The Last Chanty.


Which said the Lord in the Vault above the Chantry,
Calling to the Angels and the Souls in their cloaks—

"Lo! Tarax had passed away

"On the brink of judgment day—

"That our Lord may be established shall we gather up the Sea?"


Loud sang the Souls of theジェリジェリ married—

"Plague upon the hurricane that smote us quick, and clear!

"And the sea, it lies between us,

"In the deep the horse hath drunk his—

"Our bones we'll leave to Hiram's and God may sink the Sea!"


Then said the Lord of Judah that betrayed him—

"Lo, they have forgot Thee, O my servant with me—

"Now once a year I go

"To cast me in the fire—

"And the sea may gather up the Sun, if ye hate away the sea?"


Then said the Lord of the Angel of the Off-shore wind—

"He that ruleth the winds, when he will cometh, threats thee—

"I have smitten and wound, I slay—

"O'er they wander in the deep—

"And ye hate mine honor from me, if ye hate away the Sea!"


Loud sang the Souls of theジェリジェリ married—

"Nay, but we were angry; and a last a died are we!

"If we smote, the ship together

"And they wandered in Jove with her—

"Are we called that we should clamor? for vengeance on the Sea?"


Then said the Souls of the Slaves next men Three overboard—

"Kneel, ye, at the hearth, a heavy load were we—

"But Thy Angel was strong to save

"And it bought us on the wave—

"And we drowned the long miles idle like Thy Triumphed in the Sea!"


Then said the Lord of the Strand above the Heath of God—

"Once we prayed a ship, and the heathen, unsightly—

"There were fourteen souls in Three

"And they blessed Thee on their knees

"When they learned Thy grace and glory under Malta by the Sea!"


Loud sang the Souls of theジェリジェリ married

Plucking at their harp, and they plotted unhappily—

"Our throats are rough and hot—

"And the time is something hard—

"May we left a British Chanty such as beamen use at sea?"
Then said the soul of the gentlemen adventurers
"Tell them to go all for red luxury."
"No we revel in our chains
Over the forests that was Shari's
"Drink or not of - here or drink it - we were masters of the sea!"

Lept shake the soul of a grey, somber shadow—
"She that gard the plashing in the floods of fair boundless—
"And the wind that travels near—
"Will ye whom them all for mention that roasts in the sea?"

Lord, sang the souls of the holy, silent orphan—
"Crying. Under Heaven, here is another land nor sea."
"Must we sing for evermore—
"O the windless, placid, clear—
"Take back your golden paddles, and we'll beat for open sea!"

Then stopped the lord and he called the good sea, up to him,
And swallowed his buried units all indifferently:
That such as have no pleasures—
For to bring the Lord by measure—
They may enter into gallows and rest here on the sea.

Sun, wind, and cloud shall fail not from the face of it—
Singing ringing Spindrift, nor the fulmar flying free—
And the ships shall go abroad—
To the glory of the Lord—
Who heard the silly sailor-men and gave them back their sea!

Rudyard Kipling
COLLECTION OF

CATALOGUE NUMBER

AUTOGRAPH OF

Kipling

CONTENTS

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC
30 EAST 57 STREET · NEW YORK
RUDYARD KIPLING, MS. "THE LAST CHANTEY,"
April 1897.
[reproduced on plates 1–2]

AMS, 2 pages. Two sheets, 28.1 x 21.4 cm.
Blue-gray wove paper. Watermark: CRANE & CO DALTON MASS.

Provenance: Ballard sale, 21 Jan 1942.
Published in Pall Mall Magazine, Jun 1893; The Philistines, Dec 1895 (pirated); The Seven Seas (London: Methuen and Co., 1896), pp. 21–25, with 4 substantive and 53 accidental variations from the Lewis MS.

Note: The second page is signed Rudyard Kipling and inscribed (lower left corner, diagonally) For Miss Bridson——| Rock House. April. 1897.
Miss Bridson, presumably a resident of Torquay, eludes further identification.

From:
AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT OF “THE LAST CHANTEY”

2. AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT of “The Last Chantey,” signed, written on 2 pp., small 4to, consisting of thirteen 5-line stanzas, about 560 words.

THE AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT OF KIPLING’S CELEBRATED SONG OF THE SEA. The song originally appeared in the Pall Mall Magazine, June, 1893; and in The Philistiné, Dec., 1895, without the author’s permission. It was included in The Seven Seas, 1896.

At the foot of the second page Kipling has inscribed: “For Miss Bridson—Rock House. April. 1897.”

The Last Chantey was first given the title of The Judgment of the Sea.

Stanza ten in the manuscript differs from that in the above periodical and book.

E. A. B., xcii[e]; F. V. L. (1927), p. 124; (1938), p. 126