

一個兵士
的回家



Hawlin Garland 著

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Hamlin Garland

他是 1860 生的 美國威士康星省 人，他少時的生活過在他父親的農場上，故對於農民的狀況自小便獲得深刻的印象。他的少時教育也是從鄉村學校受得的。

他生平的興趣在於改良社會的計畫。1885 年時，他開始做詩和小說。他的第一部名著，Main Travelled Roads, 是 1890 年出版的，內中包含

着他的最好的作品。他的描寫是赤裸的，深刻的，令人想起俄國大胆寫實派描寫農奴艱苦的那種作品。此外，我們又覺得他的作品中含有一種憐憫的深情，這並不明白表出，而讀者自然感着，因為他的最强的特色就是‘含蓄’。

美國著名批評家 Howells 批評他道：“Garland書中的模型並不算美，却是醜的，而且往往是可笑的，然而往往令人心碎。……他有一種勇氣，把一件事實毫無潤色毫無塗飾的交給讀者，這正是盎格羅撒克遜作家當中最難得的一種特色。”

一個士兵的回家是他的代表作之一。它最能顯出俄國寫實派的長處，也最能看出他的含蓄不盡的作風。內中包含許多俗語，將農民的

口吻如實形容出來，初學者不免艱難，但與注解對看，細細讀去，將來讀別的俗語的小說便容易了。

THE RETURN OF A PRIVATE

（ 一 個 兵 士 的 回 家 ）

THE RETURN OF A PRIVATE

The nearer the train drew toward La Crosse¹, the soberer the little group of "vets"² became. On the long way from New Orleans³ they had beguiled tedium with jokes and friendly chaff; or with planning with elaborate detail what they were going

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1. 美國 Wisconsin 省西部之一區。
 2. "vets," privates 之略呼。

一個兵士的回家

火車愈近刺克羅司，那一小小集團的兵士便愈清醒，在從新奧爾良來的長杳的路上，他們已拿笑話和親密的談諧來消磨厭倦；或者藉詳細規畫他們如今戰後所要做的

3. 美國著名之商業城，在東南部濱海處。

to do now, after the war. A long journey, slowly, irregularly, yet persistently pushing northward. When they entered on Wisconsin¹ territory they gave a cheer, and another when they reached Madison², but after that they sank into a dumb expectancy. Comrades dropped off³ at one or two points beyond, until there were only four or five left who were bound for⁴ La Crosse County.

Three of them were gaunt and brown, the fourth was gaunt and pale, with signs of fever and ague upon him. One had a great scar down his temple, one limped, and they all had unnaturally large, bright eyes, showing emaciation. There were no bands greeting them at the station, no banks of gayly dressed

1. Wisconsin, 美國 Michigan 湖西之省。

2. 在 La Crosse 之南。

事。一段長的旅程，緩慢地，不規律地，然而固執地向北推進的。當他們進入威士康星的境界，他們歡呼了一聲，及達馬的孫，又是一聲，但自馬的孫之後，他們就沉入一種沉默的期待中了。弟兄們在途中一處兩處地點下去了，終至只剩四五個，是到刺克羅司區去的。

其中三個是瘦而焦黃的，第四個則瘦而蒼白，身上帶着熱病和瘧疾的痕跡。一個太陽穴下帶有一個大癩，一個跛腳，而他們大家都有不自然地大而光明的眼睛，顯示着憔悴。沒有軍樂隊在車站歡迎他

3. drop off ——retire or disappear.

4. bound for——on the way to.

ladies waving handkerchiefs and shouting "Bravo!" as they came in on the caboose of a freight train into the towns that had cheered and blared at them on their way to war.¹ As they looked out or stepped upon the platform for a moment, while the train stood at the station, the loafers looked at them indifferently. Their blue coats, dusty and grimy, were too familiar now to excite notice, much less a friendly word. They were the last of the army to return, and the loafers were surfeited with such sights.

