

The words that the Northern King had said  
Sir John and his men heard not, being dead ;

*The  
Relief  
of Wet  
Willows.*

(Nor heard they the sobs of the women who  
knew

That Sir John's son's son in the East was true

To the cross that was white on the shield that he  
had) ;

Nor knew they their home-going horses were glad ;

Nor did they remember the trees by the way,  
Or the streams that they crossed, or the dead  
leaves that lay

By the roadside. And when the moon rose, red  
and near,

They saw not its splendor ; no more did they  
hear

The wind that was moaning from hill unto hill :  
Their leader, — his will was his horse's will.

In the Eastern sky faint streaks of gray  
Were changed to red, and it was day.

The women had waited all night long  
Where the castle tower was high and strong ;

And now, at last, they beheld Sir John,  
And his men, and the horses they rode upon,