suggest its own separate touch of melody to the reader who has become accustomed to the cadences. Let him read what he likes read, and sing what he likes sung."

It was during this same visit in Chicago, at 'Poetry's' banquet on the evening of March first, 1914, that Mr. Yeats honored Mr. Lindsay by addressing his after-dinner talk primarily to him as "a fellow craftsman", and by saying of 'General Booth':

"This poem is stripped bare of ornament; it has an earnest simplicity, a strange beauty, and you know Bacon said, 'There is no excellent beauty without strangeness.'"

This recognition from the distinguished Irish poet tempts me to hint at the cosmopolitan aspects of such racily local art as Mr. Lindsay's. The subject is too large for a merely introductory word, but the reader may be invited to reflect upon it. If Mr. Lindsay's poetry should cross the ocean, it would not be the first time that our most indigenous art has reacted upon the art of older nations. Besides Poe—who, though indigenous in ways too subtle for brief analysis, yet passed all frontiers in his swift, sad flight—the two American artists of widest influence, Whitman and Whistler, have been intensely American in temperament and in the special spiritual quality of their art.

If Whistler was the first great artist to accept the modern message in Oriental art, if Whitman was the first great modern poet to discard the limitations of conventional form: if both were more free, more individual, than their contemporaries, this was the expression of their Americanism, which may perhaps be defined as a spiritual independence and love of adventure inherited from the pioneers. Foreign artists are usually the first to recognize this new tang; one detects the influence of the great dead poet and dead painter in all modern art which looks forward instead of back; and their countrymen, our own contemporary poets and painters, often express indirectly, through French influences, a reaction which they are reluctant to confess directly.

A lighter phase of this foreign enthusiasm for the American tang is confessed by Signor Marinetti, the Italian "futurist", when in his article on 'Futurism and the Theatre', in 'The Mask', he urges the revolutionary value of "American eccentrics", citing the fundamental primitive quality in their vaudeville art. This may be another statement of Mr. Lindsay's plea for a closer relation between the poet and his audience, for a return to the healthier open-air conditions, and immediate personal contacts, in the art of the Greeks and of primitive nations. Such conditions and contacts may still be found, if the world only knew it, in the wonderful song-dances of the Hopis and others of our aboriginal tribes. They may be found, also, in a measure, in the quick response between artist and audience in modern vaudeville. They are destined to a wider and higher influence; in fact, the development of that influence, the return to primitive sympathies between artist and audience, which may make possible once more the assertion of primitive creative power, is recognized as the immediate movement in modern art. It is a movement strong enough to persist in spite of extravagances and absurdities; strong enough, it may be hoped, to fulfil its purpose and revitalize the world.

It is because Mr. Lindsay's poetry seems to be definitely in that movement that it is, I think, important.

Harriet Monroe.

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**First Section ~~ Poems intended to be read aloud,  
or chanted.**

# The Congo

## A Study of the Negro Race

### I. Their Basic Savagery

Fat black bucks in a wine-barrel room,  
Barrel-house kings, with feet unstable,

**A deep rolling bass.**

Sagged and reeled and pounded on the table,  
Pounded on the table,  
Beat an empty barrel with the handle of a broom,  
Hard as they were able,  
Boom, boom, BOOM,  
With a silk umbrella and the handle of a broom,  
Boomlay, boomlay, boomlay, BOOM.  
THEN I had religion, THEN I had a vision.  
I could not turn from their revel in derision.

**More deliberate. Solemnly chanted.**

THEN I SAW THE CONGO, CREEPING THROUGH THE BLACK,  
CUTTING THROUGH THE FOREST WITH A GOLDEN TRACK.

Then along that riverbank

A thousand miles

Tattooed cannibals danced in files;

Then I heard the boom of the blood-lust song

**A rapidly piling climax of speed and racket.**

And a thigh-bone beating on a tin-pan gong.  
And "BLOOD" screamed the whistles and the fifes of the warriors,  
"BLOOD" screamed the skull-faced, lean witch-doctors,  
"Whirl ye the deadly voo-doo rattle,  
Harry the uplands,  
Steal all the cattle,  
Rattle-rattle, rattle-rattle,  
Bing.  
Boomlay, boomlay, boomlay, BOOM,"

**With a philosophic pause.**

A roaring, epic, rag-time tune

From the mouth of the Congo

To the Mountains of the Moon.

Death is an Elephant,

**Shrilly and with a heavily accented metre.**

Torch-eyed and horrible,  
Foam-flanked and terrible.  
BOOM, steal the pygmies,  
BOOM, kill the Arabs,  
BOOM, kill the white men,  
HOO, HOO, HOO.

**Like the wind in the chimney.**

Listen to the yell of Leopold's ghost  
Burning in Hell for his hand-maimed host.  
Hear how the demons chuckle and yell  
Cutting his hands off, down in Hell.  
Listen to the creepy proclamation,  
Blown through the lairs of the forest-nation,  
Blown past the white-ants' hill of clay,  
Blown past the marsh where the butterflies play:—  
"Be careful what you do,

**All the o sounds very golden. Heavy accents very heavy.**

**Light accents very light. Last line whispered.**

Or Mumbo-Jumbo, God of the Congo,

And all of the other

Gods of the Congo,

Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you,

Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you,

Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you."

### II. Their Irrepressible High Spirits

**Rather shrill and high.**

Wild crap-shooters with a whoop and a call  
Danced the juba in their gambling-hall  
And laughed fit to kill, and shook the town,  
And geyed the policemen and laughed them down  
With a boomlay, boomlay, boomlay, BOOM.

**Read exactly as in first section.**

THEN I SAW THE CONGO, CREEPING THROUGH THE BLACK,  
CUTTING THROUGH THE FOREST WITH A GOLDEN TRACK.

**Lay emphasis on the delicate ideas.**

**Keep as light-footed as possible.**

A negro fairyland swung into view,

A minstrel river

Where dreams come true.

The ebony palace soared on high  
Through the blossoming trees to the evening sky.  
The inlaid porches and casements shone  
With gold and ivory and elephant-bone.  
And the black crowd laughed till their sides were sore  
At the baboon butler in the agate door,  
And the well-known tunes of the parrot band  
That trilled on the bushes of that magic land.

**With pomposity.**

A troupe of skull-faced witch-men came  
Through the agate doorway in suits of flame,  
Yea, long-tailed coats with a gold-leaf crust  
And hats that were covered with diamond-dust.  
And the crowd in the court gave a whoop and a call  
And danced the juba from wall to wall.

**With a great deliberation and ghostliness.**

But the witch-men suddenly stilled the throng  
With a stern cold glare, and a stern old song:—  
"Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you."...

**With overwhelming assurance, good cheer, and pomp.**

Just then from the doorway, as fat as shotes,  
Came the cake-walk princes in their long red coats,  
Canes with a brilliant lacquer shine,  
And tall silk hats that were red as wine.

**With growing speed and sharply marked dance-rhythm.**

And they pranced with their butterfly partners there,  
Coal-black maidens with pearls in their hair,  
Knee-skirts trimmed with the jassamine sweet,  
And bells on their ankles and little black feet.  
And the couples railed at the chant and the frown  
Of the witch-men lean, and laughed them down.  
(O rare was the revel, and well worth while  
That made those glowering witch-men smile.)

The cake-walk royalty then began  
To walk for a cake that was tall as a man  
To the tune of "Boomlay, boomlay, BOOM,"

**With a touch of negro dialect,**

**and as rapidly as possible toward the end.**

While the witch-men laughed, with a sinister air,  
And sang with the scalawags prancing there:—  
"Walk with care, walk with care,  
Or Mumbo-Jumbo, God of the Congo,  
And all of the other  
Gods of the Congo,  
Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you.  
Beware, beware, walk with care,  
Boomlay, boomlay, boomlay, boom.  
Boomlay, boomlay, boomlay, boom,  
Boomlay, boomlay, boomlay, boom,  
Boomlay, boomlay, boomlay,  
BOOM."

**Slow philosophic calm.**

Oh rare was the revel, and well worth while  
That made those glowering witch-men smile.

III. The Hope of their Religion

**Heavy bass. With a literal imitation  
of camp-meeting racket, and trance.**

A good old negro in the slums of the town  
Preached at a sister for her velvet gown.  
Howled at a brother for his low-down ways,  
His prowling, guzzling, sneak-thief days.  
Beat on the Bible till he wore it out  
Starting the jubilee revival shout.  
And some had visions, as they stood on chairs,  
And sang of Jacob, and the golden stairs,  
And they all repented, a thousand strong  
From their stupor and savagery and sin and wrong  
And slammed with their hymn books till they shook the room  
With "glory, glory, glory,"  
And "Boom, boom, BOOM."

**Exactly as in the first section.**

**Begin with terror and power, end with joy.**

THEN I SAW THE CONGO, CREEPING THROUGH THE BLACK  
CUTTING THROUGH THE JUNGLE WITH A GOLDEN TRACK.  
And the gray sky opened like a new-rent veil  
And showed the apostles with their coats of mail.  
In bright white steele they were seated round  
And their fire-eyes watched where the Congo wound.  
And the twelve Apostles, from their thrones on high  
Thrilled all the forest with their heavenly cry:—

***Sung to the tune of "Hark, ten thousand  
harps and voices".***

*"Mumbo-Jumbo will die in the jungle;  
Never again will he hoo-doo you,  
Never again will he hoo-doo you."*

***With growing deliberation and joy.***

*Then along that river, a thousand miles  
The vine-snared trees fell down in files.  
Pioneer angels cleared the way  
For a Congo paradise, for babes at play,  
For sacred capitals, for temples clean.  
Gone were the skull-faced witch-men lean.*

***In a rather high key—as delicately as possible.***

*There, where the wild ghost-gods had wailed  
A million boats of the angels sailed  
With oars of silver, and prows of blue  
And silken pennants that the sun shone through.  
'Twas a land transfigured, 'twas a new creation.  
Oh, a singing wind swept the negro nation  
And on through the backwoods clearing flew:—*

***To the tune of "Hark, ten thousand harps and voices".***

*"Mumbo-Jumbo is dead in the jungle.  
Never again will he hoo-doo you.  
Never again will he hoo-doo you."*

*Redeemed were the forests, the beasts and the men,  
And only the vulture dared again  
By the far, lone mountains of the moon  
To cry, in the silence, the Congo tune:—*

***Dying down into a penetrating, terrified whisper.***

*"Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you,  
Mumbo-Jumbo will hoo-doo you.  
Mumbo... Jumbo... will... hoo-doo... you."*

This poem, particularly the third section, was suggested by an allusion in a sermon by my pastor, F. W. Burnham, to the heroic life and death of Ray Eldred. Eldred was a missionary of the Disciples of Christ who perished while swimming a treacherous branch of the Congo. See "A Master Builder on the Congo", by Andrew F. Hensey, published by Fleming H. Revell.

## **The Santa Fe Trail**

*(A Humoresque)*

I asked the old Negro, "What is that bird that sings so well?" He answered: "That is the Rachel-Jane." "Hasn't it another name, lark, or thrush, or the like?" "No. Jus' Rachel-Jane."

