

"ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC TO NIGHT"





"All quiet along the Potomac to-night,"
Where the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming,
And their tents in the rays of the clear autumn moon,
And the light of the camp fires are gleaming.

A tremulous sigh, as the gentle night wind
Thro' the forest leaves slowly is creeping,
While the stars up above, with their glittering eyes.
Keep guard o'er the army while sleeping.

There's only the sound of the lone sentry's tread,
As he tramps from the rock to the fountain,
And thinks of the two on the low trundle bed,
Far away in the cot on the mountain.

His musket falls slack—his face, dark and grim, Grows gentle with memories tender, As he mutters a prayer for the children asleep, And their mother—"may Heaven defend her." Then drawing his sleeve roughly over his eyes, He dashes off the tears that are welling; And gathers his gun close up to his breast, As if to keep down the heart's swelling.

He passes the fountain, the blasted pine tree,
And his footstep is lagging and weary;
Yet onward he goes, thro the broad beit of light,
Toward the shades of the forest so dreary

Hark! was it the night wind that rustles the leaves?
Was it the moonlight se wond'rously flashing?
It looked like a rifle! "Ha! Mary, good-bye!"
And his life-blood is obbing and plashing.

"All quiet along the Potomac to-night,"
No sound save the rush of the river;
While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead,
"The Picket's" off duty forever.

The moon seems to shine as brightly as then—
That night, when the love yet unspoken,
Leaped up to his lips, and when low murmur'd vowWere pledged to be ever unbroken.