The train jogged forward² so slowly that it seemed likely³ to be midnight before they should reach La Crosse. The little squad⁴ grumbled and swore, but it was no use; the train would not hurry, and, as a

1. on the way to war——赴戰。

2. jogged forward——艱行而前。

們，也沒有成列的衣服漂亮的婦女們揮着手帕，喊着“好嘞！”當他們在貨車的器具車上進到那些在他們赴戰時曾經對着他們喝采和叫喊的市鎮的時候。當火車停在站上，他們向外看望或在月台上稍稍散步時，那些遊手們都冷漠地望望他們。他們那些灰塵的油膩的藍色軍服，現在已經看熟，不能惹起注意，更不能激起一句表示好意的話了。他們是最後回來的一批軍隊，而遊手們是看厭了這種景象的了。

那火車前進的極慢，看情形似乎要到半夜才能達到刺克羅司。那小小的隊伍抱怨，咒罵，但是沒有用處；火車是不肯加緊的，而事實

3. likely—probably.

4. squad—small party of soldiers.

matter of fact¹, it was nearly two o'clock when the engine whistled "down brakes."²

All of the group were farmers, living in districts several miles out of the town, and all were poor.

"Now, boys," said Private Smith, he of the fever and ague, "we are landed in La Crosse in the night. We've got to stay somewhere till mornin'. Now I ain't³ got no two dollars to waste on a hotel. I've got a wife and children, so I'm goin' to roost⁴ on a bench and take the cost of a bed out of my hide."⁵

"Same here," put in one of the other men. "Hide'll grow on again, dollars'll come hard. It's goin' to

1. as a matter of fact——事實上。

2. down brakes——煞車。

3. ain't——have not; ain't got no——double negative, 俗語中常有之。

上，當機頭吹出“煞車”的時候，已經是將近兩點了。

那集團中所有的都是農民，住在離這市鎮數哩的區域的，而且都是窮苦的。

“現在，孩子們，”士兵斯密斯——就是那個有熱病和瘡疾的——道，“咱們是夜裏到刺克羅司了。咱們得找個地方等到天明。我現在是沒有兩隻洋好浪費在旅館裏。我家有老婆孩子，所以我要在板凳上宿一晚，由我的皮熬出一個牀舖的錢來。”

“我也這樣，”其他人中的一個插進道。“皮是會再長的，錢是來得艱

4. roost——rest, sleep.

5. take the cost of a bed out of my hide, 直譯從我的皮裏取出一個牀舖的錢來。

be mighty hot skirmishin' to find a dollar these days."

"Don't think they'll be a deputation of citizens waitin' to 'scort' us to a hotel, eh?" said another. His sarcasm was too obvious to require an answer.

Smith went on, "Then at day-break we'll start for home—at least, I will."

"Well, I'll be dummed² if I'll take two dollars out o' *my* hide," one of the younger men said. "I'm goin' to a hotel, ef³ I don't never lay up¹ a cent."

"That'll do f'r you," said Smith; "but if you had a wife an' three young uns⁵ dependin' on yeh⁶—"

"Which I ain't, thanks the Lord! and don't intend havin' while the

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1. 'scort—escort.
 2. dummed—damned.
 3. ef—if.

難的。這種年頭要找一塊錢，簡直是跟人拚命呢。”

“你不想會有個市民代表等着送我們到旅館去嗎，喂？”另外一個道。他的譏諷分明是不要人回答的。

斯密斯繼續道，“那末一到天亮咱們就動身回家——至少我是要回家的。”

“好罷，倘如叫我熬着皮省兩塊錢，我就要死了，”一個比較年青的道。“我是要上旅館的，即使我不會貯蓄一分錢。”

“那在你是可以的，”斯密斯道；“可是倘如你有一個老婆和三個小的靠着您——”

“這個我可沒有，謝謝天主！而且

4. lay up, 貯蓄。

5. young uns——young ones。

6. yeh——you。

court knows itself.”¹

The station was deserted, chill, and dark, as they came into it at exactly a quarter to two in the morning. Lit by the oil lamps that flared a dull red light over the dingy benches, the waiting-room was not an inviting place. The younger man went off to look up² a hotel, while the rest remained and prepared to camp down³ on the floor and benches. Smith was attended to⁴ tenderly by the other men, who spread their blankets on the bench for him, and, by robbing themselves,⁵ made quite a comfortable bed, though the narrowness of the bench made his sleeping precarious.

It was chill, though August, and

1. while the court knows itself——
while judging is sound.

2. look up——seek.

