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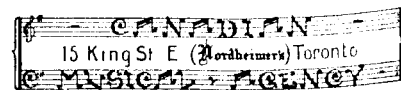
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## THE SAND-PIPER.

Across the narrow beach we flit,  
One little sand-piper and I;  
And fast I gather, bit by bit,  
The scattered drift-wood, bleached and dry.  
The wild waves reach their hands for it,  
The wild wind raves, the tide runs high.  
As up and down the beach we flit,  
One little sand-piper and I.

Above our heads the sullen clouds  
Scud black and swift across the sky,  
Like silent ghosts in misty shrouds  
Stand out the white light-houses nigh.  
Almost as far as eye can reach,  
I see the close-reefed vessels fly,  
As fast we flit along the beach—  
One little sand-piper and I.

I watch him as he skims along,  
Uttering his sweet and mournful cry;  
He starts not at my fitful song,  
Or flash of fluttering drapery.  
He has no thought of any wrong,  
He scans me with a fearless eye;  
Staunch friends are we, well-tried and strong,  
This little sand-piper and I.

Comrade, where wilt thou be to-night,  
When the world storm breaks furiously?  
No drift-wood fire will burn so bright—  
To what warm shelter canst thou fly?  
I do not fear for thee, though wroth  
The tempest rushes through the sky;  
For are we not God's children both,  
Thou little sand-piper and I?

—By the late Celia Thaxter

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