

11.

But what we want to know is :  
Who sold the rotten meat ?  
And did the boot\* contractors  
Learn how to lie and cheat ?

What of their forage scandals ?—  
Do they close the stable door,  
And hold those stale enquiries  
Before, or after war ?

And ere their captains conquered  
Did they crown them with the bays,  
These patient, thoughtful students  
Of our weary Western ways ?

And have they learned the lesson  
That he who runs away  
Must quickly be promoted,—  
To run some other day ?

When the raiders ripped their transports  
And they felt the vessel sag,  
Ah ! did they, in their hour of need,  
Yield 'neath a craven flag ?

*The Orient's wed the Occident,  
He's looked into our eyes,  
Till lost in limpid loveliness  
His fainting spirit dies.*

\*Originally "fish".