3. camp down——to make a camp

也不想有，當我心裏明白的時候。”

當他們恰在早晨兩點缺一刻走進車站的時候，這車站是無人的，寒冷的，黑暗的。那待車室點着幾盞油燈，閃出一種暗淡的紅光在齷齪的板凳上，並不是一個誘惑人的所在。那年青的人出去找旅館去了，其餘的留在那裏，準備在地板上和板凳上歇宿起來。斯密斯有其餘的人好好照顧着，替他在板凳上鋪起被單，並且刻扣着自己，造出一張很舒適的牀來，雖則那板凳的狹窄使得他的睡眠不穩當。

雖則是在八月裏，天氣是寒冷

down—to rest。

4. attended to, 照顧, 服侍。

5. robbing themselves, 剝奪自己的東西。

the two men, sitting with bowed heads, grew stiff with cold and weariness, and were forced to rise now and again and walk about to warm their stiffened limbs. It did not occur to them¹ probably, to contrast their coming home with their going forth, or with the coming home of the generals, colonels, or even captains—but to Private Smith, at any rate² there came a sickness at heart almost deadly as he lay there on his hard bed and went over³ his situation.

In the deep of the night, lying on a board in the town where he had enlisted three years ago, all elation and enthusiasm gone out of him, he faced the fact that with the joy of home-coming was already mingled the bitter juice of care. He saw

1. it did not occur to them—it did not come to their mind.

的，那兩個彎着頭坐着的人，都因冷和疲倦漸覺僵硬，不得不時時起來走動走動，藉以溫暖他們的僵了的四肢。他們大概沒有想起把他們的回家和他們出門對照一下，或和將軍們，大佐們，或甚至隊長們的回家對照一下——但在斯密斯，無論如何，當他躺在他的硬牀上把他的境遇溫習一遍的時候，是心裏難受得幾乎要死的。

當夜深時，躺在他三年前投入軍籍的市鎮中的一塊木板上，一切的得意和熱心都從他身上消去了，他已當面着回家的快樂業已混入憂慮的苦汁的事實了。他看見自己是

2. at any rate, 無論如何。

3. went over——溫習，再思。

himself sick, worn out, taking up the work on his half-cleared farm, the inevitable mortgage standing ready with open jaw to swallow half his earnings. He had given three years of his life for a mere pittance of pay, and now!—

Morning dawned at last, slowly, with a pale yellow dome of light rising silently above the bluffs, which stand, like some huge storm-devastated castle, just east of the city. Out to the left the great river swept on its massive yet silent way to the south. Bluejays called across the water from hillside to hillside through the clear, beautiful air, and hawks began to skim the tops of the hills. The older men were astir early, but Private Smith had fallen at last into a sleep, and they went out without waking him. He lay on his knapsack, his gaunt face turned toward the ceiling, his hands clasped

病着，憔悴着，在他的開墾方半的農場上做起工作，那不可避免的抵押已經張着牙站在那裏要吞入他的收入的一半了。他曾把一生中三年的時光換取僅僅些微的俸給，而如今！——

天終於亮了，慢慢地，帶着一個淡黃色的光圈，沉默地昇在斷崖之上，那斷崖則像一座被風雨侵蝕的巨堡，居於城市的正東。出其左，則有大河向南曳過它的重大而沉默的道路。藍鵲兒從山坡到山坡經由清潔美麗的空氣隔水叫喚，老鷹也開始掠過小山巔。年紀較大的人早就動彈，但是士兵斯密斯終於入睡了，他們就沒有叫醒他，自己先走了。他躺在他的背囊上，他的消瘦的臉朝着天花板，他的手又在胸

on his breast, with a curious pathetic effect of weakness and appeal.

An engine switching¹ near woke him at last, and he slowly sat up and stared about. He looked out of the window and saw that the sun was lightening the hills across the river. He rose and brushed his hair as well as he could, folded his blankets up, and went out to find his companions. They stood gazing silently at the river and at the hills.

"Looks natcher'l,² don't it?" they said, as he came out.

"That's what it does," he replied. "An' it looks good. D'³ yeh see that peak?" He pointed at a beautiful symmetrical peak, rising like a slightly truncated cone, so high that it seemed the very highest of them all. It was touched by the morning

1. switching——pursuing.

2. natcher'l——natural.

