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# THE RESCUE, APRIL 1, 1873.

The ship went down at break of day—  
There—in the cold grey light,  
A broken, useless wreck she lay,  
Ghost of her midnight might!  
She who had ridden on the waves,  
Their strength her scorn—the winds her slaves!

There—in her charnel house went down,  
Strong man and little child;  
Of many, a home the light and crown—  
Sweet voices—lips that smiled  
On péril passed—and voyage done  
But yesterday at set of sun!

Exiles from German Fatherland,  
Pilgrims from Sweden's Coast;  
From England's vales, and Erin's strand  
A hardy hopeful host!  
Seeking new homes beyond the wave  
To find their promised land—a grave!

All through the dawning, and the light  
With death the living strove:  
The morning watched the cruel fight  
Of courage, strength, and love!  
The weak and strong, heart-sick with dread  
The living struggling by the dead!

Till all with life were safe at last  
Above that fatal beach;  
Save one, who clinging to the mast  
No helping hand could reach,  
Ten weary hours he waited there  
Till hope died out in dull despair!

Martyred and silent by his side  
A pallid woman hung—  
Long hours above the black cold tide  
To hope and life she clung?  
Until the little child that lay  
Upon her breast was swept away—

Then life and hope together went,  
And he was left alone;  
So chilled and weary, strength was spent  
Yet still the grasp held on!  
While round the broken ship the waves  
Rose fierce and high like yawning graves!

Brave men had looked on death that day,  
And fought and conquered there;  
But now the strongest stood at bay  
The bravest would not dare,  
Where breakers roared upon the lee  
No boat could live on such a sea!

Strength faints, and fear may courage kill  
Even in the bravest heart—  
But Faith, and Love are stronger still  
True manhood to impart!  
Facing the death that filled each wave  
An English Priest went forth to save!

He looked upon the stormy sea  
As Peter looked of old  
When Christ on Lake of Galilee  
Walked where the tempest rolled!  
His heart no Peter's doubting stirred  
For he believed his Maker's word!

And like true Soldier of the Cross  
He put his armour on;  
Counting his life and all as loss  
When duty must be done!  
He heard the Master's voice and knew  
That He who sends gives victory too!

Calm and reliant forth he went,  
Two brave hearts shared his quest!  
The tide was strong, the waves were rent,  
Boiling in wild unrest!  
Yet bravely on the boat they bear  
For Jesus walked beside them there!

They reached the wreck—the line upran  
Swift to the dizzy mast—  
Until the almost dying man  
Was grasped, and saved at last!  
Well had the true and noble striven,  
Earth rang with cheers—joy thrilled through heaven!

In all the sorrow of that scene,  
Above the loss and wrong—  
The heaped up dead, the anguish keen  
Of these who suffered long!  
Where all men's best and worst may claim  
Our admiration and our shame!

By noble men, this noble deed  
Redeems and brightens all!  
It comes in time of sorest need,  
To dry the tears that fall,  
Its eloquence more hearts have stirred,  
Than spoken words, or sermons heard!

The precepts of the grave, and wise,  
May warn, exalt, appeal;  
One deed of such self-sacrifice  
Has made Religion real;  
Wayfaring men have heard it plead;  
So plain—that he who runs may read!

It tells of living faith in God  
By working out his will;  
That He who once the wine press trod  
Is with His Servants still!  
Thus bringing out of pain and loss  
The grace and glory of the Cross!

April 22nd., 1873.

M. J. K. L. Dawson