

"THE SLACKER"

(A contributor who signs himself "Interested Montreal Reader", has contributed the following verse. We believe the lines will find an echo in the hearts of many, many men, who hesitated,—and then did the right thing. The man who hesitated too long, will never escape regret. The man who answered the call, can never regret it.)

I held back two years from en-
listin',
And never a thought did I give
To the boy that was doin' the
fightin'
And dyin', that others might live.
I said, "I'll let others go do it,"—
The fightin' in which I should
share—
And "If they gets killed that's
their picnic,
There's no reason why I should
care."

I knew that the Germans were
brutal,
I'd heard of the deeds they had
done;
I wish they were exterminated,
I hated them, every one.
But still I held back from enlistin',
A coward, a dastard, a bum.
There's no name too bad fer to
call me,
I deserved them, I did, every one.

I sported a pin and a watch fob,
Kid gloves and a gay coloured tie,
And a ring set with rubies and
diamond,
I tell you I was some swell guy.
I went with the girls to the
"nickels",
I took them to dances galore,
While my brothers were fightin'
for freedom,
And givin' their lives by the score.

For two years I kep' from en-
listin'
Then as I was passin' along
One day, down that street by the
barracks,
I heard just a snatch of a song.
I stopped where I was, and I
listened,
Then I heard a trampin' of feet,
And I saw about three hundred
soldiers,
All marchin' along Duckworth
Street.

I stood for a moment and watched
them,
Then turned on my heel to go home,
When a soldier stepped up close
beside me
And said, "Now's the time matey,
come,
'Tis high time you had on the
khaki,

Come show up your manhood to-
day,
Show up the good stuff you are
made of,
Go up, and enlist right away."

I turned and I walked off and left
him,
But somehow the words seem to
prick,
And for several days and nights
after,
These words to me always did
stick:—

" 'Tis high time you had on the
khaki,
Come, show up your manhood to-
day,
Show up the good stuff you are
made of,
Go up and enlist right away."

For a week more I kep' from en-
listin';
But those words still were urgin'
me on,
So next day I went up and enlisted,
And a neat suit of khaki did don.
I tried to keep back, but I couldn't,
For always a voice seemed to say,—
"Come, show up the stuff you are
made of,
Go up and enlist right away."

I threw off my ring and my watch
fob,
I gave all my old duds away;
For khaki suits best my com-
plexion,
I'm glad I'm a soldier to-day.
I have fought, I have toiled, I have
sweated,
I have gone many days without
food,
I've been wounded in hand, arm
and ankle;
But I wouldn't go back if I could.

For justice, for freedom, for
honour
We'll fight, and if need be we'll
die;
But we need many others to help
us
Keep the "Union Jack" floatin'
on high.
'Tis time boys, you had on the
khaki,
Come, show your manhood to-day,
Show the good stuff you are made
of,
Go up and enlist right away.

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