上，帶着一種虛弱和訴苦的奇異的可憐的意味。

一個駛近來的機頭終於將他攪醒，他就慢慢的坐起來，四面瞻視一回。他從窗看出去，看見太陽正在照耀隔河的諸山。他站起身來，盡力的刷刷頭髮，捲起他的被單，出去找他的同伴。他們正站在那裏默默看着河和山。

“看起來很是天然，不是嗎？”他們當他出來的時候說。

“正是的，”他回答道。“而且還很美。你們看見那塊山峯嗎？”他指着一塊美麗的對稱的山峯，像個稍微削去一點的圓錐形般挺在那裏，高的似他們當中的最高峯。它受早晨

3. D'—do。

sun and it glowed like a beacon, and a light scarf of gray morning fog was rolling up its shadowed side.

"My farm's just beyond that. Now, if I can only ketch¹ a ride, we'll be home by dinner-time."

"I'm talkin' about breakfast," said one of the others.

"I guess it's one more meal o'² hardtack f'r³ me," said Smith.

They foraged⁴ around, and finally found a restaurant with a sleepy old German behind the counter, and procured some coffee, which they drank to wash down their hardtack.

"Time'll come," said Smith, holding up a piece by the corner, "when this'll be a curiosity."

"I hope to God it will! I bet I've chewed hardtack enough to

1. ketch—catch.

2. o'—of.

3. f'r—for.

的陽光的接觸，熾得像烽火一般，且有一陣灰色晨霧做成的輕薄肩巾由它的陰暗的山坡捲上。

“我的農場就在那後面，現在，我只要有可騎的，咱們到中飯時就到家了。”

“我是在談早飯呢，”其他人中的一個道。

“我想我還要再吃一頓硬餅干罷，”斯密斯說。

他們四處尋覓一回，終於找到一個飯店，有一鬼恹的德國老人坐在櫃台上，就獲得一些咖啡，喝來沖下他們的硬餅干。

“時候總會到來，”斯密斯拿着一塊餅干的一角道，“那時這樣的東西將要成爲珍品。”

“我希望上帝會有這樣的時候！我打賭，我吃過的硬餅干足勾蓋滿

4. foraged——wandered in search of food.

shingle every house in the coolly. I've chawed it when my lampers¹ was down, and when they wasn't. I've took it dry, soaked, and mashed. I've had it wormy, musty, sour, and blue-mouldy. I've had it in little bits and big bits; 'fore coffee an' after coffee. I'm ready f'r a change. I'd like t' git holt jest about now o'² some of the hot biscuits my wife c'n make when she lays herself out³ f'r company."

"Well, if you set' there gabblin,' you'll never see yer wife."

"Come on," said Private Smith. "Wait a moment, boys; less take suthin'.⁵ It's on me." He led them to the rusty tin dipper which hung on a nail beside the wooden water-

1. lampers—lampas, 口蓋腫。

2. I should like to get hold just about now of.....

3. lay oneself out—to exert oneself

這渦地的每個屋子。我的口蓋腫時我吃過，等到口蓋不腫我還是吃。我曾經乾吃，泡了吃，搗碎吃。我曾經生虫也吃，霉了也吃；酸了也吃，上青花也吃。我曾經小塊的吃，大塊的吃；咖啡之前吃，咖啡之後吃。我是預備換換樣兒了。我願得現在就抓些熱餅干來吃，那是我的老婆招待朋友時能夠做得出來的。”

“好罷，’你若是坐在那裏談閒天，你就老見不着你的老婆了。”

“來罷，”斯密斯說。“待一會兒，孩子們；讓我們吃點東西。這是說我呢，”他領導他們到一個掛在木水桶旁邊釘上的上鏽的馬口鐵的湯

for some special object.

4. set there——sit there.
5. let us take something.

pail, and they grinned and drank. Then shouldering their blankets and muskets, which they were "takin' home to the boys," they struck out¹ on their last march.

"They called that coffee Jayvy," grumbled one of them, "but it never went by the road where government Jayvy resides. I reckon I know coffee from peas."

They kept together on the road along the turnpike, and up the winding road by the river, which they followed for some miles. The river was very lovely, curving down along its sandy beds, pausing now and then under broad basswood trees, or running in dark, swift, silent currents under tangles of wild grapevines, and drooping alders, and haw trees. At one of these lovely spots the three vets sat down on the thick green

1. struck out—proceeded.

