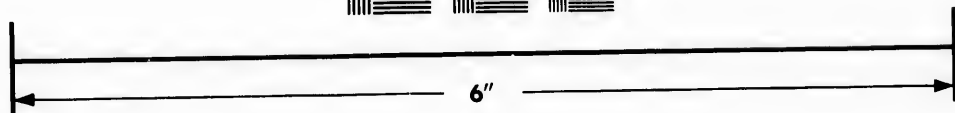
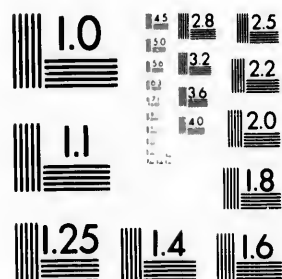
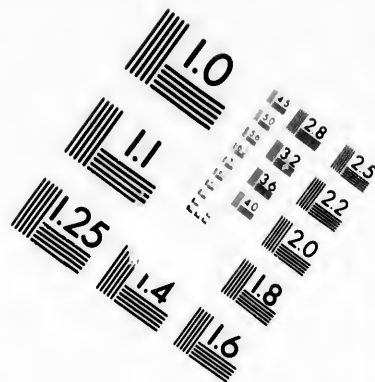
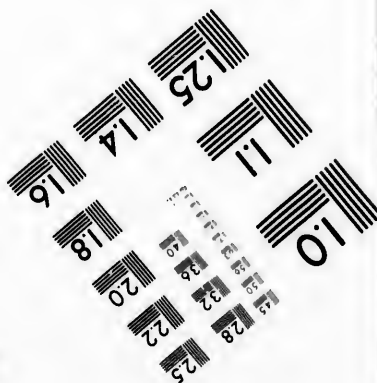


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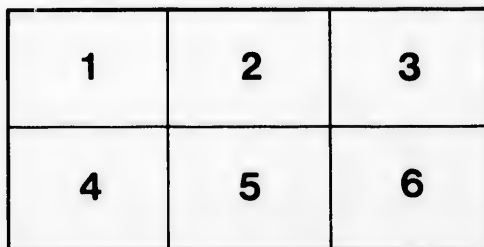
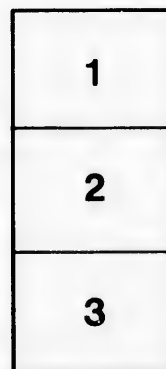
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## **THE TRAIL OF THE BUGLES**

In early fall  
When the world is still,  
There comes a call  
By river and hill,—

A breath of the passion  
Of Wilding Land  
No lips can fashion,  
No heart withstand.

The scarlet cry  
Of a bugle's wail  
Goes fading by  
On a lonely trail;

And the heart of the year  
Is braced and set  
In battle gear  
For the ages yet.

Once through the arch  
Of the Autumn wood,  
I saw the march  
Of a giant brood.

I heard no tread  
Of the warriors there,  
But the hills were red  
With the bugles' blare;

On the shadowy quest  
That is never done,  
They strode abreast  
Of the wheeling sun;

With no retreat,  
Through the hazy flume  
They marched to beat  
At the gates of doom;

For these were they  
Whom glory sealed  
In the brunt of the fray  
On Sombre Field.

By a goblin road,

When the crimson line

By a goblin road,  
Where the crimson line  
Of maples glowed  
In the deep blue pine,  
Throng upon throng  
They gathered and grew,  
And all day long  
On the hills they blew.  
And ever, I dream  
Of a host since then,  
And the moving gleam  
Of marching men.  
My heart is hot  
With the bugles' cry;  
And tiring not,  
Tho' the world go by,  
Possessed and wild,  
I must on and on  
Like a marching child  
With the warriors wan.  
But the low wind veers,  
And the sun recedes  
Through the leveled spears  
Of the river reeds,—  
Back to the dim  
Auroral vast  
Pale twilight rim  
Of the world at last,  
To the great release,  
Where all trails wend,  
And there is peace  
At the Autumn's end.  
To that still land  
All things depart;  
The fondling hand  
And the foolish heart;  
The dear spent youth  
Of triumph and hate;  
The dear bought truth  
From the lips of fate;  
The beautiful ghost  
Of a perished prime,  
Wandered and lost  
On the moors of time;  
The April days  
With their shining hours,

The April days  
With their shining hours,  
The woodland ways  
And the forest flowers;

The stir that wakes  
In a swallow's wing  
When slumber aches  
At the heart of Spring;

The pulse that swells  
In sapling and seed  
When the frozen wells  
Of the North are freed;

The sigh that passed  
In a lull of the rain  
To the outer vast,  
On the long refrain;

The grievous plight  
Of the whippoorwills,  
Teasing the night  
In the summer hills;

The hermit thrush  
With his golden dream;  
The murmuring hush  
Of the arrowy stream;

The noonday rest  
Of the drowsy fern;  
The unknown quest  
Of the wandering tern;

Splendor and scorn  
And ruin and sleep;  
The windy morn  
And the blue deep;

The drift sea-fogs  
That whiten the sun;  
The piping frogs  
In Spring begun;

The core of life  
In a buried hope,  
That sprang to strife  
In the larger scope,

And warred on doom  
To the bitter end,  
In the outer gloom,  
With death for friend;

Through the open door,  
The days untold

Through the open door,  
The days untold  
That come no more  
Though Spring grows old:

All these go down  
To night on the hills;  
And their renown,  
As a babble of rills,

Through the lips of fame  
Shall pass and die.  
But one clear name  
Is a thing to cry

In the bugles of God,  
When the brave are few  
And the flowering sod  
Has a crimson dew,

Till the heart of man  
Is at rest and set free,  
And time is a span  
Of the wind on the sea.

BLISS CARMAN.

NEW YORK CITY, July, 1891.

[These verses, forming one of a lyric series, *The  
Battle of Sombre Field*, are printed for private circu-  
lation only.]

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