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COURAGE.

It is not they that never knew
Weakness or fear who are the brave
Those are the proud, the knightly few
Whose joy is still to serve and save.

But they who, in the weary night
Amid the darkness and the stress,
Have struggled with disease and blight,
With pitiful world-weariness.

They who have yearned to stand among
The free and mighty of the earth,
Whose sad aspiring souls are wrung
With starless hope and hollow mirth.

Who die with every year, yet live
Through merciless, unbrightened years
Whose sweetest right is to forgive
And smile divinely through their tears.

They are the noble, they are the strong,
They are the tried the trusted ones,
And though their way is hard and long,
Straight to the pitying God it runs;