NOTE

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Please notify changes of address.

THE BLACK SWAN

(Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station.)

Amidst the sedgeweed, dipping deep its bill,
A black swan feeds, the while unceasingly
Over the lake-margined sand-dune booms the sea,
Breaking the quiet on this church-crowned hill,
Where our black brothers, drowsy hours to tell,
Dream of the days that never more may be.

When they, too, wandered like the wild swan, free,
Nor knew the burden of an alien will,

Man, fettered thus, must evermore refine,
And mark with longing eyes wild bird and beast
Foregather at the spacious board divine.
Where freedom spreads an ever-bounteous feast.
How royally that stately creature feeds
Upon this sedgy lake among the reeds.

R. H. L.

THE DIRGE

For Karl Liebknecht

Out of the pregnant darkness, where from are
To shimmering fire the watchful wolf leaps.
The dirge floats up from those who pile the pyre
High and still higher.
That yet shall blaze across the victorious deeps.

Farewell, O brother heart,
Yet we shall not forget,
Though hand from hand must part,
Your hope is with us yet.
The clank of the clovener's sword
And tone of the miner's gold
Are not so loud as the lover's word
In a thousand voices rolled.

The lords of the tottering order sit and plot,
With cunning courtesy haggling still.
The insolent chorus cannot be forgot—
Its words are shorn.

Like summoning rockets from the eastern hill
You, it was you who showed
How murder made his pact
In busy Greed's abode;
Preparing for the act.
To save the faithful
They bade your comrades die
And fall in their path you took your stand.
To kill the traitor lie.

Now, lest their flags and banners be lost in flame.
The desperate pair have summoned those
Whose love is moderate, and whose life is tame
To blast with shame.
The rose that sprung amid a myriad woes.

The ranks of freedom swell.
The flag of love rolls out.
The efficient ranks of hell,
Close up in deadly doubt.
Moulded in bloody mine.
The bullet finds its mark.
A living spirit winged with fire
Flares homeward from the dark.

J. LE GAY BRERETON.