

Arnold's Ride.

Out on the lea
 Brave Arnold did ride,
 Alone with me.
 For help loud he cried,—
 Fell over and died.

Afar moaned the sea !

Out on the lea
 Was his last bed made
 Alone by me,
 Not with shovel or spade
 But a knife's trusty blade.

Afar moaned the sea !

Out on the lea
 Was buried the dead
 Alone by me—
 I covered his head,
 Turned quickly and fled.

Afar moaned the sea !

Back from the lea
 My home safe I won.
 None but me
 Knew the deed that was done
 While red sank the sun.

Close by moaned the sea !

Afar from the lea
 At home sat his wife
 Nought recking of me ;
 But all through our life
 She was the strife
 Between him and me.

Close by moaned the sea !

Back from the lea
 A snorting horse came.
 (Not that ridden by me),
 With eyes all aflame,
 Footsore and lame,

Adown to the sea.

Out on the lea
 His rider they sought.
 Headed by me:
 But no news he brought
 To his fond wife distraught.

Adown by the sea.

Adown near the sea
 The years rolled along ;
 None but me
 Heard, midst the song,
 The mutterings of wrong
Afar on the lea.

Adown near the sea
 Did the wedding-bells ring
 For her and me,
 And the choir-boys did sing
 The sweet nuptial hymn.
Afar was the lea !

Adown near the sea
 We had entered his gate—
 Just only we—
 When a voice uttered, "Wait !"
 "'Tis the ruling of fate—
 "Come back to the lea !"

Back to the lea
 With hurried stride
 I went—woe's me!
 With my newly-made bride
 Clinging close to my side.
Afar moaned the sea !

Out on the lea
 Was dug up his grave
 By me!
 One look she gave—
 Then madly did rave.
Afar moaned the sea !

Afar from the lea,
Afar from the sea,
 I fled all alone
 To stifle the moan
 Which rose in my ear,
 And that loud cry of fear
 His wife madly gave
 When she looked in his grave ;
 And never again
 Can I mix among men.
 In a lone hermit's cell
 My beads fast I tell :
 I wander alone
 My sin to atone.

H. E. K.