

**LOLLINGDON DOWNS,  
AND OTHER POEMS,  
WITH SONNETS**

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Lollingdon Downs, and other poems, with sonnets by John Masefield

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# LOLLINGDON DOWNS

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BY

JOHN MASEFIELD



LONDON

WILLIAM HEINEMANN



TO  
MY WIFE

I.

So I have known this life,  
These beads of coloured days,  
This self the string,  
What is this thing ?

Not beauty, no ; not greed,  
O, not indeed ;  
Not all, though much ;  
Its colour is not such.

It has no eyes to see,  
It has no ears ;  
It is a red hour's war  
Followed by tears.

It is an hour of time,  
An hour of road,  
Flesh is its goad ;  
Yet, in the sorrowing lands,  
Women and men take hands.

O earth, give us the corn,  
Come rain, come sun ;  
We men who have been born  
Have tasks undone.  
Out of this earth  
Comes the thing birth,  
The thing unguessed, unwon.