

**SONGS OF  
THE DEAD END**

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Songs of the Dead End by Patrick MacGill

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**PATRICK MACGILL**

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**PATRICK MACGILL** was born at Glenties, a little village in one of the wildest districts of Donegal on the north coast of Ireland, twenty-one years ago. The eldest of a family of ten, he had to go out into the world at a very early age and begin his fight in the great battle of life. When twelve years old he was engaged as a farm hand in the Irish Midlands, where his day's work began at five o'clock in the morning and went on till eleven at night through Summer and Winter. It was a man's work with a boy's pay. At fourteen, seeking newer fields, he crossed from 'Derry to Scotland; and there for seven years was either a farm hand, drainer, tramp, hammer-man, navvy, plate-layer or wrestler. During all these years he devoted part of his spare time to reading, and found relief from the drag of the twelve-hour shift in the companionship of books. At nineteen he published "Gleanings from a Navy's Scrap-book," of which 8000 copies were sold. Encouraged by the success which marked this venture, he immediately gathered material for a new volume, and while engaged in so doing, received an appointment on the editorial staff of the "Daily Express," and in September, 1911, left the service of the Caledonian Railway Company at Greenock and came to London. In the following year he relinquished his post with the newspaper, and published "Songs of a Navy." This, as well as the former, being now out of print, he has put together some of the pieces out of either, re-written others, and added fresh ones to the same in the present "*Songs of the Dead End.*"

J. N. D.

WINDSOR, July, 1912

## THE NAVVY

**R**EMOTE from mansion and from mart,  
Beyond our outer, furrowed fields —  
One with the rock he cleaves apart,  
One with the weary pick he wields —  
Bowed with his weight of discontent,  
Beneath the heavens sagging gray,  
His steaming shoulders stark and bent,  
He drags his joyless years away.

For dreamy dames with haughty eyes,  
And cunning men with soft white hands  
Have offered you in sacrifice  
Lone outcast of the outcast lands.  
For all the furs that keep them warm,  
For all the food that keeps them fit,  
Through all the years they've wrought you harm,  
And take a churlish pride in it.

Brutish we've hashed it far and near,  
I've shared your woe and dull despair;  
We've sung our songs, and none to hear,  
And told our wrongs, and none to care.  
Some day — how soon we may not tell —  
We'll rend the riven fetters free.  
Till then, may heaven guard you well,  
And God be good to you — and me.

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OF  
THE DEAD END

BY  
PATRICK MacGILL



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