*I. In which a Racing Auto comes from the East*

***To be sung delicately, to an improvised tune.***

*This is the order of the music of the morning:—  
First, from the far East comes but a crooning.  
The crooning turns to a sunrise singing.  
Hark to the calm-horn, balm-horn, psalm-horn.  
Hark to the faint-horn, quaint-horn, saint-horn....*

***To be sung or read with great speed.***

*Hark to the pace-horn, chase-horn, race-horn.  
And the holy veil of the dawn has gone.  
Swiftly the brazen car comes on.  
It burns in the East as the sunrise burns.  
I see great flashes where the far trail turns.  
Its eyes are lamps like the eyes of dragons.  
It drinks gasoline from big red flagons.  
Butting through the delicate mists of the morning,  
It comes like lightning, goes past roaring.  
It will hail all the wind-mills, taunting, ringing,  
Dodge the cyclones,  
Count the milestones,  
On through the ranges the prairie-dog tills—  
Scooting past the cattle on the thousand hills....*

***To be read or sung in a rolling bass,  
with some deliberation.***

*Ho for the tear-horn, scare-horn, dare-horn,  
Ho for the gay-horn, bark-horn, bay-horn.  
Ho for Kansas, land that restores us*

*When houses choke us, and great books bore us!  
Sunrise Kansas, harvester's Kansas,  
A million men have found you before us.*

*II. In which Many Autos pass Westward*

***In an even, deliberate, narrative manner.***

*I want live things in their pride to remain.  
I will not kill one grasshopper vain  
Though he eats a hole in my shirt like a door.  
I let him out, give him one chance more.  
Perhaps, while he gnaws my hat in his whim,  
Grasshopper lyrics occur to him.*

*I am a tramp by the long trail's border,  
Given to squalor, rags and disorder.  
I nap and amble and yawn and look,  
Write fool-thoughts in my grubby book,  
Recite to the children, explore at my ease,  
Work when I work, beg when I please,  
Give crank-drawings, that make folks stare  
To the half-grown boys in the sunset glare,  
And get me a place to sleep in the hay  
At the end of a live-and-let-live day.*

*I find in the stubble of the new-cut weeds  
A whisper and a feasting, all one needs:  
The whisper of the strawberries, white and red  
Here where the new-cut weeds lie dead.*

*But I would not walk all alone till I die  
Without some life-drunk horns going by.  
Up round this apple-earth they come  
Blasting the whispers of the morning dumb:-  
Cars in a plain realistic row.  
And fair dreams fade  
When the raw horns blow.*

*On each snapping pennant  
A big black name:-  
The careering city  
Whence each car came.*

***Like a train-caller in a Union Depot.***

*They tour from Memphis, Atlanta, Savannah,  
Tallahassee and Texarkana.  
They tour from St. Louis, Columbus, Manistee,  
They tour from Peoria, Davenport, Kankakee.  
Cars from Concord, Niagara, Boston,  
Cars from Topeka, Emporia, and Austin.  
Cars from Chicago, Hannibal, Cairo.  
Cars from Alton, Oswego, Toledo.  
Cars from Buffalo, Kokomo, Delphi,  
Cars from Lodi, Carmi, Loami.  
Ho for Kansas, land that restores us  
When houses choke us, and great books bore us!  
While I watch the highroad  
And look at the sky,  
While I watch the clouds in amazing grandeur  
Roll their legions without rain  
Over the blistering Kansas plain-  
While I sit by the milestone  
And watch the sky,  
The United States  
Goes by.*

***To be given very harshly,  
with a snapping explosiveness.***

*Listen to the iron-horns, ripping, racking.  
Listen to the quack-horns, slack and clacking.  
Way down the road, trilling like a toad,  
Here comes the dice-horn, here comes the vice-horn,  
Here comes the snarl-horn, brawl-horn, lewd-horn,  
Followed by the prude-horn, bleak and squeaking:-  
(Some of them from Kansas, some of them from Kansas.)  
Here comes the hod-horn, plod-horn, sod-horn,  
Nevermore-to-roam-horn, loam-horn, home-horn.  
(Some of them from Kansas, some of them from Kansas.)*

***To be read or sung, well-nigh in a whisper.***

*Far away the Rachel-Jane  
Not defeated by the horns  
Sings amid a hedge of thorns:-  
"Love and life,  
Eternal youth-  
Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet,*



Dew and glory,  
Love and truth,  
Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet."

**Louder and louder, faster and faster.**

WHILE SMOKE-BLACK FREIGHTS ON THE DOUBLE-TRACKED RAILROAD,  
DRIVEN AS THOUGH BY THE FOUL-FIEND'S OX-GOAD,  
SCREAMING TO THE WEST COAST, SCREAMING TO THE EAST,  
CARRY OFF A HARVEST, BRING BACK A FEAST,  
HARVESTING MACHINERY AND HARNESS FOR THE BEAST.  
THE HAND-CARS WHIZ, AND RATTLE ON THE RAILS,  
THE SUNLIGHT FLASHES ON THE TIN DINNER-PAILS.

**In a rolling bass, with increasing deliberation.**

And then, in an instant,  
Ye modern men,  
Behold the procession once again,

**With a snapping explosiveness.**

Listen to the iron-horns, ripping, racking,  
Listen to the wise-horn, desperate-to-advise-horn,  
Listen to the fast-horn, kill-horn, blast-horn...

**To be sung or read well-nigh in a whisper.**

Far away the Rachel-Jane  
Not defeated by the horns  
Sings amid a hedge of thorns:-  
Love and life,  
Eternal youth,  
Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet,  
Dew and glory,  
Love and truth.  
Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet.

**To be brawled in the beginning with a  
snapping explosiveness, ending in a languorous chant.**

The mufflers open on a score of cars  
With wonderful thunder,  
CRACK, CRACK, CRACK,  
CRACK-CRACK, CRACK-CRACK,  
CRACK-CRACK-CRACK, ...  
Listen to the gold-horn...  
Old-horn...  
Cold-horn...  
And all of the tunes, till the night comes down  
On hay-stack, and ant-hill, and wind-bitten town.

**To be sung to exactly the same whispered tune  
as the first five lines.**

Then far in the west, as in the beginning,  
Dim in the distance, sweet in retreating,  
Hark to the faint-horn, quaint-horn, saint-horn,  
Hark to the calm-horn, balm-horn, psalm-horn...

**This section beginning sonorously,  
ending in a languorous whisper.**

They are hunting the goals that they understand:-  
San Francisco and the brown sea-sand.  
My goal is the mystery the beggars win.  
I am caught in the web the night-winds spin.  
The edge of the wheat-ridge speaks to me.  
I talk with the leaves of the mulberry tree.  
And now I hear, as I sit all alone  
In the dusk, by another big Santa Fe stone,  
The souls of the tall corn gathering round  
And the gay little souls of the grass in the ground.  
Listen to the tale the cotton-wood tells.  
Listen to the wind-mills, singing o'er the wells.  
Listen to the whistling flutes without price  
Of myriad prophets out of paradise.  
Harken to the wonder  
That the night-air carries...  
Listen... to... the... whisper...  
Of... the... prairie... fairies  
Singing o'er the fairy plain:-

**To the same whispered tune as the Rachel-Jane song-  
but very slowly.**

"Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet.  
Love and glory,  
Stars and rain,  
Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet...."

## The Firemen's Ball

Section One

"Give the engines room,  
Give the engines room."  
Louder, faster  
The little band-master  
Whips up the fluting,  
Hurries up the tooting.  
He thinks that he stands,

**To be read, or chanted, with the heavy buzzing bass  
of fire-engines pumping.**

The reins in his hands,  
In the fire-chief's place  
In the night alarm chase.  
The cymbals whang,  
The kettledrums bang:—

**In this passage the reading or chanting  
is shriller and higher.**

"Clear the street,  
Clear the street,  
Clear the street—Boom, boom.  
In the evening gloom,  
In the evening gloom,  
Give the engines room,  
Give the engines room,  
Lest souls be trapped  
In a terrible tomb."  
The sparks and the pine-brands  
Whirl on high  
From the black and reeking alleys  
To the wide red sky.  
Hear the hot glass crashing,  
Hear the stone steps hissing.  
Coal black streams  
Down the gutters pour.  
There are cries for help  
From a far fifth floor.  
For a longer ladder  
Hear the fire-chief call.  
Listen to the music  
Of the firemen's ball.  
Listen to the music  
Of the firemen's ball.

**To be read or chanted in a heavy bass.**

"'Tis the  
NIGHT  
Of doom,"  
Say the ding-dong doom-bells.  
"NIGHT  
Of doom,"  
Say the ding-dong doom-bells.  
Faster, faster  
The red flames come.  
"Hum grum," say the engines,  
"Hum grum grum."

**Shriller and higher.**

"Buzz, buzz,"  
Says the crowd.  
"See, see,"  
Calls the crowd.  
"Look out,"  
Yelps the crowd  
And the high walls fall:—  
Listen to the music  
Of the firemen's ball.  
Listen to the music  
Of the firemen's ball.

**Heavy bass.**

"'Tis the  
NIGHT  
Of doom,"  
Say the ding-dong doom-bells.  
"NIGHT  
Of doom,"  
Say the ding-dong doom-bells.  
Whangaranga, whangaranga,  
Whang, whang, whang,  
Clang, clang, clangaranga,  
**Bass, much slower.**  
Clang, clang, clang.  
Clang—a-ranga—  
Clang—a-ranga—  
Clang,

Clang,  
Clang.  
~~Listen-to-the-music-~~  
Of the firemen's ball-

Section Two

"Many's the heart that's breaking  
If we could read them all  
After the ball is over." (An old song.)

**To be read or sung slowly and softly,  
in the manner of lustful, insinuating music.**

Scornfully, gaily  
The bandmaster sways,  
Changing the strain  
That the wild band plays.  
With a red and royal intoxication,  
A tangle of sounds  
And a syncopation,  
Sweeping and bending  
From side to side,  
Master of dreams,  
With a peacock pride.  
A lord of the delicate flowers of delight  
He drives compunction  
Back through the night.  
Dreams he's a soldier  
Plumed and spurred,  
And valiant lads  
Arise at his word,  
Flaying the sober  
Thoughts he hates,  
Driving them back  
From the dream-town gates.  
How can the languorous  
Dancers know  
The red dreams come

**To be read or chanted slowly and softly  
in the manner of lustful insinuating music.**

When the good dreams go?  
'Tis the  
NIGHT  
Of love,"  
Call the silver joy-bells,  
"NIGHT  
Of love,"  
Call the silver joy-bells.  
"Honey and wine,  
Honey and wine.  
Sing low, now, violins,  
Sing, sing low,  
Blow gently, wood-wind,  
Mellow and slow.  
Like midnight poppies  
The sweethearts bloom.  
Their eyes flash power,  
Their lips are dumb.  
Faster and faster  
Their pulses come,  
Though softer now  
The drum-beats fall.  
Honey and wine,  
Honey and wine.  
'Tis the firemen's ball,  
'Tis the firemen's ball.

**With a climax of whispered mourning.**

"I am slain,"  
Cries true-love  
There in the shadow.  
"And I die,"  
Cries true-love,  
There laid low.  
"When the fire-dreams come,  
The wise dreams go."

**Suddenly interrupting. To be read or sung in  
a heavy bass. First eight lines as harsh as possible.  
Then gradually musical and sonorous.**

BUT HIS CRY IS DROWNED  
BY THE PROUD BAND-MASTER.  
And now great gongs whang,  
Sharper, faster,  
And kettledrums rattle

And hide the shame  
With a swish and a swirk  
In dead love's name.  
Red and crimson  
And scarlet and rose  
Magical poppies  
The sweethearts bloom.  
The scarlet stays  
When the rose-flush goes,  
And love lies low  
In a marble tomb.  
'Tis the  
NIGHT  
Of doom,"  
Call the ding-dong doom-bells.  
"NIGHT  
Of Doom,"  
Call the ding-dong doom-bells.

**Sharply interrupting in a very high key.**

Hark how the piccolos still make cheer.

"'Tis a moonlight night in the spring of the year."

**Heavy bass.**

CLANGARANGA, CLANGARANGA,  
CLANG... CLANG... CLANG.  
CLANG... A... RANGA...  
CLANG... A... RANGA...  
CLANG... CLANG... CLANG...  
LISTEN... TO... THE... MUSIC...  
OF... THE... FIREMEN'S BALL...  
LISTEN... TO... THE... MUSIC...  
OF... THE... FIREMEN'S... BALL....

### Section Three

In Which, contrary to Artistic Custom, the moral of the piece is placed before the reader.

(From the first Khandaka of the Mahavagga: "There Buddha thus addressed his disciples: 'Everything, O mendicants, is burning. With what fire is it burning? I declare unto you it is burning with the fire of passion, with the fire of anger, with the fire of ignorance. It is burning with the anxieties of birth, decay and death, grief, lamentation, suffering and despair.... A disciple,... becoming weary of all that, divests himself of passion. By absence of passion, he is made free.'")

