

of china. No matter, that was what I wanted. Then the private secretary wrote, the consul wrote, they consulted as gravely as if I had asked for a good American slice of their Empire, and still they could not comprehend what I should want with a little common cup. I couldn't explain because I really did not know, myself. So they pow-wowed some more, wrote some more, and at last with further salaams and profuse apologies for the poorness of the gift, they presented me with the little cup. But I felt as if I had been a conspirator in a gunpowder plot. It was all the fault of the porter.

"Off in another magnificent apartment of the coach was the little twelve-year bride whom the consul had taken to himself in San Francisco. The conductor came to us and asked us if we would not go in to see her, as she was so alone—there was no woman in the party, apparently. We found her crouching amid the splendid furnishings, crying her almond eyes out, afraid of the world, and refusing to be comforted."

Somehow, the flavor of my tea seemed changed. It was bitter.

KIPLING'S NEW WAR POEM.

London, Oct. 31.—Rudyard Kipling has written a new war poem entitled "Absent-Minded Beggar." The verses were printed in the London Mail and Mr. Kipling will receive for them \$1,250. This money will go to the fund for the benefit of the families of the reservists who have been ordered to South Africa.

Five hundred dollars is to be paid Sir Arthur Sullivan for setting the lines to music and \$500 a week is to be received by Mrs. Beerbohm Tree for reciting the verses at the Palace Theatre. All this goes to the same fund for the benefit of which Kipling wrote the verses.

The poem follows:

ABSENT-MINDED BEGGAR.

When you've shouted "Rule Britannia,"
when you've sung "God save the Queen,"
When you've finished killing Kruger with
your mouth,
Will you kindly drop a shilling in my
little tambourine
For a gentleman in khaki ordered south?
He's an absent-minded beggar and his
weaknesses are great,
But we—and Paul—must take him as we
find him.
He's out of active service, wiping some-
thing off a slate;
And he's left a lot of little things behind
him.

CHORUS.

Duke's son, cook's son, son of a hundred
kings—
Fifty thousand horse and foot going to
Table Bay,
Each of 'em doing his country's work—
And who's to look after their things?
Pass the hat for your credit's sake and pay
pay, pay.
There are girls he married secret, asking no
permission to—
For he knew he wouldn't get it if he did—
There is gas and coals and vittles and house
rent falling due;
And it's more than rather likely there's a
kid.
There are girls he walked with, casual—
they'll be sorry now he's gone—
For an absent-minded beggar they will find
him.
But it ain't the time for sermons with the
winter coming on,
We must help the girl that Tommy's left
behind him.

CHORUS:

Cook's son, duke's son, son of the belted
earl,
Son of the Lambeth publican—it's all the
same today—
Each of 'em doing his country's work;

And who's to look after the girl?
Pass the hat for your credit's sake and pay,
pay, pay.
There are families by thousands far too
proud to beg or speak;
And they'll put their sticks and bedding up
the spout;
And they'll live on half o' nothing, paid
them promptly once a week,
'Cause the man that earned the wage is
ordered out.
He's an absent minded beggar, but heard
his country call,
And his reg'ment didn't need to send to
find him.
He chucked his job and joined it; so the job
before us all
Is to help the home that Tommy's left
behind him.

CHORUS:

Duke's job, cook's job, gard'ner, baronet,
groom,
News, or palace, or paper-shop—there's
someone gone away,
Each of 'em doing his country's work—
And who's to look after the room?
Pass the hat for your credit's sake and pay,
pay, pay.
Let us manage so as later we can look him
in the face
And tell him what he'd very much prefer—
That while he saved the empire, his em-
ployer saved his place.
And his mates—that's you and me—looked
out for her.
He's an absent-minded beggar, and he may
forget it all;
But we do not want his kiddies to remind
him
That we sent 'em to the workhouse while
their daddy hammered Paul,
So, we'll help the homes our Tommy's
left behind him.

CHORUS:

Cook's home, duke's home, home of a
millionaire—
Fifty thousand horse and foot going to
Table Bay;
Each of 'em doing his country's work—
And what have you got to spare?
Pass the hat for your credit's sake and pay
pay, pay.

Her little brother—Say are you goin'
to propose to my sister tonight?
Her Beau—Why-er, why-er—what do
you mean?
Oh nothin', only if you are, you ain't
goin' to surprise her. At supper just
now she bribed me and my little brother
to go to bed at half-past seven. She's
hung four Cupid pictures on the parlor
wall, moved the sofa over in the darkest
corner, got pa and ma to promise to go
callin' next door, shut the dog in the
collar, an's been practisin' "Because I
love you" on the pianner all afternoon!
You'll get her all right, only if she gives
you the gag about its bein' sudden tell
her it don't go.

The football crank with supple joints,
Who braves the maddening whirl,
Could get a score of dandy points,
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