

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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The Silent Forces.

—

Dedicated to W. Marconi and the Pioneers of Wireless
Telegraphy.

Lo! What forces sweep around us,
Filling all the sea and sky!
How their presence does astound us,
When we know that they are nigh!

Silent waves are ever breaking
O'er us from an endless sea,
Never heeding, never taking
Thought of what it all may be.

Off a message they are bringing,—
Though to us it be unknown,—
Which may set the joy-bells ringing;
Kingdoms may be overthrown.

Then it may bring peace, or sorrow,
Or give freedom to the slave;
Hark! the war-trump sounds to-morrow;
Glory fills a nameless grave.

What is man beside such power,
Plodding on in dull routine?
Brief and boastful is his hour,—
'Twixt the seen and the unseen,

Who are those intrepid seamen,
Who will search those endless seas?
Sing of courage, O ye gleemen,
As we sail before the breeze.

Go, explore, and bring back plunder,
Sailor of this trackless deep;
Show us every silent wonder;
Guide the lightnings as they sweep.

Hail, to those Italian sires,
From whom noble sons have sprung!
Cheer and bless our evening fires,
Mothers of our English tongue.

May your sons seek moral forces,
Principles of truth and right,
Guide them from their silent sources;
Bring them into clearer light.

Till the message greets the nations,
Through the deeds that will be done,—
Sweetening life in every station,—
Men are brothers, every one.

—Carl Mansfield.

St. Cattarines, Ont.