**To be intoned after the manner of a priestly service.**

I once knew a teacher,  
Who turned from desire,  
Who said to the young men  
"Wine is a fire."  
Who said to the merchants:-  
"Gold is a flame  
That sears and tortures  
If you play at the game."  
I once knew a teacher  
Who turned from desire  
Who said to the soldiers,  
"Hate is a fire."  
Who said to the statesmen:-  
"Power is a flame  
That flays and blisters  
If you play at the game."  
I once knew a teacher  
Who turned from desire,  
Who said to the lordly,  
  
"Pride is a fire."  
Who thus warned the revellers:-  
"Life is a flame.  
Be cold as the dew  
Would you win at the game  
With hearts like the stars,  
With hearts like the stars."

**Interrupting very loudly for the last time.**

SO BEWARE,  
SO BEWARE,  
SO BEWARE OF THE FIRE.  
Clear the streets,  
BOOM, BOOM,  
Clear the streets,  
BOOM, BOOM,  
GIVE THE ENGINES ROOM,  
GIVE THE ENGINES ROOM,  
LEST SOULS BE TRAPPED

IN A TERRIBLE TOMB.  
 SAYS THE SWIFT WHITE HORSE  
 TO THE SWIFT BLACK HORSE:-  
 "THERE GOES THE ALARM,  
 THERE GOES THE ALARM.  
 THEY ARE HITCHED, THEY ARE OFF,  
 THEY ARE GONE IN A FLASH,  
 AND THEY STRAIN AT THE DRIVER'S IRON ARM."  
 CLANG... A... RANGA.... CLANG... A... RANGA....  
 CLANG... CLANG... CLANG....  
 CLANG... A... RANGA.... CLANG... A... RANGA....  
 CLANG... CLANG... CLANG....  
 CLANG... A... RANGA.... CLANG... A... RANGA....  
 CLANG... CLANG... CLANG....

## The Master of the Dance

A chant to which it is intended a group of children shall dance and improvise pantomime led by their dancing-teacher.

I

*A master deep-eyed  
 Ere his manhood was ripe,  
 He sang like a thrush,  
 He could play any pipe.  
 So dull in the school  
 That he scarcely could spell,  
 He read but a bit,  
 And he figured not well.  
 A bare-footed fool,  
 Shod only with grace;  
 Long hair streaming down  
 Round a wind-hardened face;  
 He smiled like a girl,  
 Or like clear winter skies,  
 A virginal light  
 Making stars of his eyes.  
 In swiftness and poise,  
 A proud child of the deer,  
 A white fawn he was,  
 Yet a fawn without fear.  
 No youth thought him vain,  
 Or made mock of his hair,  
 Or laughed when his ways  
 Were most curiously fair.  
 A mastiff at fight,  
 He could strike to the earth  
 The envious one  
 Who would challenge his worth.  
 However we bowed  
 To the schoolmaster mild,  
 Our spirits went out  
 To the fawn-footed child.  
 His beckoning led  
 Our troop to the brush.  
 We found nothing there  
 But a wind and a hush.  
 He sat by a stone  
 And he looked on the ground,  
 As if in the weeds  
 There was something profound.  
 His pipe seemed to neigh,  
 Then to bleat like a sheep,  
 Then sound like a stream  
 Or a waterfall deep.  
 It whispered strange tales,  
 Human words it spoke not.  
 Told fair things to come,  
 And our marvellous lot  
 If now with fawn-steps  
 Unshod we advanced  
 To the midst of the grove  
 And in reverence danced.  
 We obeyed as he piped  
 Soft grass to young feet,  
 Was a medicine mighty,  
 A remedy meet.*

*Our thin blood awoke,  
It grew dizzy and wild,  
Though scarcely a word  
Moved the lips of a child.  
Our dance gave allegiance,  
It set us apart,  
We tripped a strange measure,  
Uplifted of heart.*

II

*We thought to be proud  
Of our fawn everywhere.  
We could hardly see how  
Simple books were a care.  
No rule of the school  
This strange student could tame.  
He was banished one day,  
While we quivered with shame.  
He piped back our love  
On a moon-silvered night,  
Enticed us once more  
To the place of delight.  
A greeting he sang  
And it made our blood beat,  
It tramped upon custom  
And mocked at defeat.  
He builded a fire  
And we tripped in a ring,  
The embers our books  
And the fawn our good king.  
And now we approached  
All the mysteries rare  
That shadowed his eyelids  
And blew through his hair.  
That spell now was peace  
The deep strength of the trees,  
The children of nature  
We clambered her knees.  
Our breath and our moods  
Were in tune with her own,  
Tremendous her presence,  
Eternal her throne.  
The ostracized child  
Our white foreheads kissed,  
Our bodies and souls  
Became lighter than mist.  
Sweet dresses like snow  
Our small lady-loves wore,  
Like moonlight the thoughts  
That our bosoms upbore.  
Like a lily the touch  
Of each cold little hand.  
The loves of the stars  
We could now understand.  
O quivering air!  
O the crystalline night!  
O pauses of awe  
And the faces swan-white!  
O ferns in the dusk!  
O forest-shrined hour!  
O earth that sent upward  
The thrill and the power,  
To lift us like leaves,  
A delirious whirl,  
The masterful boy  
And the delicate girl!  
What child that strange night-time  
Can ever forget?  
His fealty due  
And his infinite debt  
To the folly divine,  
To the exquisite rule  
Of the perilous master,  
The fawn-footed fool?*

III

*Now soldiers we seem,  
And night brings a new thing,  
A terrible ire,  
As of thunder awing.  
A warrior power,  
That old chivalry stirred,*

*When knights took up arms,  
As the maidens gave word.  
THE END OF OUR WAR,  
WILL BE GLORY UNTOLD.  
WHEN THE TOWN LIKE A GREAT  
BUDDING ROSE SHALL UNFOLD!  
Near, nearer that war,  
And that ecstasy comes,  
We hear the trees beating  
Invisible drums.  
The fields of the night  
Are starlit above,  
Our girls are white torches  
Of conquest and love.  
No nerve without will,  
And no breast without breath,  
We whirl with the planets  
That never know death!*

## **The Mysterious Cat**

A chant for a children's pantomime dance, suggested by a picture painted by George Mather Richards.

*I saw a proud, mysterious cat,  
I saw a proud, mysterious cat  
Too proud to catch a mouse or rat—  
Mew, mew, mew.*

*But catnip she would eat, and purr,  
But catnip she would eat, and purr.  
And goldfish she did much prefer—  
Mew, mew, mew.*

*I saw a cat—'twas but a dream,  
I saw a cat—'twas but a dream  
Who scorned the slave that brought her cream—  
Mew, mew, mew.*

*Unless the slave were dressed in style,  
Unless the slave were dressed in style  
And knelt before her all the while—  
Mew, mew, mew.*

*Did you ever hear of a thing like that?  
Did you ever hear of a thing like that?  
Did you ever hear of a thing like that?  
Oh, what a proud mysterious cat.  
Oh, what a proud mysterious cat.  
Oh, what a proud mysterious cat.  
Mew... mew... mew.*

## **A Dirge for a Righteous Kitten**

To be intoned, all but the two italicized lines, which are to be spoken in a snappy, matter-of-fact way.

*Ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong.  
Here lies a kitten good, who kept  
A kitten's proper place.  
He stole no pantry eatables,  
Nor scratched the baby's face.  
He let the alley-cats alone.  
He had no yowling vice.  
His shirt was always laundried well,  
He freed the house of mice.  
Until his death he had not caused  
His little mistress tears,  
He wore his ribbon prettily,  
He washed behind his ears.  
Ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong.*

## Yankee Doodle

This poem is intended as a description of a sort of Blashfield mural painting on the sky. To be sung to the tune of Yankee Doodle, yet in a slower, more orotund fashion. It is presumably an exercise for an entertainment on the evening of Washington's Birthday.

*Dawn this morning burned all red  
Watching them in wonder.  
There I saw our spangled flag  
Divide the clouds asunder.  
Then there followed Washington.  
Ah, he rode from glory,  
Cold and mighty as his name  
And stern as Freedom's story.  
Unsubdued by burning dawn  
Led his continentals.  
Vast they were, and strange to see  
In gray old regimentals:-  
Marching still with bleeding feet,  
Bleeding feet and jesting-  
Marching from the judgment throne  
With energy unresting.  
How their merry quickstep played-  
Silver, sharp, sonorous,  
Piercing through with prophecy  
The demons' rumbling chorus-  
Behold the ancient powers of sin  
And slavery before them!-  
Sworn to stop the glorious dawn,  
The pit-black clouds hung o'er them.  
Plagues that rose to blast the day  
Fiend and tiger faces,  
Monsters plotting bloodshed for  
The patient toiling races.  
Round the dawn their cannon raged,  
Hurling bolts of thunder,  
Yet before our spangled flag  
Their host was cut asunder.  
Like a mist they fled away....  
Ended wrath and roaring.  
Still our restless soldier-host  
From East to West went pouring.*

*High beside the sun of noon  
They bore our banner splendid.  
All its days of stain and shame  
And heaviness were ended.  
Men were swelling now the throng  
From great and lowly station-  
Valiant citizens to-day  
Of every tribe and nation.  
Not till night their rear-guard came,  
Down the west went marching,  
And left behind the sunset-rays  
In beauty overarching.  
War-god banners lead us still,  
Rob, enslave and harry  
Let us rather choose to-day  
The flag the angels carry-  
Flag we love, but brighter far-  
Soul of it made splendid:  
Let its days of stain and shame  
And heaviness be ended.  
Let its fives fill all the sky,  
Redeemed souls marching after,  
Hills and mountains shake with song,  
While seas roll on in laughter.*

## The Black Hawk War of the Artists



## Written for Lorado Taft's Statue of Black Hawk at Oregon, Illinois

To be given in the manner of the Indian Oration and the Indian War-Cry.

*Hawk of the Rocks,  
Yours is our cause to-day.  
Watching your foes  
Here in our war array,  
Young men we stand,  
Wolves of the West at bay.  
Power, power for war  
Comes from these trees divine;  
Power from the boughs,  
Boughs where the dew-beads shine,  
Power from the cones—  
Yea, from the breath of the pine!*

*Power to restore  
All that the white hand mars.  
See the dead east  
Crushed with the iron cars—  
Chimneys black  
Blinding the sun and stars!*

*Hawk of the pines,  
Hawk of the plain-winds fleet,  
You shall be king  
There in the iron street,  
Factory and forge  
Trodden beneath your feet.*

*There will proud trees  
Grow as they grow by streams.  
There will proud thoughts  
Walk as in warrior dreams.  
There will proud deeds  
Bloom as when battle gleams!*

*Warriors of Art,  
We will hold council there,  
Hewing in stone  
Things to the trapper fair,  
Painting the gray  
Veils that the spring moons wear,  
This our revenge,  
This one tremendous change:  
Making new towns,  
Lit with a star-fire strange,  
Wild as the dawn  
Gilding the bison-range.*

*All the young men  
Chanting your cause that day,  
Red-men, new-made  
Out of the Saxon clay,  
Strong and redeemed,  
Bold in your war-array!*

## The Jingo and the Minstrel

An Argument for the Maintenance of Peace and Goodwill with the Japanese People

Glossary for the uninstructed and the hasty: Jimmu Tenno, ancestor of all the Japanese Emperors; Nikko, Japan's loveliest shrine; Iyeyasu, her greatest statesman; Bushido, her code of knighthood; The Forty-seven Ronins, her classic heroes; Nogi, her latest hero; Fuji, her most beautiful mountain.