杓，他們就露着齒喝了。然後，揹上他們“帶歸給孩子們的”被單和毛瑟槍，他們便動身作他們的最後的行軍了。

“他們叫那咖啡作耶啡，”其中有一個喃喃道，“可是官家耶啡所種的地方路上從來不曾經過。我想咖啡和菀豈我是辨得出來的。”

他們一齊沿着稅道走，並且走上沿河的那條彎曲的路，走了數哩。那條河很是可愛，循着它的砂牀彎曲而下，偶爾在廣闊的菩提樹下停頓一回。或以黑暗，迅速，沉默的水流駛過荒野的葡萄藤叢，和懸垂的赤楊，及山楂樹。在這些可愛的地點之一，那三個士兵坐在濃

sward to rest, "on Smith's account." The leaves of the trees were as fresh and green as in June, the jays called cheery greetings to them, and kingfishers darted to and fro with swooping, noiseless flight.

"I tell yeh, boys, this knocks the swamps of Loueesiana¹ into kingdom come."

You bet. All they c'n raise down there is snakes, niggers, and p'rticler² hell."

"An' fightin' men," put in the older man.

"An' fightin' men. If I had a good hook an' line I'd sneak a pick'rel³ out o' that pond. Say, remember that time I shot that alligator—"

"I guess we'd better be crawlin' along," interrupted Smith, rising and

1. Louisiana, 在 Gulf of Mexico 沿岸之省。

厚的綠色草地上休息，“是爲史密斯之故。”那些樹的葉子，新鮮且綠，如在六月裏一般，鵲兒對他們喚出快樂的歡迎聲，翠鳥以下撲的無聲的飛勢掠來掠去。

“我告訴你們，孩子們，這一回要把路易斯安那的濕地打成王國呢。”

“你打賭。他們在那裏所能生產的只有蛇，黑人，和特別的地獄。”

“還有打手，”那比較年長的插進道。

“還有打手。倘使我有一個好鈎和一根釣竿，我就要從那池裏去誘出一條稜魚來。喂，還記得那一次我打那個鱷魚——”

“我想我們不如慢慢前去罷，”史密斯插進來說，便站起身來，搵上

2. p'rticler—particular。

3. pick'rel—pickerel。

shouldering his knapsack, with considerable effort, which he tried to hide.

"Say, Smith, lemme¹ give you a lift² on that."

"I guess I c'n manage," said Smith, grimly.

"Course. But, yo' see, I may not have a chance right off to pay yeh back for the times you've carried my gun and hull caboodle.³ Say, now, gimme that gun, anyway."

"All right, if yeh feel like⁴ it, Jim," Smith replied, and they trudged along doggedly in the sun, which was getting higher and hotter each half-mile.

"Ain't it queer there ain't no teams comin' along," said Smith,

1. lemme—let me.

2. lift—help, assistance.

3. hull caboodle—whole pack.

他的背囊，很費了些力，他却嘗試把它掩飾了。

“喂，斯密斯，讓我給你幫一下忙罷。”

“我想我還對付得了，”斯密斯肅然的說。

“那個當然。可是，你瞧，我從此也許再沒有機會報答你幾回替我揹槍和全包裹了。喂，無論如何，也把那槍交給我。”

“好罷，如果你願意的話，哲姆，”斯密斯答道，他們就頑梗地在太陽裏艱步前行了，那太陽是每過半哩路就愈高一程，愈熱一度。

“這不是奇嗎，竟沒有牲口隊經過，”斯密斯過了一段長時的沉默

4. if yeh feel like it —— if you have the willingness for it.

after a long silence.

“Well, no, seein’s it’s Sunday.”

“By jinks,¹ that’s a fact. It *is* Sunday. I’ll git home in time f’r dinner, sure!” he exulted, “She don’t hev dinner usially² till about *one* on Sundays.” And he fell into a muse, in which he smiled.

“Well, I’ll git home jest³ about six o’clock, jest about when the boys are milkin’ the cows,” said old Jim Canby. “I’ll step into the barn, an’ then I’ll say: ‘Heah! why ain’t this milkin’ done before this time o’ day?’ An’ then won’t they yell!” he added, slapping his thigh in great glee.

