

## The Last Chanty.

Thus said the Lord in the Vault above the Cherubim,  
Calling to the Angels and the Souls in their degree:—  
"Lo! Earth has passed away  
"On the smoke of Judgment Day—  
That our Lord may be satisfied shall we gather up the Sea?"

Lord sang the Souls of the jolly jolly mariners:—  
"Plague upon the hurricane that made us furl and flee!  
"But the war is o'er between us,  
"In the deep the Lord hath seen us—  
"Our bones we'll leave the barracout, and God may sink the Sea!"

Then said the Soul of Judas that betrayed Him:—  
"Lord, hast Thou forgotten Thy Covenant with me—  
"How once a year I go  
"To cool me on the floe—  
"And ye take my day of mercy if ye take away the Sea?"

Then said the Soul of the Angel of the off-shore wind—  
He that hits the thunder when the hull-mouthed breakers flee—  
"I have watch and word to keep  
"O'er Thy wonders on the Deep—  
"And ye take mine honour from me if ye take away the Sea!"

Lord sang the Souls of the jolly jolly mariners:—  
"Nay, but we were angry, and a hasty folk are we!  
"If we worked the ship together  
"Till she foundered in foul weather—  
"are we babes that we should clamour for a vengeance on the Sea?"

Then said the Souls of the Slaves that men threw overboard—  
"Kenselled in the hickaroo, a weary band were we!  
"But Thy Arm was strong to save  
"And It touched us on the wave—  
"And we drowned the long kides idle like Thy Treadpelt 'ere the Sea!"

Then said the Soul of the Stout apostle Paul to God:—  
"Once we grasped a ship, and she laboured roundly—  
"There were fourteen score o' these  
"And they blessed Thee on their knees  
"When they learned Thy grace and story under Malta by the Sea!"

Lord sang the Souls of the jolly jolly mariners  
Plucking at their harps, and they blucked unhandily:—  
"Our thumbs are rough and tarred,  
"And the tune is something hard—  
"May we left a Dipsca Chanty such as seamen use at sea?"

Then said the Souls of the Gentlemen adventurers  
 fettered wrist-to-bar all for red eniquity:—  
 "Ho we revel in our chains  
 O'er the sorrow that was Shæen's—  
 "Heave or sink it—leave or drink it—we were masters of the Sea!"

Up shake the Soul of a Gray Gokhavin Sketshornier—  
 He that lead the flinching in the fleets o' fair bounded—  
 "By the ice-blind while and near  
 "And the bow-head breaching clear,  
 "Will ye whalom them all for wantonness that walks in the Sea?"

Lowd Sang the Souls of the jolly jolly mariners  
 Crying: Under Heaven, here is neither lead nor lee!  
 "Must we sing for evermore  
 "on the windless glassy Floor  
 "Take back your golden fiddles, and we'll beat for open sea!"

Then stooped the Lord and He called the good sea up to Him,  
 and stablished his borders unto all eternity—  
 That such as have no pleasure  
 For to hymn the Lord by measure—  
 they may enter into Gallions and serve him on the Sea.

Sun, Wind and Cloud shall fail not from the face of it—  
 Slinging 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

For Miss Whickson—  
 Rock House. April. 1897.

459  
2 (1 ALS  
1 MSS)

**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 Philistine*, Dec  
1895 (pirated); *The Seven Seas* (London: Methuen and Co.,  
1896), pp. 21-25, with 4 substantive and 53 accidental varia-  
tions 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 identifica-  
tion.

From:

Kendall, Lyle H., Jr. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the W.L. Lewis Collection--Part One*.  
Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1970.

## 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 Philistine*, 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

Ballard 1/21/42  
200<sup>00</sup>