*The minstrel speaks.*

*"Now do you know of Avalon  
That sailors call Japan?  
She holds as rare a chivalry  
As ever bled for man.  
King Arthur sleeps at Nikko hill  
Where Iyeyasu lies,  
And there the broad Pendragon flag*

*In deathless splendor flies."*

***The jingo answers.***

*"Nay, minstrel, but the great ships come  
From out the sunset sea.  
We cannot greet the souls they bring  
With welcome high and free.  
How can the Nippon nondescripts  
That weird and dreadful band  
Be aught but what we find them here:—  
The blasters of the land?"*

***The minstrel replies.***

*"First race, first men from anywhere  
To face you, eye to eye.  
For that do you curse Avalon  
And raise a hue and cry?  
These toilers cannot kiss your hand,  
Or fawn with hearts bowed down.  
Be glad for them, and Avalon,  
And Arthur's ghostly crown.*

*"No doubt your guests, with sage debate  
In grave things gentlemen  
Will let your trade and farms alone  
And turn them back again.  
But why should brawling braggarts rise  
With hasty words of shame  
To drive them back like dogs and swine  
Who in due honor came?"*

***The jingo answers.***

*"We cannot give them honor, sir.  
We give them scorn for scorn.  
And Rumor steals around the world  
All white-skinned men to warn  
Against this sleek silk-merchant here  
And viler coolie-man  
And wrath within the courts of war  
Brews on against Japan!"*

***The minstrel replies.***

*"Must Avalon, with hope forlorn,  
Her back against the wall,  
Have lived her brilliant life in vain  
While ruder tribes take all?  
Must Arthur stand with Asian Celts,  
A ghost with spear and crown,  
Behind the great Pendragon flag  
And be again cut down?"*

*"Tho Europe's self shall move against  
High Jimmu Tenno's throne  
The Forty-seven Ronin Men  
Will not be found alone.  
For Percival and Bedivere  
And Nogi side by side  
Will stand,—with mourning Merlin there,  
Tho all go down in pride.*

*"But has the world the envious dream—  
Ah, such things cannot be,—  
To tear their fairy-land like silk  
And toss it in the sea?  
Must venom rob the future day  
The ultimate world-man  
Of rare Bushido, code of codes,  
The fair heart of Japan?"*

*"Go, be the guest of Avalon.  
Believe me, it lies there  
Behind the mighty gray sea-wall  
Where heathen bend in prayer:  
Where peasants lift adoring eyes  
To Fuji's crown of snow.  
King Arthur's knights will be your hosts,  
So cleanse your heart, and go.*

*"And you will find but gardens sweet  
Prepared beyond the seas,  
And you will find but gentlefolk  
Beneath the cherry-trees.  
So walk you worthy of your Christ*

*Tho church bells do not sound,  
And weave the bands of brotherhood  
On Jimmu Tenno's ground."*

## **I Heard Immanuel Singing**

(The poem shows the Master, with his work done, singing to free his heart in Heaven.)

This poem is intended to be half said, half sung, very softly, to the well-known tune:—

*"Last night I lay a-sleeping,  
There came a dream so fair,  
I stood in Old Jerusalem  
Beside the temple there,—" etc.*

Yet this tune is not to be fitted on, arbitrarily. It is here given to suggest the manner of handling rather than determine it.

### **To be sung.**

*I heard Immanuel singing  
Within his own good lands,  
I saw him bend above his harp.  
I watched his wandering hands  
Lost amid the harp-strings;  
Sweet, sweet I heard him play.  
His wounds were altogether healed.  
Old things had passed away.*

*All things were new, but music.  
The blood of David ran  
Within the Son of David,  
Our God, the Son of Man.  
He was ruddy like a shepherd.  
His bold young face, how fair.  
Apollo of the silver bow  
Had not such flowing hair.*

### **To be read very softly, but in spirited response.**

*I saw Immanuel singing  
On a tree-girdled hill.  
The glad remembering branches  
Dimly echoed still  
The grand new song proclaiming  
The Lamb that had been slain.  
New-built, the Holy City  
Gleamed in the murmuring plain.*

*The crowning hours were over.  
The pageants all were past.  
Within the many mansions  
The hosts, grown still at last,  
In homes of holy mystery  
Slept long by crooning springs  
Or waked to peaceful glory,  
A universe of Kings.*

### **To be sung.**

*He left his people happy.  
He wandered free to sigh  
Alone in lowly friendship  
With the green grass and the sky.  
He murmured ancient music  
His red heart burned to sing  
Because his perfect conquest  
Had grown a weary thing.*

*No chant of gilded triumph—  
His lonely song was made  
Of Art's deliberate freedom;  
Of minor chords arrayed  
In soft and shadowy colors  
That once were radiant flowers:—  
The Rose of Sharon, bleeding  
In Olive-shadowed bowers:—*

*And all the other roses*

*In the songs of East and West  
Of love and war and worshipping,  
And every shield and crest  
Of thistle or of lotus  
Or sacred lily wrought  
In creeds and psalms and palaces  
And temples of white thought:-*

***To be read very softly, yet in spirited response.***

*All these he sang, half-smiling  
And weeping as he smiled,  
Laughing, talking to his harp  
As to a new-born child:-  
As though the arts forgotten  
But bloomed to prophecy  
These careless, fearless harp-strings,  
New-crying in the sky.*

***To be sung.***

*"When this his hour of sorrow  
For flowers and Arts of men  
Has passed in ghostly music,"  
I asked my wild heart then-  
What will he sing to-morrow,  
What wonder, all his own  
Alone, set free, rejoicing,  
With a green hill for his throne?  
What will he sing to-morrow  
What wonder all his own  
Alone, set free, rejoicing,  
With a green hill for his throne?*

## **Second Section ~ ~ Incense**

### **An Argument**

#### *I. The Voice of the Man Impatient with Visions and Utopias*

*We find your soft Utopias as white  
As new-cut bread, and dull as life in cells,  
O, scribes who dare forget how wild we are  
How human breasts adore alarum bells.  
You house us in a hive of prigs and saints  
Communal, frugal, clean and chaste by law.  
I'd rather brood in bloody Elsinore  
Or be Lear's fool, straw-crowned amid the straw.  
Promise us all our share in Agincourt  
Say that our clerks shall venture scorns and death,  
That future ant-hills will not be too good  
For Henry Fifth, or Hotspur, or Macbeth.  
Promise that through to-morrow's spirit-war  
Man's deathless soul will hack and hew its way,  
Each flaunting Caesar climbing to his fate  
Scorning the utmost steps of yesterday.  
Never a shallow jester any more!  
Let not Jack Falstaff spill the ale in vain.  
Let Touchstone set the fashions for the wise  
And Ariel wreak his fancies through the rain.*

#### *II. The Rhymer's Reply. Incense and Splendor*

*Incense and Splendor haunt me as I go.  
Though my good works have been, alas, too few,  
Though I do naught, High Heaven comes down to me,  
And future ages pass in tall review.  
I see the years to come as armies vast,  
Stalking tremendous through the fields of time.  
MAN is unborn. To-morrow he is born,  
Flame-like to hover o'er the moil and grime,  
Striving, aspiring till the shame is gone,  
Sowing a million flowers, where now we mourn-  
Laying new, precious pavements with a song,  
Founding new shrines, the good streets to adorn.*

*I have seen lovers by those new-built walls  
Clothed like the dawn in orange, gold and red.  
Eyes flashing forth the glory-light of love  
Under the wreaths that crowned each royal head.  
Life was made greater by their sweetheart prayers.  
Passion was turned to civic strength that day—  
Piling the marbles, making fairer domes  
With zeal that else had burned bright youth away.  
I have seen priestesses of life go by  
Gliding in samite through the incense-sea—  
Innocent children marching with them there,  
Singing in flowered robes, "THE EARTH IS FREE":  
While on the fair, deep-carved unfinished towers  
Sentinels watched in armor, night and day—  
Guarding the brazier-fires of hope and dream—  
Wild was their peace, and dawn-bright their array!*

## **A Rhyme about an Electrical Advertising Sign**

*I look on the specious electrical light  
Blatant, mechanical, crawling and white,  
Wickedly red or malignantly green  
Like the beads of a young Senegambian queen.  
Showing, while millions of souls hurry on,  
The virtues of collars, from sunset till dawn,  
By dart or by tumble of whirl within whirl,  
Starting new fads for the shame-weary girl,  
By maggoty motions in sickening line  
Proclaiming a hat or a soup or a wine,  
While there far above the steep cliffs of the street  
The stars sing a message elusive and sweet.*

*Now man cannot rest in his pleasure and toil  
His clumsy contraptions of coil upon coil  
Till the thing he invents, in its use and its range,  
Leads on to the marvellous CHANGE BEYOND CHANGE.  
Some day this old Broadway shall climb to the skies,  
As a ribbon of cloud on a soul-wind shall rise.  
And we shall be lifted, rejoicing by night,  
Till we join with the planets who choir their delight.  
The signs in the street and the signs in the skies  
Shall make a new Zodiac, guiding the wise,  
And Broadway make one with that marvellous stair  
That is climbed by the rainbow-clad spirits of prayer.*

## **In Memory of a Child**

*The angels guide him now,  
And watch his curly head,  
And lead him in their games,  
The little boy we led.*

*He cannot come to harm,  
He knows more than we know,  
His light is brighter far  
Than daytime here below.*

*His path leads on and on,  
Through pleasant lawns and flowers,  
His brown eyes open wide  
At grass more green than ours.*

*With playmates like himself,  
The shining boy will sing,  
Exploring wondrous woods,  
Sweet with eternal spring.*

# Galahad, Knight Who Perished

*A Poem Dedicated to All Crusaders against the International and Interstate  
Traffic in Young Girls*

*Galahad... soldier that perished... ages ago,  
Our hearts are breaking with shame, our tears overflow.  
Galahad... knight who perished... awaken again,  
Teach us to fight for immaculate ways among men.  
Soldiers fantastic, we pray to the star of the sea,  
We pray to the mother of God that the bound may be free.  
Rose-crowned lady from heaven, give us thy grace,  
Help us the intricate, desperate battle to face  
Till the leer of the trader is seen nevermore in the land,  
Till we bring every maid of the age to one sheltering hand.  
Ah, they are priceless, the pale and the ivory and red!  
Breathless we gaze on the curls of each glorious head!  
Arm them with strength mediaeval, thy marvellous dower,  
Blast now their tempters, shelter their steps with thy power.  
Leave not life's fairest to perish—strangers to thee,  
Let not the weakest be shipwrecked, oh, star of the sea!*

## The Leaden-eyed

*Let not young souls be smothered out before  
They do quaint deeds and fully flaunt their pride.  
It is the world's one crime its babes grow dull,  
Its poor are ox-like, limp and leaden-eyed.  
Not that they starve, but starve so dreamlessly,  
Not that they sow, but that they seldom reap,  
Not that they serve, but have no gods to serve,  
Not that they die, but that they die like sheep.*

## An Indian Summer Day on the Prairie

*(In the Beginning)*

*The sun is a huntress young,  
The sun is a red, red joy,  
The sun is an Indian girl,  
Of the tribe of the Illinois.*

*(Mid-morning)*

*The sun is a smouldering fire,  
That creeps through the high gray plain,  
And leaves not a bush of cloud  
To blossom with flowers of rain.*

*(Noon)*

*The sun is a wounded deer,  
That treads pale grass in the skies,  
Shaking his golden horns,  
Flashing his baleful eyes.*

*(Sunset)*

*The sun is an eagle old,  
There in the windless west.  
Atop of the spirit-cliffs  
He builds him a crimson nest.*

## The Hearth Eternal

*There dwelt a widow learned and devout,  
Behind our hamlet on the eastern hill.*

Three sons she had, who went to find the world.  
 They promised to return, but wandered still.  
 The cities used them well, they won their way,  
 Rich gifts they sent, to still their mother's sighs.  
 Worn out with honors, and apart from her,  
 They died as many a self-made exile dies.  
 The mother had a hearth that would not quench,  
 The deathless embers fought the creeping gloom.  
 She said to us who came with wondering eyes—  
 "This is a magic fire, a magic room."  
 The pine burned out, but still the coals glowed on,  
 Her grave grew old beneath the pear-tree shade,  
 And yet her crumbling home enshrined the light.  
 The neighbors peering in were half afraid.  
 Then sturdy beggars, needing fagots, came,  
 One at a time, and stole the walls, and floor.  
 They left a naked stone, but how it blazed!  
 And in the thunderstorm it flared the more.  
 And now it was that men were heard to say,  
 "This light should be beloved by all the town."  
 At last they made the slope a place of prayer,  
 Where marvellous thoughts from God came sweeping down.  
 They left their churches crumbling in the sun,  
 They met on that soft hill, one brotherhood;  
 One strength and valor only, one delight,  
 One laughing, brooding genius, great and good.  
 Now many gray-haired prodigals come home,  
 The place out-flames the cities of the land,  
 And twice-born Brahmans reach us from afar,  
 With subtle eyes prepared to understand.  
 Higher and higher burns the eastern steep,  
 Showing the roads that march from every place,  
 A steady beacon o'er the weary leagues,  
 At dead of night it lights the traveller's face!  
 Thus has the widow conquered half the earth,  
 She who increased in faith, though all alone,  
 Who kept her empty house a magic place,  
 Has made the town a holy angel's throne.