Smith went on. “I’ll jest go up the path. Old Rover’ll come down the road to meet me. He won’t bark; he’ll know me, an’ he’ll come down waggin’ his tail an’ showin his

1. By jinks——俗語中之 interjection。

2. she don’t hev dinner usially ——she

道。

“哦，不，看來今天是禮拜天吧。”

“哦，是的，這是事實，今天確是禮拜天。我還趕得及到家裏吃中飯，一定的！”他狂喜道。“她在禮拜天照例是不到一點鐘不吃飯的。”他於是沉入冥想，而在冥想之中他微笑了。

“好罷，我將剛在六點鐘的時候到家，剛在孩子們要擠牛奶的時候，”老哲姆·甘貝說。“我將踏進牛欄裏去，這才我將說道：‘嘿，幹麼不早點兒擠牛奶呢？’那末他們不要嚷起嗎！”他大喜地拍着大腿補上道。

斯密斯又繼續說話了。“我將直上那條小路去。老羅佛爾會到路上來接我。他不會叫的；他將認識我，而且他會搖着尾巴露着牙齒的

doesn't have dinner usually.

3. jest—just.

meth. That's his way of laughin' An' so I'll walk up to the kitchen door, an' I'll say, '*Dinner* f'r a hungry man!' An' then she'll jump up, an'—"

He couldn't go on. His voice choked at the thought of it. Saunders, the third man, hardly uttered a word, but walked silently behind the others. He had lost his wife the first year he was in the army. She died of pneumonia, caught in the autumn rains while working in the fields on his place.

They plodded along till at last they came to a parting of the ways. To the right the road continued up the main valley; to the left it went over the big ridge.

"Well, boys," began Smith, as they grounded their muskets and looked away up the valley, "here's where we shake hands. We've mar-

走來。那就是他的笑法。這樣，我將走上廚房的門口，我就說，‘拿飯給一個飢餓的人吃罷！’那時她就會跳起來，而且——”

他說不下去了。他想到這裏，他的聲音哽塞了。第三個人桑德爾斯，差不多不曾說過一句話，却是靜默地走在其他兩人的後邊。他入軍隊的第一年就已喪失他的妻了。她是當代他在田裏工作時由秋雨中得來的肺炎死的。

他們跋涉前行，終至到分路的所在。向右，那路繼續通入主要的山谷；向左，它是通過一個大山崗。

“好罷，孩子們，”斯密斯開始說，當他們放下毛瑟槍而向山谷看去的時候，“這裏是我們要握手的所在了。我們已經同行許多哩，現在

ched together a good many miles, an' now I s'pose we're done."

"Yes, I don't think we'll do any more of it f'r a while. I don't want to, I know."

"I hope I'll see yeh once in a while, boys, to talk over old times."

"Of course," said Saunders, whose voice trembled a little, too. "It ain't *exactly* like dyin'." They all found it hard to look at each other.

But we'd ought'r go home with you," said Canby. "You'll never climb that ridge with all them things on yer back."

"Oh, I'm all right! Don't worry about me. Every step takes me nearer home, yeh see. Well, good-by, boys."

They shook hands. "Good-by. Good luck!"

我想我們是完了。”

“是的，我想我們暫時總不會再有這樣的事了。我也不願有，我知道的。”

“我希望不久就可以見你，孩子們，好把舊日的事情談談。”

“當然的，”桑德爾斯道，他的聲音也有些兒顫抖了。”這不見得就像死吧。”他們都覺得不容易彼此相看。

“可是我們應該送你回家才是，”甘貝說。“你決不能背上揹着那麼些東西爬過那山崗的。”

“啊，我沒有什麼！不要替我費心。我走一步近家一步，你知道的。好罷，再會，孩子們。”

他們握了手。“再會。祝你好運！”

“Same to you. Lemme know how you find things at home.”

“Good-by.”

‘ Good-by.’

He turned once before they passed out of sight¹ and waved his cap, and they did the same, and all yelled. Then all marched away with their long, steady, loping, veteran step. The solitary climber in blue walked on for a time, with his mind filled with the kindness of his comrades, and musing upon the many wonderful days they had had together in camp and field.

