

A TARPAULIN MUSTER

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A Tarpaulin Muster by John Masfield

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JOHN MASEFIELD

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MUSTER**

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TARPAULIN MUSTER

BY
JOHN MASEFIELD



NEW YORK
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1919

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1870

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H. G. B.

1870

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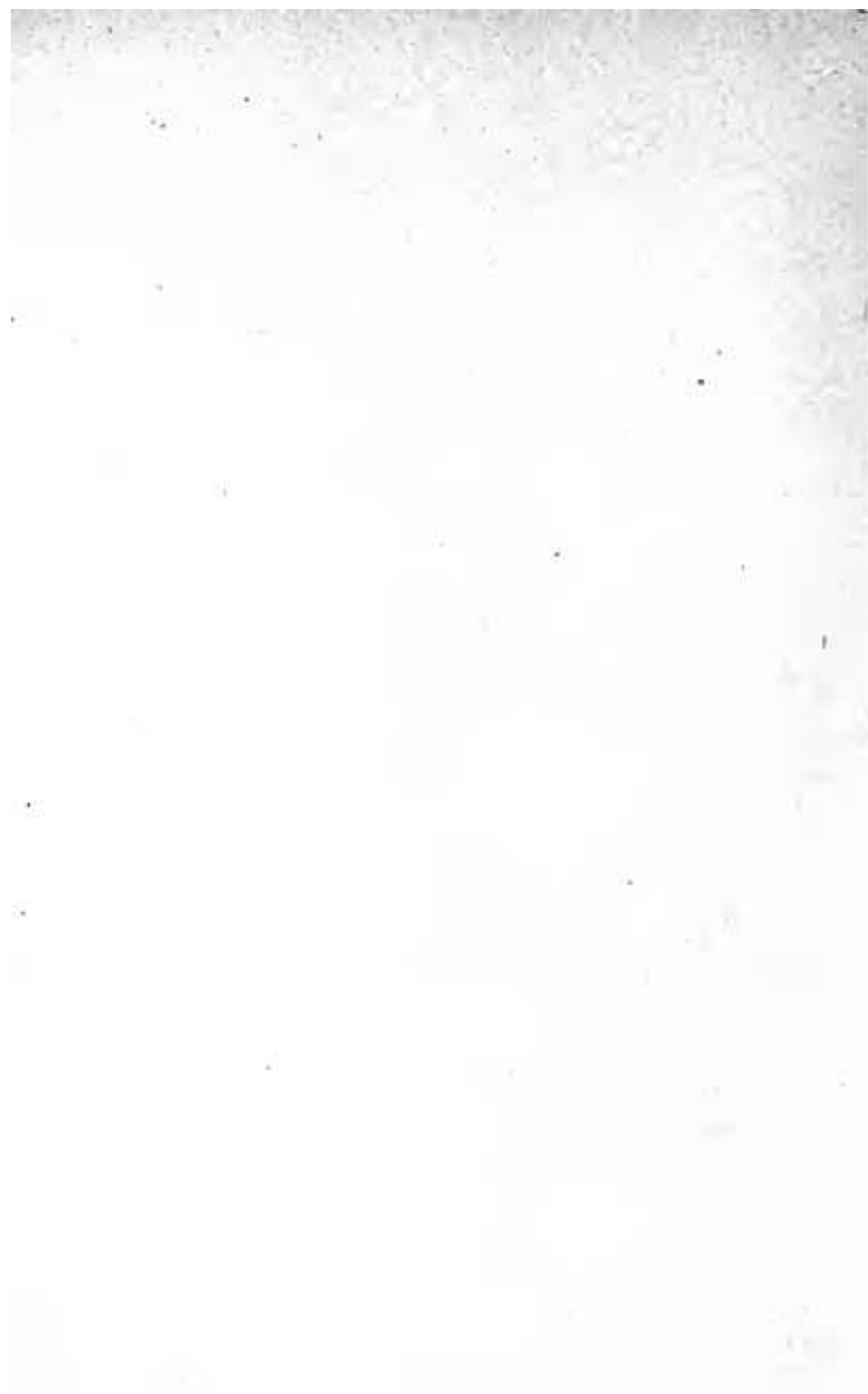
NINETEEN of these tales and articles have been printed in the *Manchester Guardian* during the last two years. I thank the Editor and the Proprietors of that paper for their kindness in permitting me to reprint these items in this volume.

The story "El Dorado" was printed in the February issue of *Macmillan's Magazine*; the story of "Davy Jones's Gift" appeared in *Country Life* (11 Nov., 1905); "The Yarn of Happy Jack" and "Some Irish Fairies" appeared in the *Speaker* within the last eighteen months. I thank Messrs. Macmillan, and the Proprietors of *Country Life* and of the *Speaker* for allowing me to use these stories. The other tale is now printed for the first time.

J. M.

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I

EDWARD HERRIES

"Only death adds to our length; nor are we grown
In stature to be men, till we are none."

An Anatomy of the World.

EDWARD HERRIES, the poet, rose from his chair, and looked through the window over the darkening valley. The moon had risen over the tree-tops, and the yews made black patches here and there in the mass of trembling branches ridging the hill. He flung back the curtain, so that he might see better; and the moonlight, falling upon him, made yet more pale the paleness of his refined face, now wrung with sorrow. He took one of the silver candlesticks and held it so that the light might fall upon a portrait hanging in the window-nook. It was the portrait of a woman a little older than himself; and one had but to see the confident poise of the sweet head and the firm red line of the lips, and the delicate sharp cutting of the chin, to know that she was one of those queenly women