## The Soul of the City Receives the Gift of the Holy Spirit

*A Broadside distributed in Springfield, Illinois*

Censers are swinging  
 Over the town;  
 Censers are swinging,  
 Look overhead!  
 Censers are swinging,  
 Heaven comes down.  
 City, dead city,  
 Awake from the dead!

Censers, tremendous,  
 Gleam overhead.  
 Wind-harps are ringing,  
 Wind-harps unseen—  
 Calling and calling:—  
 "Wake from the dead.  
 Rise, little city,  
 Shine like a queen."

Soldiers of Christ  
 For battle grow keen.  
 Heaven-sent winds  
 Haunt alley and lane.  
 Singing of life  
 In town-meadows green  
 After the toil  
 And battle and pain.

Incense is pouring  
 Like the spring rain  
 Down on the mob  
 That moil through the street.  
 Blessed are they  
 Who behold it and gain

*Power made more mighty  
Thro' every defeat.*

*Builders, toil on.  
Make all complete.  
Make Springfield wonderful.  
Make her renown  
Worthy this day,  
Till, at God's feet,  
Tranced, saved forever,  
Waits the white town.*

*Censers are swinging  
Over the town,  
Censers gigantic!  
Look overhead!  
Hear the winds singing:-  
"Heaven comes down.  
City, dead city,  
Awake from the dead."*

## **By the Spring, at Sunset**

*Sometimes we remember kisses,  
Remember the dear heart-leap when they came:  
Not always, but sometimes we remember  
The kindness, the dumbness, the good flame  
Of laughter and farewell.*

*Beside the road  
Afar from those who said "Good-by" I write,  
Far from my city task, my lawful load.*

*Sun in my face, wind beside my shoulder,  
Streaming clouds, banners of new-born night  
Enchant me now. The splendors growing bolder  
Make bold my soul for some new wise delight.*

*I write the day's event, and quench my drouth,  
Pausing beside the spring with happy mind.  
And now I feel those kisses on my mouth,  
Hers most of all, one little friend most kind.*

## **I Went down into the Desert**

*I went down into the desert  
To meet Elijah-  
Arise from the dead.  
I thought to find him in an echoing cave;  
For so my dream had said.*

*I went down into the desert  
To meet John the Baptist.  
I walked with feet that bled,  
Seeking that prophet lean and brown and bold.  
I spied foul fiends instead.*

*I went down into the desert  
To meet my God.  
By him be comforted.  
I went down into the desert  
To meet my God.  
And I met the devil in red.*

*I went down into the desert  
To meet my God.  
O, Lord my God, awaken from the dead!  
I see you there, your thorn-crown on the ground,  
I see you there, half-buried in the sand.  
I see you there, your white bones glistening, bare,  
The carrion-birds a-wheeling round your head.*



## Love and Law

*True Love is founded in rocks of Remembrance  
In stones of Forbearance and mortar of Pain.  
The workman lays wearily granite on granite,  
And bleeds for his castle 'mid sunshine and rain.*

*Love is not velvet, not all of it velvet,  
Not all of it banners, not gold-leaf alone.  
'Tis stern as the ages and old as Religion.  
With Patience its watchword, and Law for its throne.*

## The Perfect Marriage

### I

*I hate this yoke; for the world's sake here put it on:  
Knowing 'twill weigh as much on you till life is gone.  
Knowing you love your freedom dear, as I love mine—  
Knowing that love unchained has been our life's great wine:  
Our one great wine (yet spent too soon, and serving none;  
Of the two cups free love at last the deadly one).*

### II

*We grant our meetings will be tame, not honey-sweet  
No longer turning to the tryst with flying feet.  
We know the toil that now must come will spoil the bloom  
And tenderness of passion's touch, and in its room  
Will come tame habit, deadly calm, sorrow and gloom.  
Oh, how the battle scars the best who enter life!  
Each soldier comes out blind or lame from the black strife.  
Mad or diseased or damned of soul the best may come—  
It matters not how merrily now rolls the drum,  
The fife shrills high, the horn sings loud, till no steps lag—  
And all adore that silken flame, Desire's great flag.*

### III

*We will build strong our tiny fort, strong as we can—  
Holding one inner room beyond the sword of man.  
Love is too wide, it seems to-day, to hide it there.  
It seems to flood the fields of corn, and gild the air—  
It seems to breathe from every brook, from flowers to sigh—  
It seems a cataract poured down from the great sky;  
It seems a tenderness so vast no bush but shows  
Its haunting and transfiguring light where wonder glows.  
It wraps us in a silken snare by shadowy streams,  
And wildering sweet and stung with joy your white soul seems  
A flame, a flame, conquering day, conquering night,  
Brought from our God, a holy thing, a mad delight.  
But love, when all things beat it down, leaves the wide air,  
The heavens are gray, and men turn wolves, lean with despair.  
Ah, when we need love most, and weep, when all is dark,  
Love is a pinch of ashes gray, with one live spark—  
Yet on the hope to keep alive that treasure strange  
Hangs all earth's struggle, strife and scorn, and desperate change.*

### IV

*Love?... we will scarcely love our babes full many a time—  
Knowing their souls and ours too well, and all our grime—  
And there beside our holy hearth we'll hide our eyes—  
Lest we should flash what seems disdain without disguise.  
Yet there shall be no wavering there in that deep trial—  
And no false fire or stranger hand or traitor vile—  
We'll fight the gloom and fight the world with strong sword-play,  
Entrenched within our block-house small, ever at bay—  
As fellow-warriors, underpaid, wounded and wild,  
True to their battered flag, their faith still undefiled!*

## Darling Daughter of Babylon

*Too soon you wearied of our tears.  
And then you danced with spangled feet,  
Leading Belshazzar's chattering court  
A-tinkling through the shadowy street.  
With mead they came, with chants of shame.  
DESIRE'S red flag before them flew.  
And Istar's music moved your mouth  
And Baal's deep shames rewoke in you.*

*Now you could drive the royal car;  
Forget our Nation's breaking load:  
Now you could sleep on silver beds—  
(Bitter and dark was our abode.)  
And so, for many a night you laughed,  
And knew not of my hopeless prayer,  
Till God's own spirit whipped you forth  
From Istar's shrine, from Istar's stair.*

*Darling daughter of Babylon—  
Rose by the black Euphrates flood—  
Again your beauty grew more dear  
Than my slave's bread, than my heart's blood.  
We sang of Zion, good to know,  
Where righteousness and peace abide...  
What of your second sacrilege  
Carousing at Belshazzar's side?*

*Once, by a stream, we clasped tired hands—  
Your paint and henna washed away.  
Your place, you said, was with the slaves  
Who sewed the thick cloth, night and day.  
You were a pale and holy maid  
Toil-bound with us. One night you said:—  
"Your God shall be my God until  
I slumber with the patriarch dead."*

*Pardon, daughter of Babylon,  
If, on this night remembering  
Our lover walks under the walls  
Of hanging gardens in the spring,  
A venom comes from broken hope,  
From memories of your comrade-song  
Until I curse your painted eyes  
And do your flower-mouth too much wrong.*

## The Amaranth

*Ah, in the night, all music haunts me here...  
Is it for naught high Heaven cracks and yawns  
And the tremendous Amaranth descends  
Sweet with the glory of ten thousand dawns?*

*Does it not mean my God would have me say:—  
"Whether you will or no, O city young,  
Heaven will bloom like one great flower for you,  
Flash and loom greatly all your marts among?"*

*Friends, I will not cease hoping though you weep.  
Such things I see, and some of them shall come  
Though now our streets are harsh and ashen-gray,  
Though our strong youths are strident now, or dumb.  
Friends, that sweet town, that wonder-town, shall rise.  
Naught can delay it. Though it may not be  
Just as I dream, it comes at last I know  
With streets like channels of an incense-sea.*

## The Alchemist's Petition

*Thou wilt not sentence to eternal life  
My soul that prays that it may sleep and sleep  
Like a white statue dropped into the deep,  
Covered with sand, covered with chests of gold,  
And slave-bones, tossed from many a pirate hold.*

*But for this prayer thou wilt not bind in Hell  
My soul, that shook with love for Fame and Truth—  
In such unquenched desires consumed his youth—  
Let me turn dust, like dead leaves in the Fall,  
Or wood that lights an hour your knightly hall—  
Amen.*

## **Two Easter Stanzas**

### *I*

#### *The Hope of the Resurrection*

*Though I have watched so many mourners weep  
O'er the real dead, in dull earth laid asleep—  
Those dead seemed but the shadows of my days  
That passed and left me in the sun's bright rays.  
Now though you go on smiling in the sun  
Our love is slain, and love and you were one.  
You are the first, you I have known so long,  
Whose death was deadly, a tremendous wrong.  
Therefore I seek the faith that sets it right  
Amid the lilies and the candle-light.  
I think on Heaven, for in that air so clear  
We two may meet, confused and parted here.  
Ah, when man's dearest dies, 'tis then he goes  
To that old balm that heals the centuries' woes.  
Then Christ's wild cry in all the streets is rife:—  
"I am the Resurrection and the Life."*

### *II*

#### *We meet at the Judgment and I fear it Not*

*Though better men may fear that trumpet's warning,  
I meet you, lady, on the Judgment morning,  
With golden hope my spirit still adorning.*

*Our God who made you all so fair and sweet  
Is three times gentle, and before his feet  
Rejoicing I shall say:—"The girl you gave  
Was my first Heaven, an angel bent to save.  
Oh, God, her maker, if my ingrate breath  
Is worth this rescue from the Second Death,  
Perhaps her dear proud eyes grow gentler too  
That scorned my graceless years and trophies few.  
Gone are those years, and gone ill-deeds that turned  
Her sacred beauty from my songs that burned.  
We now as comrades through the stars may take  
The rich and arduous quests I did forsake.  
Grant me a seraph-guide to thread the throng  
And quickly find that woman-soul so strong.  
I dream that in her deeply-hidden heart  
Hurt love lived on, though we were far apart,  
A brooding secret mercy like your own  
That blooms to-day to vindicate your throne.*

## **The Traveller-heart**

(To a Man who maintained that the Mausoleum is the Stateliest Possible Manner  
of Interment)

*I would be one with the dark, dark earth:—  
Follow the plough with a yokel tread.  
I would be part of the Indian corn,  
Walking the rows with the plumes o'erhead.*

*I would be one with the lavish earth,  
Eating the bee-stung apples red:  
Walking where lambs walk on the hills;  
By oak-grove paths to the pools be led.*

*I would be one with the dark-bright night  
When sparkling skies and the lightning wed—  
Walking on with the vicious wind  
By roads whence even the dogs have fled.*

*I would be one with the sacred earth  
On to the end, till I sleep with the dead.  
Terror shall put no spears through me.  
Peace shall jewel my shroud instead.*

*I shall be one with all pit-black things  
Finding their lowering threat unsaid:  
Stars for my pillow there in the gloom,—  
Oak-roots arching about my head!*

*Stars, like daisies, shall rise through the earth,  
Acorns fall round my breast that bled.  
Children shall weave there a flowery chain,  
Squirrels on acorn-hearts be fed:—*

*Fruit of the traveller-heart of me,  
Fruit of my harvest-songs long sped:  
Sweet with the life of my sunburned days  
When the sheaves were ripe, and the apples red.*

## **The North Star Whispers to the Blacksmith's Son**

*The North Star whispers: "You are one  
Of those whose course no chance can change.  
You blunder, but are not undone,  
Your spirit-task is fixed and strange.*

*"When here you walk, a bloodless shade,  
A singer all men else forget.  
Your chants of hammer, forge and spade  
Will move the prairie-village yet.*

*"That young, stiff-necked, reviling town  
Beholds your fancies on her walls,  
And paints them out or tears them down,  
Or bars them from her feasting-halls.*

*"Yet shall the fragments still remain;  
Yet shall remain some watch-tower strong  
That ivy-vines will not disdain,  
Haunted and trembling with your song.*

*"Your flambeau in the dusk shall burn,  
Flame high in storms, flame white and clear;  
Your ghost in gleaming robes return  
And burn a deathless incense here."*

## **Third Section ~~ A Miscellany called "the Christmas Tree"**

### **This Section is a Christmas Tree**

*This section is a Christmas tree:  
Loaded with pretty toys for you.  
Behold the blocks, the Noah's arks,  
The popguns painted red and blue.*

No solemn pine-cone forest-fruit,  
But silver horns and candy sacks  
And many little tinsel hearts  
And cherubs pink, and jumping-jacks.  
For every child a gift, I hope.  
The doll upon the topmost bough  
Is mine. But all the rest are yours.  
And I will light the candles now.

