

## Why Were Ye Silent?

**G**REY watchdogs of the sea, your task is done.  
Through glooms of night and winter tempest  
wild,

O'er pathless waters, tireless have ye coursed  
To hunt the lurking demons of the deep,  
Or dare from safe retreat leviathans.  
Ye guarded well our little island home;  
No foeman's foot her borders hath profaned;  
Ye kept secure dominion of the waves  
That torn and trampled nations might be free,  
And Right and Justice never fail from earth.

**T**HROUGH morning mists of dim November  
dawn,

Your two long lines of grim and ghostly forms,  
Extending to the far horizon's verge,  
Silent and ready, waited for the word  
That, on a sign of treachery, would bring  
Thunder and lightning from a thousand throats  
Of steel, upon the monsters of the deep,  
Huge, cowed, submissive, moving to their doom.  
Your crowded decks were silent. Not a sound.  
No mock. No cheers of triumph. Why should men  
That bravely fought, yet kept their souls unstained,  
Stoop to a triumph over captured fiends