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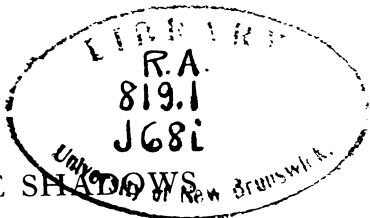
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# HE SHADOWS



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IN THE SHADOWS

BY

E. PAULINE JOHNSON

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## IN THE SHADOWS

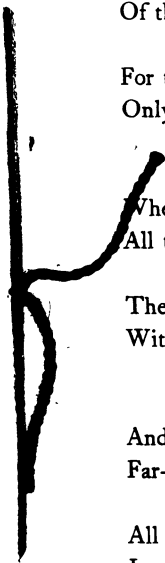
I AM sailing to the leeward,  
Where the current runs to seaward  
Soft and slow.  
Where the sleeping river grasses  
Brush my paddle as it passes  
To and fro.

On the shore the heat is shaking  
All the golden sands awaking  
In the cove ;  
And the quaint sand-piper, winging  
O'er the shallows, ceases singing  
When I move.

On the water's idle pillow  
Sleeps the overhanging willow,  
    Green and cool;  
Where the rushes lift their burnished  
Oval heads from out the tarnished  
    Emerald pool.

Where the very silence slumbers,  
Water lilies grow in numbers,  
    Pure and pale ;  
All the morning they have rested,  
Amber crowned, and pearly crested,  
    Fair and frail.

Here, impossible romances,  
Indefinable sweet fancies,  
    Cluster round ;  
But they do not mar the sweetness  
Of this still September fleetness  
    With a sound.



I can scarce discern the meeting  
Of the shore and stream retreating,  
    So remote ;  
For the laggard river, dozing,  
Only wakes from its reposing  
    Where I float.

Where the river mists are rising,  
All the foliage baptizing  
    With their spray ;  
There the sun gleams far and faintly,  
With a shadow soft and saintly,  
    In its ray.

And the perfume of some burning  
Far-off brushwood, ever turning  
    To exale  
All its smoky fragrance dying,  
In the arms of evening lying,  
    Where I sail.



My canoe is growing lazy,  
In the atmosphere so hazy,  
    While I dream ;  
Half in slumber I am guiding,  
Eastward indistinctly gliding  
    Down the stream.



“In the Shadows” is taken from *The White Wampum*, a book of verses by E. Pauline Johnson, published in London by John Lane, Boston: Lamson, Wolffe & Co., and Toronto: The Copp Clark Co., 1895. Now privately reprinted, in an edition of two hundred copies, for Laurence C. Woodworth and his friends at the nineteenth annual meet of the American Canoe Association, Stave Island, St. Lawrence River, August, MDCCCXCVIII.