## The Sun Says his Prayers

"The sun says his prayers," said the fairy,  
Or else he would wither and die.  
"The sun says his prayers," said the fairy,  
"For strength to climb up through the sky.  
He leans on invisible angels,  
And Faith is his prop and his rod.  
The sky is his crystal cathedral.  
And dawn is his altar to God."

## Popcorn, Glass Balls, and Cranberries (As it were)

### I. The Lion

The Lion is a kingly beast.  
He likes a Hindu for a feast.  
And if no Hindu he can get,  
The lion-family is upset.

He cuffs his wife and bites her ears  
Till she is nearly moved to tears.  
Then some explorer finds the den  
And all is family peace again.

### II. An Explanation of the Grasshopper

The Grasshopper, the grasshopper,  
I will explain to you:—  
He is the Brownies' racehorse,  
The fairies' Kangaroo.

### III. The Dangerous Little Boy Fairies

In fairyland the little boys  
Would rather fight than eat their meals.  
They like to chase a gauze-winged fly  
And catch and beat him till he squeals.  
Sometimes they come to sleeping men  
Armed with the deadly red-rose thorn,  
And those that feel its fearful wound  
Repent the day that they were born.

### IV. The Mouse that gnawed the Oak-tree Down

The mouse that gnawed the oak-tree down  
Began his task in early life.  
He kept so busy with his teeth  
He had no time to take a wife.

He gnawed and gnawed through sun and rain  
When the ambitious fit was on,  
Then rested in the sawdust till  
A month of idleness had gone.

He did not move about to hunt  
The coteries of mousie-men.  
He was a snail-paced, stupid thing  
Until he cared to gnaw again.

The mouse that gnawed the oak-tree down,  
When that tough foe was at his feet—  
Found in the stump no angel-cake  
Nor buttered bread, nor cheese, nor meat—  
The forest-roof let in the sky.

*"This light is worth the work," said he.  
"I'll make this ancient swamp more light,"  
And started on another tree.*

V. *Parvenu*

*Where does Cinderella sleep?  
By far-off day-dream river.  
A secret place her burning Prince  
Decks, while his heart-strings quiver.*

*Homesick for our cinder world,  
Her low-born shoulders shiver;  
She longs for sleep in cinders curled—  
We, for the day-dream river.*

VI. *The Spider and the Ghost of the Fly*

*Once I loved a spider  
When I was born a fly,  
A velvet-footed spider  
With a gown of rainbow-dye.  
She ate my wings and gloated.  
She bound me with a hair.  
She drove me to her parlor  
Above her winding stair.  
To educate young spiders  
She took me all apart.  
My ghost came back to haunt her.  
I saw her eat my heart.*

VII. *Crickets on a Strike*

*The foolish queen of fairyland  
From her milk-white throne in a lily-bell,  
Gave command to her cricket-band  
To play for her when the dew-drops fell.*

*But the cold dew spoiled their instruments  
And they play for the foolish queen no more.  
Instead those sturdy malcontents  
Play sharps and flats in my kitchen floor.*

## **How a Little Girl Danced**

### **Dedicated to Lucy Bates**

(Being a reminiscence of certain private theatricals.)

*Oh, cabaret dancer, I know a dancer,  
Whose eyes have not looked on the feasts that are vain.  
I know a dancer, I know a dancer,  
Whose soul has no bond with the beasts of the plain:  
Judith the dancer, Judith the dancer,  
With foot like the snow, and with step like the rain.*

*Oh, thrice-painted dancer, vaudeville dancer,  
Sad in your spangles, with soul all astrain,  
I know a dancer, I know a dancer,  
Whose laughter and weeping are spiritual gain,  
A pure-hearted, high-hearted maiden evangel,  
With strength the dark cynical earth to disdain.*

*Flowers of bright Broadway, you of the chorus,  
Who sing in the hope of forgetting your pain:  
I turn to a sister of Sainted Cecilia,  
A white bird escaping the earth's tangled skein:—  
The music of God is her innermost brooding,  
The whispering angels her footsteps sustain.*

*Oh, proud Russian dancer: praise for your dancing.  
No clean human passion my rhyme would arraign.  
You dance for Apollo with noble devotion,  
A high cleansing revel to make the heart sane.  
But Judith the dancer prays to a spirit  
More white than Apollo and all of his train.*

*I know a dancer who finds the true Godhead,  
Who bends o'er a brazier in Heaven's clear plain.*

*I know a dancer, I know a dancer,  
Who lifts us toward peace, from this earth that is vain:  
Judith the dancer, Judith the dancer,  
With foot like the snow, and with step like the rain.*

## **In Praise of Songs that Die**

After having read a Great Deal of Good Current Poetry in the Magazines and Newspapers

*Ah, they are passing, passing by,  
Wonderful songs, but born to die!  
Cries from the infinite human seas,  
Waves thrice-winged with harmonies.  
Here I stand on a pier in the foam  
Seeing the songs to the beach go home,  
Dying in sand while the tide flows back,  
As it flowed of old in its fated track.  
Oh, hurrying tide that will not hear  
Your own foam-children dying near:  
Is there no refuge-house of song,  
No home, no haven where songs belong?  
Oh, precious hymns that come and go!  
You perish, and I love you so!*

## **Factory Windows are always Broken**

*Factory windows are always broken.  
Somebody's always throwing bricks,  
Somebody's always heaving cinders,  
Playing ugly Yahoo tricks.*

*Factory windows are always broken.  
Other windows are let alone.  
No one throws through the chapel-window  
The bitter, snarling, derisive stone.*

*Factory windows are always broken.  
Something or other is going wrong.  
Something is rotten—I think, in Denmark.  
End of the factory-window song.*

## **To Mary Pickford**

*Moving-picture Actress*

(On hearing she was leaving the moving-pictures for the stage.)

*Mary Pickford, doll divine,  
Year by year, and every day  
At the moving-picture play,  
You have been my valentine.*

*Once a free-limbed page in hose,  
Baby-Rosalind in flower,  
Cloakless, shrinking, in that hour  
How our reverent passion rose,  
How our fine desire you won.  
Kitchen-wench another day,  
Shapeless, wooden every way.  
Next, a fairy from the sun.*

*Once you walked a grown-up strand  
Fish-wife siren, full of lure,  
Snaring with devices sure  
Lads who murdered on the sand.  
But on most days just a child*

*Dimpled as no grown-folk are,  
Cold of kiss as some north star,  
Violet from the valleys wild.  
Snared as innocence must be,  
Fleeing, prisoned, chained, half-dead—  
At the end of tortures dread  
Roaring cowboys set you free.*

*Fly, O song, to her to-day,  
Like a cowboy cross the land.  
Snatch her from Belasco's hand  
And that prison called Broadway.*

*All the village swains await  
One dear lily-girl demure,  
Saucy, dancing, cold and pure,  
Elf who must return in state.*

## **Blanche Sweet**

*Moving-picture Actress*

(After seeing the reel called "Oil and Water".)

*Beauty has a throne-room  
In our humorous town,  
Spoiling its hob-goblins,  
Laughing shadows down.  
Rank musicians torture  
Ragtime ballads vile,  
But we walk serenely  
Down the odorous aisle.  
We forgive the squalor  
And the boom and squeal  
For the Great Queen flashes  
From the moving reel.*

*Just a prim blonde stranger  
In her early day,  
Hiding brilliant weapons,  
Too averse to play,  
Then she burst upon us  
Dancing through the night.  
Oh, her maiden radiance,  
Veils and roses white.  
With new powers, yet cautious,  
Not too smart or skilled,  
That first flash of dancing  
Wrought the thing she willed:—  
Mobs of us made noble  
By her strong desire,  
By her white, uplifting,  
Royal romance-fire.*

*Though the tin piano  
Snarls its tango rude,  
Though the chairs are shaky  
And the dramas crude,  
Solemn are her motions,  
Stately are her wiles,  
Filling oafs with wisdom,  
Saving souls with smiles;  
'Mid the restless actors  
She is rich and slow.  
She will stand like marble,  
She will pause and glow,  
Though the film is twitching,  
Keep a peaceful reign,  
Ruler of her passion,  
Ruler of our pain!*



## For a Very Little Girl, Not a Year Old. Catharine Frazee Wakefield.

*The sun gives not directly  
The coal, the diamond crown;  
Not in a special basket  
Are these from Heaven let down.*

*The sun gives not directly  
The plough, man's iron friend;  
Not by a path or stairway  
Do tools from Heaven descend.*

*Yet sunshine fashions all things  
That cut or burn or fly;  
And corn that seems upon the earth  
Is made in the hot sky.*

*The gravel of the roadbed,  
The metal of the gun,  
The engine of the airship  
Trace somehow from the sun.*

*And so your soul, my lady—  
(Mere sunshine, nothing more)—  
Prepares me the contraptions  
I work with or adore.*

*Within me cornfields rustle,  
Niagaras roar their way,  
Vast thunderstorms and rainbows  
Are in my thought to-day.*

*Ten thousand anvils sound there  
By forges flaming white,  
And many books I read there,  
And many books I write;*

*And freedom's bells are ringing,  
And bird-choirs chant and fly—  
The whole world works in me to-day  
And all the shining sky,*

*Because of one small lady  
Whose smile is my chief sun.  
She gives not any gift to me  
Yet all gifts, giving one....  
Amen.*

## An Apology for the Bottle Volcanic

*Sometimes I dip my pen and find the bottle full of fire,  
The salamanders flying forth I cannot but admire.  
It's Etna, or Vesuvius, if those big things were small,  
And then 'tis but itself again, and does not smoke at all.  
And so my blood grows cold. I say, "The bottle held but ink,  
And, if you thought it otherwise, the worsen for your think."  
And then, just as I throw my scribbled paper on the floor,  
The bottle says, "Fe, fi, fo, fum," and steams and shouts some more.  
O sad deceiving ink, as bad as liquor in its way—  
All demons of a bottle size have pranced from you to-day,  
And seized my pen for hobby-horse as witches ride a broom,  
And left a trail of brimstone words and blots and gobs of gloom.  
And yet when I am extra good and say my prayers at night,  
And mind my ma, and do the chores, and speak to folks polite,  
My bottle spreads a rainbow-mist, and from the vapor fine  
Ten thousand troops from fairyland come riding in a line.  
I've seen them on their chargers race around my study chair,  
They opened wide the window and rode forth upon the air.  
The army widened as it went, and into myriads grew,  
O how the lances shimmered, how the silvery trumpets blew!*

# When Gassy Thompson Struck it Rich

*He paid a Swede twelve bits an hour  
Just to invent a fancy style  
To spread the celebration paint  
So it would show at least a mile.*

*Some things they did I will not tell.  
They're not quite proper for a rhyme.  
But I WILL say Yim Yonson Swede  
Did sure invent a sunflower time.*

*One thing they did that I can tell  
And not offend the ladies here:—  
They took a goat to Simp's Saloon  
And made it take a bath in beer.*

*That ENTERprise took MANagement.  
They broke a wash-tub in the fray.  
But mister goat was bathed all right  
And bar-keep Simp was, too, they say.*

