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THE SEA'S VOICE.

William Prescott Foster, in Century Magazine.

*Around the rocky headlands far and near,
The awakened ocean murmured with dull tongue,
Till all the coast's mysterious caverns rung
With the wave's voice, barbaric, hoarse and drear,
Within this sheltered calley with rapt ear
I listened, thrilled as though a spirit sang,
Or some gray god, as when the world was young,
Moaned to his fellow, mad with rage or fear.
Thus, in the dark, ere the first dawn, methought
The sea's deep roar and sullen surge and shock
Awoke the silence of eternity,
And echoed from the summits where God wrought,
Building the world and ploughing the steep rock
With ploughs of ice-hills harnessed to the sea.*

*The sea is never quiet, East and West
The nations hear it, like the voice of fate,
Within east shores its strife makes desolate
Still murmuring, 'mid storms that to its breast
Return as eagles screaming to their nest.
Is it some monster calling to its mate,
Or the hoarse voice of words and isles that wait
While old earth crumbles to eternal rest?
O ye that hear it moan about the shore,
Be still and listen! That loud voice hath sung
Where mountains rise, where desert sands are blown;
And when man's voice is dumb, forevermore
'Twill murmur on, its craggy shores among,
Singing of gods and nations overthrown.*

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