

**FORTY SINGING
SEAMEN, AND
OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649759415

Forty singing seamen, and other poems by Alfred Noyes

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ALFRED NOYES

**FORTY SINGING
SEAMEN, AND
OTHER POEMS**

Forty Singing Seamen

And Other Poems

BY

ALFRED NOYES

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
MCMVII

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TO
GARNETT.

My acknowledgments are due to the Editors of 'Blackwood's Magazine,' 'The Fortnightly Review,' 'The Spectator,' 'The Bookman,' 'The Speaker,' 'The Nation,' 'The Outlook,' and 'Country Life'; also to the Editors of 'The Standard' and 'The Daily Mail Literary Supplement,' for permission to reprint some of the following poems. A few have appeared in book form in America, and are now published in this country for the first time. Others are quite new.

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POEMS.



THE EMPIRE BUILDERS.

Who are the Empire-builders? They
Whose desperate arrogance demands
A self-reflecting power to sway
A hundred little selfless lands?
Lord God of battles, ere we bow
To these and to their soulless lust,
Let fall Thy thunders on us now
And strike us equal to the dust.

Before the stars in heaven were made
Our great Commander led us forth;
And now the embattled lines are laid
To East, to West, to South, to North;

According as of old He planned
We take our station in the field,
Nor dare to dream we understand
The splendour of the swords we wield.

We know not what the Soul intends
That lives and moves behind our deeds ;
We wheel and march to glorious ends
Beyond the common soldier's needs :
And some are raised to high rewards,
And some by regiments are hurled
To die upon the opposing swords
And sleep—forgotten by the world.

And not where navies churn the foam,
Nor called to fields of fierce emprise,
In many a country cottage-home
The Empire-builder lives and dies :
Or through the roaring street he goes
A lean and weary City slave,
The conqueror of a thousand foes
Who walks, unheeded, to his grave.

Leaders unknown of hopes forlorn
Go past us in the daily mart,
With many a shadowy crown of thorn
And many a kingly broken heart :