*They wore girls' pink straw hats to church  
And clucked like hens. They surely did.  
They bought two H0tel frying pans  
And in them down the mountain slid.*

*They went to Denver in good clothes,  
And kept Burt's grill-room wide awake,  
And cut about like jumping-jacks,  
And ordered seven-dollar steak.*

*They had the waiters whirling round  
Just sweeping up the smear and smash.  
They tried to buy the State-house flag.  
They showed the Janitor the cash.*

*And old Dan Tucker on a toot,  
Or John Paul Jones before the breeze,  
Or Indians eating fat fried dog,  
Were not as happy babes as these.*

*One morn, in hills near Cripple-creek  
With cheerful swears the two awoke.  
The Swede had twenty cents, all right.  
But Gassy Thompson was clean broke.*

## Rhymes for Gloriana

### I. The Doll upon the Topmost Bough

*This doll upon the topmost bough,  
This playmate-gift, in Christmas dress,  
Was taken down and brought to me  
One sleety night most comfortless.*

*Her hair was gold, her dolly-sash  
Was gray brocade, most good to see.  
The dear toy laughed, and I forgot  
The ill the new year promised me.*

### II. On Suddenly Receiving a Curl Long Refused

*Oh, saucy gold circle of fairyland silk—  
Impudent, intimate, delicate treasure:  
A noose for my heart and a ring for my finger:—  
Here in my study you sing me a measure.*

*Whimsy and song in my little gray study!  
Words out of wonderland, praising her fineness,  
Touched with her pulsating, delicate laughter,  
Saying, "The girl is all daring and kindness!"*

*Saying, "Her soul is all feminine gameness,  
Trusting her insights, ardent for living;  
She would be weeping with me and be laughing,  
A thoroughbred, joyous receiving and giving!"*

III. *On Receiving One of Gloriana's Letters*

*Your pen needs but a ruffle  
To be Pavlova whirling.  
It surely is a scalawag  
A-scamping down the page.  
A pretty little May-wind  
The morning buds uncurling.  
And then the white sweet Russian,  
The dancer of the age.*

*Your pen's the Queen of Sheba,  
Such serious questions bringing,  
That merry rascal Solomon  
Would show a sober face:—  
And then again Pavlova  
To set our spirits singing,  
The snowy-swan bacchante  
All glamour, glee and grace.*

IV. *In Praise of Gloriana's Remarkable Golden Hair*

*The gleaming head of one fine friend  
Is bent above my little song,  
So through the treasure-pits of Heaven  
In fancy's shoes, I march along.*

*I wander, seek and peer and ponder  
In Splendor's last ensnaring lair—  
'Mid burnished harps and burnished crowns  
Where noble chariots gleam and flare:*

*Amid the spirit-coins and gems,  
The plates and cups and helms of fire—  
The gorgeous-treasure-pits of Heaven—  
Where angel-misers slake desire!*

*O endless treasure-pits of gold  
Where silly angel-men make mirth—  
I think that I am there this hour,  
Though walking in the ways of earth!*

## **Fourth Section ~~ Twenty Poems in which the Moon is the Principal Figure of Speech**

### **Once More—To Gloriana**

*Girl with the burning golden eyes,  
And red-bird song, and snowy throat:  
I bring you gold and silver moons  
And diamond stars, and mists that float.  
I bring you moons and snowy clouds,  
I bring you prairie skies to-night  
To feebly praise your golden eyes  
And red-bird song, and throat so white.*

## **First Section: Moon Poems for the Children/Fairy- tales for the Children**

I. *Euclid*

*Old Euclid drew a circle  
On a sand-beach long ago.  
He bounded and enclosed it  
With angles thus and so.  
His set of solemn greybeards*

Nodded and argued much  
Of arc and of circumference,  
Diameter and such.  
A silent child stood by them  
From morning until noon  
Because they drew such charming  
Round pictures of the moon.

II. *The Haughty Snail-king*

*(What Uncle William told the Children)*

Twelve snails went walking after night.  
They'd creep an inch or so,  
Then stop and bug their eyes  
And blow.  
Some folks... are... deadly... slow.  
Twelve snails went walking yestereve,  
Led by their fat old king.  
They were so dull their princeling had  
No sceptre, robe or ring—  
Only a paper cap to wear  
When nightly journeying.

This king-snail said: "I feel a thought  
Within... It blossoms soon...  
O little courtiers of mine,...  
I crave a pretty boon...  
Oh, yes... (High thoughts with effort come  
And well-bred snails are ALMOST dumb.)  
"I wish I had a yellow crown  
As glistering... as... the moon."

III. *What the Rattlesnake Said*

The moon's a little prairie-dog.  
He shivers through the night.  
He sits upon his hill and cries  
For fear that I will bite.

The sun's a broncho. He's afraid  
Like every other thing,  
And trembles, morning, noon and night,  
Lest I should spring, and sting.

IV. *The Moon's the North Wind's Cooky*

*(What the Little Girl Said)*

The Moon's the North Wind's cooky.  
He bites it, day by day,  
Until there's but a rim of scraps  
That crumble all away.

The South Wind is a baker.  
He kneads clouds in his den,  
And bakes a crisp new moon that... greedy  
North... Wind... eats... again!

V. *Drying their Wings*

*(What the Carpenter Said)*

The moon's a cottage with a door.  
Some folks can see it plain.  
Look, you may catch a glint of light,  
A sparkle through the pane,  
Showing the place is brighter still  
Within, though bright without.  
There, at a cosy open fire  
Strange babes are grouped about.  
The children of the wind and tide—  
The urchins of the sky,  
Drying their wings from storms and things  
So they again can fly.

VI. *What the Gray-winged Fairy Said*

The moon's a gong, hung in the wild,  
Whose song the fays hold dear.  
Of course you do not hear it, child.  
It takes a FAIRY ear.

The full moon is a splendid gong  
That beats as night grows still.  
It sounds above the evening song

*Of dove or whippoorwill.*

VII. *Yet Gentle will the Griffin Be*

*(What Grandpa told the Children)*

*The moon? It is a griffin's egg,  
Hatching to-morrow night.  
And how the little boys will watch  
With shouting and delight  
To see him break the shell and stretch  
And creep across the sky.  
The boys will laugh. The little girls,  
I fear, may hide and cry.  
Yet gentle will the griffin be,  
Most decorous and fat,  
And walk up to the milky way  
And lap it like a cat.*

## **Second Section: The Moon is a Mirror**

I. *Prologue. A Sense of Humor*

*No man should stand before the moon  
To make sweet song thereon,  
With dandified importance,  
His sense of humor gone.*

*Nay, let us don the motley cap,  
The jester's chastened mien,  
If we would woo that looking-glass  
And see what should be seen.*

*O mirror on fair Heaven's wall,  
We find there what we bring.  
So, let us smile in honest part  
And deck our souls and sing.*

*Yea, by the chastened jest alone  
Will ghosts and terrors pass,  
And fays, or suchlike friendly things,  
Throw kisses through the glass.*

II. *On the Garden-wall*

*Oh, once I walked a garden  
In dreams. 'Twas yellow grass.  
And many orange-trees grew there  
In sand as white as glass.  
The curving, wide wall-border  
Was marble, like the snow.  
I walked that wall a fairy-prince  
And, pacing quaint and slow,  
Beside me were my pages,  
Two giant, friendly birds.  
Half-swan they were, half peacock.  
They spake in courtier-words.  
Their inner wings a chariot,  
Their outer wings for flight,  
They lifted me from dreamland.  
We bade those trees good-night.  
Swiftly above the stars we rode.  
I looked below me soon.  
The white-walled garden I had ruled  
Was one lone flower—the moon.*

III. *Written for a Musician*

*Hungry for music with a desperate hunger  
I prowled abroad, I threaded through the town;  
The evening crowd was clamoring and drinking,  
Vulgar and pitiful—my heart bowed down—  
Till I remembered duller hours made noble  
By strangers clad in some surprising grace.  
Wait, wait, my soul, your music comes ere midnight  
Appearing in some unexpected place  
With quivering lips, and gleaming, moonlit face.*

IV. *The Moon is a Painter*

*He coveted her portrait.  
He toiled as she grew gay.  
She loved to see him labor  
In that devoted way.*

*And in the end it pleased her,  
But bowed him more with care.  
Her rose-smile showed so plainly,  
Her soul-smile was not there.*

*That night he groped without a lamp  
To find a cloak, a book,  
And on the vexing portrait  
By moonrise chanced to look.*

*The color-scheme was out of key,  
The maiden rose-smile faint,  
But through the blessed darkness  
She gleamed, his friendly saint.*

*The comrade, white, immortal,  
His bride, and more than bride—  
The citizen, the sage of mind,  
For whom he lived and died.*

*V. The Encyclopaedia*

*"If I could set the moon upon  
This table," said my friend,  
"Among the standard poets  
And brochures without end,  
And noble prints of old Japan,  
How empty they would seem,  
By that encyclopaedia  
Of whim and glittering dream."*

*VI. What the Miner in the Desert Said*

*The moon's a brass-hooped water-keg,  
A wondrous water-feast.  
If I could climb the ridge and drink  
And give drink to my beast;  
If I could drain that keg, the flies  
Would not be biting so,  
My burning feet be spry again,  
My mule no longer slow.  
And I could rise and dig for ore,  
And reach my fatherland,  
And not be food for ants and hawks  
And perish in the sand.*

*VII. What the Coal-heaver Said*

*The moon's an open furnace door  
Where all can see the blast,  
We shovel in our blackest griefs,  
Upon that grate are cast  
Our aching burdens, loves and fears  
And underneath them wait  
Paper and tar and pitch and pine  
Called strife and blood and hate.*

*Out of it all there comes a flame,  
A splendid widening light.  
Sorrow is turned to mystery  
And Death into delight.*

*VIII. What the Moon Saw*

*Two statesmen met by moonlight.  
Their ease was partly feigned.  
They glanced about the prairie.  
Their faces were constrained.  
In various ways aforesaid  
They had misled the state,  
Yet did it so politely  
Their henchmen thought them great.  
They sat beneath a hedge and spake  
No word, but had a smoke.  
A satchel passed from hand to hand.  
Next day, the deadlock broke.*

*IX. What Semiramis Said*

*The moon's a steaming chalice  
Of honey and venom-wine.*

A little of it sipped by night  
Makes the long hours divine.  
But oh, my reckless lovers,  
They drain the cup and wail,  
Die at my feet with shaking limbs  
And tender lips all pale.  
Above them in the sky it bends  
Empty and gray and dread.  
To-morrow night 'tis full again,  
Golden, and foaming red.

X. *What the Ghost of the Gambler Said*

Where now the huts are empty,  
Where never a camp-fire glows,  
In an abandoned canyon,  
A Gambler's Ghost arose.  
He muttered there, "The moon's a sack  
Of dust." His voice rose thin:  
"I wish I knew the miner-man.  
I'd play, and play to win.  
In every game in Cripple-creek  
Of old, when stakes were high,  
I held my own. Now I would play  
For that sack in the sky.  
The sport would not be ended there.  
'Twould rather be begun.  
I'd bet my moon against his stars,  
And gamble for the sun."

XI. *The Spice-tree*

This is the song  
The spice-tree sings:  
"Hunger and fire,  
Hunger and fire,  
Sky-born Beauty—  
Spice of desire,"  
Under the spice-tree  
Watch and wait,  
Burning maidens  
And lads that mate.

The spice-tree spreads  
And its boughs come down  
Shadowing village and farm and town.  
And none can see  
But the pure of heart  
The great green leaves  
And the boughs descending,  
And hear the song that is never ending.

The deep roots whisper,  
The branches say:—  
"Love to-morrow,  
And love to-day,  
And till Heaven's day,  
And till Heaven's day."

The moon is a bird's nest in its branches,  
The moon is hung in its topmost spaces.  
And there, to-night, two doves play house  
While lovers watch with uplifted faces.  
Two doves go home  
To their nest, the moon.  
It is woven of twigs of broken light,  
With threads of scarlet and threads of gray  
And a lining of down for silk delight.  
To their Eden, the moon, fly home our doves,  
Up through the boughs of the great spice-tree;—  
And one is the kiss I took from you,  
And one is the kiss you gave to me.

