

THE MEN OF THE ALAMO:

A BALLAD OF BRAVERY,

BY JAMES JEFFREY ROCHE.

To Houston at Gonzales town, ride, Ranger, for
 your life,
 Nor stop to say good-bye to-day to home, or child,
 or wife;
 But pass the word from ranch to ranch, to every
 Texan sword,
 That fifty hundred Mexicans have crossed the
 Nueces ford,
 With Castrillon and perjured Cos, Sesma and
 Almonte,
 And Santa Anna ravenous for vengeance and for
 prey,
 They smite the land with fire and sword; the grass
 shall never grow
 Where northward sweeps that locust horde on
 San Antonio.

Now who will bar the foeman's path, to gain a
 breathing space
 Till Houston and his scattered men shall meet
 him face to face?
 Who holds his life as less than naught when home
 and honor call,
 And counts the guerdon full and fair for liberty
 to fall?

Oh, who but Barrett Travis, the bravest of them all,
 With seven score of riflemen to play the rancher's
 game,
 And feed a counter-fire to halt the sweeping
 prairie flame;
 For Bowie of the broken blade is there to cheer
 them on,
 With Evans of Concepcion, who conquered
 Castrillon,
 And o'er their heads the Lone Star flag defiant
 floats on high,
 And no man thinks of yielding, and no man fears
 to die.

But ere the siege is held a week, a cry is heard
 without,
 A clash of arms, a rifle peal, the Ranger's ringing
 shout,
 And two-and-thirty beardless boys have bravely
 hewed their way
 To die with Travis if they must, to conquer if
 they may.

Was ever bravery so cheap in Glory's mart before
 In all the days of chivalry, in all the deeds of war?
 But once again the foeman gaze in wonderment
 and fear
 To see a stranger break their lines and hear the
 Texans cheer.

God! How they cheered to welcome him, those
 spent and starving men!
 For Davy Crockett by their side was worth an
 army then.

The wounded ones forgot their wounds; the dying
 drew a breath
 To hail the king of border men, then turned to
 laugh at death.

For all knew Davy Crockett, blithe and generous
 as bold,
 And strong and rugged as the quartz that hides
 its heart of gold.

His simple creed for word or deed true as the
 bullet sped,
 And rung the target straight: "Be sure you're
 right, then go ahead!"

And were they right who fought the fight for
 Texas by his side?
 They questioned not; they faltered not; they
 only fought and died.

Who hath an enemy like these, God's mercy slay
 him straight!—
 A thousand Mexicans lay dead outside the convent
 gate,
 And half a thousand more must die before the
 fortress falls,
 And still the tide of war beats high around the
 leaguered walls.

At last the bloody breach is won; the weakened
 lines give way;
 The wolves are swarming in the court; the lions
 stand at bay.

The leader meets them at the breach, and wins
 the soldier's prize;
 A foeman's bosom sheathes his sword when gall-
 ant Travis dies.

Now let the victor feast at will until his crest be
 red—
 We may not know what raptures fill the vulture
 with the dead.

Let Santa Anna's valiant sword right bravely
 hew and hack
 The senseless corse; its hands are cold; they
 will not strike him back.

Let Bowie die, but 'ware the hand that wields his
 deadly knife;
 Four went to slay, and one comes back, so dear
 he sells his life.

And last of all let Crockett fall, too proud to sue
 for grace,
 So grand in death the butcher dared not look
 upon his face.

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But far on San Jacinto's field the Texan toils are
 set,
 And Alamo's dread memory the Texan steel shall
 whet.

And Fame shall tell their deeds who fell till all
 the years be run.

"Thermopylae left one alive—the Alamo left none."

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS
YOURSELF."

Do you? if you love yourself more
 than your family, you are probably enlisted
 in the great army of the uninsured, and
 your love for your neighbour will do him
 no good. Love your family first and well.
 You will then surely get your life assured
 for their benefit. Then learn whether your
 neighbour's life is assured. If not, tell
 him of the peace and contentment the
 possession of life assurance brings, and
 see that he is gathered into the fold and
 redeemed. Such love for your neighbour
 will spread. Thus you will become a
 most useful missionary.