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The Song of the Open Road

There is one of Nature's spiritual ditties which has not yet been set to music: the "Call of the Open Road."—R. L. Stevenson.

Eerily the winds are calling, sweeping
inward from the bay.
Where the long white line of breakers
meets the sky-line far away;
And the great, gaunt, ghostly, headlands
rise so naked, bare and brown,
With the mighty sweep of moorland and
the splendid reach of down;

Golden gorse and purple heather, shin-
ing stretch of yellow sand;
Call of petrel far to seaward, cry of bit-
tern from the land;
Wilderness of thorn and thistle, wind-
swept dune and stunted tree;
Flash of white wing, cry of sea-fowl,
breath of blossom, hum of bee.

These and thousand thousand voices call
me forth, and I must rise,
Wander out upon the moorlands under-
neath God's naked skies;
So I lay aside my burden, daily work and
daily load,
And I hearken to the voices calling to the
open road.

—Chambers Journal.

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