XII. *The Scissors-grinder*

(*What the Tramp Said*)

The old man had his box and wheel  
For grinding knives and shears.  
No doubt his bell in village streets  
Was joy to children's ears.  
And I bethought me of my youth  
When such men came around,  
And times I asked them in, quite sure  
The scissors should be ground.

*The old man turned and spoke to me,  
His face at last in view.  
And then I thought those curious eyes  
Were eyes that once I knew.*

*"The moon is but an emery-wheel  
To whet the sword of God,"  
He said. "And here beside my fire  
I stretch upon the sod  
Each night, and dream, and watch the stars  
And watch the ghost-clouds go.  
And see that sword of God in Heaven  
A-waving to and fro.  
I see that sword each century, friend.  
It means the world-war comes  
With all its bloody, wicked chiefs  
And hate-inflaming drums.  
Men talk of peace, but I have seen  
That emery-wheel turn round.  
The voice of Abel cries again  
To God from out the ground.  
The ditches must flow red, the plague  
Go stark and screaming by  
Each time that sword of God takes edge  
Within the midnight sky.  
And those that scorned their brothers here  
And sowed a wind of shame  
Will reap the whirlwind as of old  
And face relentless flame."*

*And thus the scissors-grinder spoke,  
His face at last in view.  
And there beside the railroad bridge  
I saw the wandering Jew.*

XIII. *My Lady in her White Silk Shawl*

*My lady in her white silk shawl  
Is like a lily dim,  
Within the twilight of the room  
Enthroned and kind and prim.*

*My lady! Pale gold is her hair.  
Until she smiles her face  
Is pale with far Hellenic moods,  
With thoughts that find no place*

*In our harsh village of the West  
Wherein she lives of late,  
She's distant as far-hidden stars,  
And cold-(almost!)-as fate.*

*But when she smiles she's here again  
Rosy with comrade-cheer,  
A Puritan Bacchante made  
To laugh around the year.*

*The merry gentle moon herself,  
Heart-stirring too, like her,  
Wakening wild and innocent love  
In every worshipper.*

XIV. *Aladdin and the Jinn*

*"Bring me soft song," said Aladdin.  
"This tailor-shop sings not at all.  
Chant me a word of the twilight,  
Of roses that mourn in the fall.  
Bring me a song like hashish  
That will comfort the stale and the sad,  
For I would be mending my spirit,  
Forgetting these days that are bad,  
Forgetting companions too shallow,  
Their quarrels and arguments thin,  
Forgetting the shouting Muezzin:"—  
"I AM YOUR SLAVE," said the Jinn.*

*"Bring me old wines," said Aladdin.  
"I have been a starved pauper too long.  
Serve them in vessels of jade and of shell,  
Serve them with fruit and with song:—  
Wines of pre-Adamite Sultans  
Digged from beneath the black seas:—  
New-gathered dew from the heavens*



*Dripped down from Heaven's sweet trees,  
Cups from the angels' pale tables  
That will make me both handsome and wise,  
For I have beheld her, the princess,  
Firelight and starlight her eyes.  
Pauper I am, I would woo her.  
And—let me drink wine, to begin,  
Though the Koran expressly forbids it."  
"I AM YOUR SLAVE," said the Jinn.*

*"Plan me a dome," said Aladdin,  
"That is drawn like the dawn of the MOON,  
When the sphere seems to rest on the mountains,  
Half-hidden, yet full-risen soon."  
"Build me a dome," said Aladdin,  
"That shall cause all young lovers to sigh,  
The fullness of life and of beauty,  
Peace beyond peace to the eye—  
A palace of foam and of opal,  
Pure moonlight without and within,  
Where I may enthrone my sweet lady."  
"I AM YOUR SLAVE," said the Jinn.*

#### *XV. The Strength of the Lonely*

*(What the Mendicant Said)*

*The moon's a monk, unmated,  
Who walks his cell, the sky.  
His strength is that of heaven-vowed men  
Who all life's flames defy.*

*They turn to stars or shadows,  
They go like snow or dew—  
Leaving behind no sorrow—  
Only the arching blue.*

## **Fifth Section**

### **War. September 1, 1914 Intended to be Read Aloud**

#### **I. Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight**

*(In Springfield, Illinois)*

*It is portentous, and a thing of state  
That here at midnight, in our little town  
A mourning figure walks, and will not rest,  
Near the old court-house pacing up and down,*

*Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards  
He lingers where his children used to play,  
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones  
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.*

*A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,  
A famous high top-hat and plain worn shawl  
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,  
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.*

*He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.  
He is among us:—as in times before!  
And we who toss and lie awake for long  
Breathe deep, and start, to see him pass the door.*

*His head is bowed. He thinks on men and kings.  
Yea, when the sick world cries, how can he sleep?  
Too many peasants fight, they know not why,  
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.*

*The sins of all the war-lords burn his heart.  
He sees the dreadnaughts scouring every main.*

*He carries on his shawl-wrapped shoulders now  
The bitterness, the folly and the pain.*

*He cannot rest until a spirit-dawn  
Shall come;—the shining hope of Europe free:  
The league of sober folk, the Workers' Earth,  
Bringing long peace to Cornland, Alp and Sea.*

*It breaks his heart that kings must murder still,  
That all his hours of travail here for men  
Seem yet in vain. And who will bring white peace  
That he may sleep upon his hill again?*

## **II. A Curse for Kings**

*A curse upon each king who leads his state,  
No matter what his plea, to this foul game,  
And may it end his wicked dynasty,  
And may he die in exile and black shame.*

*If there is vengeance in the Heaven of Heavens,  
What punishment could Heaven devise for these  
Who fill the rivers of the world with dead,  
And turn their murderers loose on all the seas!*

*Put back the clock of time a thousand years,  
And make our Europe, once the world's proud Queen,  
A shrieking strumpet, furious fratricide,  
Eater of entrails, wallowing obscene*

*In pits where millions foam and rave and bark,  
Mad dogs and idiots, thrice drunk with strife;  
While Science towers above;—a witch, red-winged:  
Science we looked to for the light of life.*

*Curse me the men who make and sell iron ships,  
Who walk the floor in thought, that they may find  
Each powder prompt, each steel with fearful edge,  
Each deadliest device against mankind.*

*Curse me the sleek lords with their plumes and spurs,  
May Heaven give their land to peasant spades,  
Give them the brand of Cain, for their pride's sake,  
And felon's stripes for medals and for braids.*

*Curse me the fiddling, twiddling diplomats,  
Haggling here, plotting and hatching there,  
Who make the kind world but their game of cards,  
Till millions die at turning of a hair.*

*What punishment will Heaven devise for these  
Who win by others' sweat and hardihood,  
Who make men into stinking vultures' meat,  
Saying to evil still "Be thou my good"?*

*Ah, he who starts a million souls toward death  
Should burn in utmost hell a million years!  
—Mothers of men go on the destined wrack  
To give them life, with anguish and with tears:—*

*Are all those childbed sorrows sneered away?  
Yea, fools laugh at the humble christenings,  
And cradle-joys are mocked of the fat lords:  
These mothers' sons made dead men for the Kings!*

*All in the name of this or that grim flag,  
No angel-flags in all the rag-array—  
Banners the demons love, and all Hell sings  
And plays wild harps. Those flags march forth to-day!*

## **III. Who Knows?**

*They say one king is mad. Perhaps. Who knows?  
They say one king is doddering and grey.  
They say one king is slack and sick of mind,  
A puppet for hid strings that twitch and play.*

*Is Europe then to be their sprawling-place?  
Their mad-house, till it turns the wide world's bane?  
Their place of maudlin, slaving conference  
Till every far-off farmstead goes insane?*

## **IV. To Buddha**

*Awake again in Asia, Lord of Peace,  
Awake and preach, for her far swordsmen rise.  
And would they sheathe the sword before you, friend,  
Or scorn your way, while looking in your eyes?*

*Good comrade and philosopher and prince,  
Thoughtful and thoroughbred and strong and kind,  
Dare they to move against your pride benign,  
Lord of the Law, high chieftain of the mind?*

---

*But what can Europe say, when in your name  
The throats are cut, the lotus-ponds turn red?  
And what can Europe say, when with a laugh  
Old Asia heaps her hecatombs of dead?*

## **V. The Unpardonable Sin**

*This is the sin against the Holy Ghost:—  
To speak of bloody power as right divine,  
And call on God to guard each vile chief's house,  
And for such chiefs, turn men to wolves and swine:—*

*To go forth killing in White Mercy's name,  
Making the trenches stink with spattered brains,  
Tearing the nerves and arteries apart,  
Sowing with flesh the unreaped golden plains.*

*In any Church's name, to sack fair towns,  
And turn each home into a screaming sty,  
To make the little children fugitive,  
And have their mothers for a quick death cry,—*

*This is the sin against the Holy Ghost:  
This is the sin no purging can atone:—  
To send forth rapine in the name of Christ:—  
To set the face, and make the heart a stone.*

## **VI. Above the Battle's Front**

*St. Francis, Buddha, Tolstoi, and St. John—  
Friends, if you four, as pilgrims, hand in hand,  
Returned, the hate of earth once more to dare,  
And walked upon the water and the land,*

*If you, with words celestial, stopped these kings  
For sober conclave, ere their battle great,  
Would they for one deep instant then discern  
Their crime, their heart-rot, and their fiend's estate?*

*If you should float above the battle's front,  
Pillars of cloud, of fire that does not slay,  
Bearing a fifth within your regal train,  
The Son of David in his strange array—*

*If, in his majesty, he towered toward Heaven,  
Would they have hearts to see or understand?  
... Nay, for he hovers there to-night we know,  
Thorn-crowned above the water and the land.*

## **VII. Epilogue. Under the Blessing of Your Psyche Wings**

*Though I have found you like a snow-drop pale,  
On sunny days have found you weak and still,  
Though I have often held your girlish head  
Drooped on my shoulder, faint from little ill:—*

*Under the blessing of your Psyche-wings  
I hide to-night like one small broken bird,  
So soothed I half-forget the world gone mad:—  
And all the winds of war are now unheard.*

*My heaven-doubting pennons feel your hands  
With touch most delicate so circling round,  
That for an hour I dream that God is good.  
And in your shadow, Mercy's ways abound.*

*I thought myself the guard of your frail state,  
And yet I come to-night a helpless guest,  
Hiding beneath your giant Psyche-wings,  
Against the pallor of your wondrous breast.*

[End of original text.]

### **Biographical Note:**

#### **Nicholas Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931):**

(Vachel is pronounced Vay-chul, that is, it rhymes with 'Rachel').

"The Eagle that is Forgotten" and "The Congo" are two of his best-known poems, and appear in his first two volumes of verse, "General William Booth Enters into Heaven" (1913) and "The Congo" (1914).

Lindsay himself considered his drawings and his prose writings to be as important as his verse, all coming together to form a whole. His "Collected Poems" (1925) gives a good selection.

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From an anthology of verse by Jessie B. Rittenhouse (1913, 1917):

"Lindsay, Vachel. Born November 10, 1879. Educated at Hiram College, Ohio. He took up the study of art and studied at the Art Institute, Chicago, 1900-03 and at the New York School of Art, 1904-05. For a time after his technical study, he lectured upon art in its practical relation to the community, and returning to his home in Springfield, Illinois, issued what one might term his manifesto in the shape of "The Village Magazine", divided about equally between prose articles, pertaining to beautifying his native city, and poems, illustrated by his own drawings. Soon after this, Mr. Lindsay, taking as scrip for the journey, "Rhymes to be Traded for Bread", made a pilgrimage on foot through several Western States going as far afield as New Mexico. The story of this journey is given in his volume, "Adventures while Preaching the Gospel of Beauty". Mr. Lindsay first attracted attention in poetry by "General William Booth Enters into Heaven", a poem which became the title of his first volume, in 1913. His second volume was "The Congo", published in 1914. He is attempting to restore to poetry its early appeal as a spoken art, and his later work differs greatly from the selections contained in this anthology."

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