L'ENVOI

My job is done: my rhymes are ranked and ready, My word-battalions marching verse by verse; Here stanza-companies are none too steady,

There print-platoons are weak, but might be worse:

And as in marshalled order I review them, My type-brigades, unfearful of the fray,

My eyes that seek their faults are seeing through them

Immortal visions of an epic day.

It seems I'm in a giant bowling-alley: The hidden heavies round me crash and thud; A spire snaps like a pipe-stem in the valley, The rising sun is like a ball of blood. 'Along the road the fantassins are pouring, And some are gay as fire, and some steelstern . . . Then back again I see the red tide pouring Along the reeking road from Hebuterne.

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