He thought of his chum, Billy Tripp. Poor Billy! A “minie” ball² fell into his breast one day, fell wailing like a cat, and tore a great ragged hole in his heart. He looked forward to a sad scene with Billy’s

1. pass out of sight——出了視線之外，看不見。

“同樣的祝你，讓我知道你家裏的情形罷。”

“再會。”

“再會。”

他不等他們看不見的時候，還回過一次頭來，並且揮他的帽子，他們也同樣的做了一番，大家都叫了幾聲。於是大家都用着他們長步的，穩定的，闊的，且老練的步伐而前進了。那個穿藍軍服的寂寞的爬山者走了一段時間，心中充滿着他的伙伴的和善，冥想他們在營中和戰地上相處的許多奇異的日子。

他想起他的小時朋友，璧利·脫里普。可憐的璧利！有一天一顆‘米尼愛’彈穿進他的胸膛，他倒下來哭得像一隻貓一般，並在心上撕了一個大破洞。他眼前看見一幅慘

9. 法國軍官 Minie 所發明的一種毛瑟槍彈。

mother and sweetheart. They would want to know all about it. He tried to recall all that Billy had said, and the particulars of it, but there was little to remember, just that wild wailing sound high in the air, a dull slap, a short, quick, expulsive groan, and the boy lay with his face in the dirt in the ploughed field they were marching across.

That was all. But all the scenes he had since been through had not dimmed the horror, the terror of that moment, when his boy comrade fell, with only a breath between a laugh and a death-groan. Poor handsome Billy! Worth millions of dollars was his young life.

These somber recollections gave way at length to¹ more cheerful feelings as he began to approach

1. give way to——讓步給。

景，有璧利的母親和情人在裏面。他們將要問起一切的情形。他嘗試回想璧利說過的所有的話，以及內中的詳情，但是可以記憶的很少了，就只剩那高入雲霄的狂哭聲，一種沉濁的猛擊聲，一種短促，迅速，而不堪聽的呻吟聲，而那孩子躺在那裏，面孔埋在他們行軍要經過的已墾的田的污泥中了。

就只這一點。但他自從那時以來所經歷的一切場面，都並沒有使那恐怖——他的兒時朋友倒地那一頃刻的恐怖——暗澹了，那時是歡笑和死的呻吟之間只不過相間一息的。可憐的美貌的璧利！他的青年的生命是值得幾百萬元錢的。

這些憂鬱的回想終於讓步給比較興采的感情，當他開始冷靜地走

his home coolly. The fields and houses grew familiar, and in one or two he was greeted by people seated in the doorways. But he was in no mood to talk, and pushed on steadily, though he stopped and accepted a drink of milk once at the well-side of a neighbor.

The sun was burning hot on that slope, and his step grew slower, in spite of his iron resolution. He sat down several times to rest. Slowly he crawled up the rough, reddish-brown road, which wound along the hillside, under great trees, through dense groves of jack oaks, with tree-tops far below him on his left hand, and the hills far above him on his right. He crawled along like some minute, wingless variety of fly.

He ate some hardtack, sauced with wild berries, when he reached the summit of the ridge, and sat there for some time, looking down

近家門的時候。田地和房屋漸漸熱起來了，且在一兩處地方，他還受那些坐在門口的人的招呼。但是他沒有心緒談天，便仍徐徐的前進，雖則在一個隣人的井邊他曾一度接受過一點牛奶。

太陽在那山坡上是燒一般的熱，他的步就漸漸的慢下來，無論他的鐵般硬的決心。他好幾次坐下來休息。他慢慢地爬上那崎嶇的，淡紅帶棕黃色的路，那路沿山麓紆迴，通過大樹之下，穿過矮橡的密叢，他的左手是樹頂遙在他底下，右手是羣山遠在他上面。他緩緩前行，好似一種微細的，無翼的蒼蠅一般。

當他達到崗頂的時候，他吃了一些硬餅干，用野漿菜來調味，並且在那裏坐了些時，冷靜地俯看他的

into his home coolly.

Somber, pathetic figure! His wide, round, gray eyes gazing down into the beautiful valley, seeing and not seeing, the splendid cloud-shadows sweeping over the western hills and across the green and yellow wheat far below. His head drooped forward on his palm, his shoulders took on a tired stoop, his cheekbones showed painfully. An observer might have said, "He is looking down upon his own grave."

