### The Boys of La Bassee.

You'll see from the La Bassee Road, on any summer day,

The children herding nanny goats, the women making hay.

You'll see the soldiers, khaki clad, in column and platoon,

Come swinging up La Bassee Road from billets in Bethune.

There's hay to save and corn to cut, but harder work by far

Awaits the soldier boys who reap the harvest fields of war.

You'll see them swinging up the road where women work at hav.

The straight, long road, La Bassee Road, on any summer day. The night breeze sweeps La Bassee

Road, the night dews wet the hay, The boys are coming back again, a

straggling crowd are they. The column's lines are broken up and gaps in the platoon,

They'll not need many billets now for soldiers in Bethune,

For many boys, good lusty boys, who marched so very fine

Have now got little homes of clay beside the firing line.

Good luck to them, God-speed to them, the boys who march away,

A-singing up La Bassee Road each sunny summer day.

-PATRICK MACGILL, in the Westminster Gazette.

### When the Heroes Return.

(LEST WE FORGET.)

Mother England has been forgetful before; Mother England has been forgetful. I wonder if she will be forgetful at the end of this war, when the heroes come back. I am thinking, I admit, of certain heroes in whom I take a particular interest.

Before the war they were in London and threw up, some of them, their

positions unasked.

Their places now are filled. Will they be kept open for them against their return? Belgium and France know their worth if England yet does not. Let Belgium and let France

Let them speak. I cannot—the subject moves me too strongly. But let England answer, and let her answer soon. What will she do when these heroes come back to her? What will the hostelries of England do when Hans and Fritz and Carl return ?-Punch.

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Author of "When It Was Dark," &c.

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