

NOTE

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Please notify changes of address.

THE BLACK SWAN.

(Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station.)

Amidst the sedgeweed, dipping deep its bill,
A black swan feeds, the while unceasingly
Over the lake-marg'd sand-dune booms the sea,
Breaking the quiet on this church-crowned hill,
Where our black brothers, drowsy hours to kill,
Dream of the days that never more may be,
When they, too, wandered like the wild swan, free,
Nor knew the burden of an alien will.

Man, fettered thus, must evermore repine,
And mark with longing eyes wild bird and beast
Foregather at the spacious board divine,
Where freedom spreads an ever-bounteous feast.
How royally that stately creature feeds
Upon this sedgy lake among the reeds!

R. H. L.

THE DIRGE

For Karl Liebknecht

Out of the pregnant darkness, where from fire
To glimmering fire the watchword leaps,
The dirge floats up from those who pile the pyre
High, and still higher,
That yet shall blaze across the verminous deeps.

*Farewell, O brother-heart,
Yet we shall not forget,
Though hand from hand must part,
Your hope is with us yet,
The clank of the swaggerer's sword
And clink of the grasper's gold
Are not so loud as the lover's word
In a thousand echoes rolled.*

The lords of the tottering order sit and plot,
With cunning courtesy haggling still;
The insistent chorus cannot be forgot—
Its words are shot
Like summing rockets from the eastern hill.

*You, it was you who showed
How Murder made his pact
In busy Creed's abode,
Preparing for the act,
To save the fatherland
They bade your comrades die,
And full in their path you took your stand
To kill the patriot lie.*

Now, lest their flags and bags be lost in flame,
The desperate pair have summoned those
Whose love is moderate, and whose life is tame
To blast with shame
The rose that sprang amid a myriad woes.

*The ranks of freedom swell,
The flag of love rolls out,
The efficient ranks of hell
Close up in deadly doubt,
Moulded in bloody mire,
The bullet found its mark;
A living spirit winged with fire
Flares homeward from the dark.*

J. LE GAY BRERETON.

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