II

Sunday comes in a western wheat harvest with such sweet and sudden relaxation to man and beast that it would be holy for that reason, if for no other, and Sundays are usually fair in harvest-time. As one goes out into the field in the hot morning

家。

憂鬱的，可憐的形像啊！他的闊的，圓的，灰色的眼睛凝視入那美麗的山谷，似見似不見的看着那燦爛的雲影掠過西部的諸山，並且經過遠在下方的綠的黃的麥。他的頭向前垂落在他的掌上，他的肩裝上一種疲倦的佝僂，他的額骨可憐地露出。一個旁觀者定要說道，“他是俯看他自己的坟墓呢。”

II

禮拜日之來到西部收麥的地方，是給人和獸以這般甜蜜而驟然的舒服的，所以它若不在別季，特別在那一季候是神聖的，而且禮拜日當收穫期間，尋常總是晴的。當人走出到田間，到熱的早晨的陽光裏，

sunshine, with no sound abroad save the crickets and the indescribably pleasant silken rustling of the ripened grain, the reaper and the very sheaves in the stubble seem to be resting, dreaming.

Around the house, in the shade of the trees, the men sit, smoking, dozing, or reading the papers, while the women, never resting, move about at the housework. The men eat on Sundays about the same as on other days, and breakfast is no sooner over and out of the way¹ than dinner begins.

But at the Smith farm there were no men dozing or reading. Mrs. Smith was alone with her three children, Mary, nine, Tommy, six, and little Ted, just past four. Her farm, rented to a neighbour, lay at the head of a coolly² or narrow gully,

1. out of the way——退讓。

四下俱無聲音，只除蟋蟀兒和那已熟的稻子的不可形容地愉快的綢樣中絳繚聲，那時割麥人和刈料中的軋軋也似乎是在休息着，睡夢着。

房屋的四週，在樹蔭之下，人們坐着，吸煙，瞌睡，或者讀報紙，至於女人，是永遠不歇的，則走動着操作家事。人們在禮拜日是和其餘的日子差不多一樣吃的，早飯剛完，剛收拾了去，中飯便又開始了。

但在斯密斯的農場上，却沒有人打瞌睡或讀報紙。密息司斯密斯是單獨和她三個孩子在那裏，馬利，九歲，湯米，六歲，還有小退德，剛剛過四歲。她的農場，租給一個隣人的，是在一條深溝或狹窄

2. coolly—coulee.

made at some far-off post-glacial period by the vast and angry floods of water which gullied these tremendous furrows in the level prairie—furrows so deep that undisturbed portions of the original level rose like hills on either side, rose to quite considerable mountains.

The chickens wakened her as usual that Sabbath morning from dreams of her absent husband, from whom she had not heard for weeks. The shadows drifted over the hills, down the slopes, across the wheat, and up the opposite wall in leisurely way, as if, being Sunday, they could take it easy¹ also. The fowls clustered about the housewife as she went out into the yard. Fuzzy little chickens swarmed out from the coops, where their clucking and perpetually disgruntled mothers tramped about,

1. take it easy — work leisurely.

的溝渠的頭裏，遠在後期冰河時代，它是被一陣巨大而洶怒的洪水造成的，那水在平坦的草原裏闖出這些巨溝來——那溝非常開得深，致使原來平地未動的部份，兩面都如小山一般的聳起，聳得竟像很可觀的大山了。

那天安息日的早晨，小鷄照常將她從她的出門的丈夫的夢中攪醒，她是許多禮拜沒有他的信了。日影移過山，下了山坡，經過了麥，然後懶洋洋地爬上對面的照牆，好像因為是禮拜日，它們也得閒適些似的。小鷄糾集在那家主婆的四周，當她走出院子的時候。毛絨絨的小鷄從鷄欄中擁出，在欄裏，他們的祝祝叫的而且永覺不滿足的母親們在那裏踐踏，魯莽地將

petulantly thrusting their heads through the spaces between the slats.

A cow called in a deep, musical bass, and a calf answered from a little pen near by, and a pig scurried guiltily out of the cabbages. Seeing all this, seeing the pig in the cabbages, the tangle of grass in the garden, the broken fence which she had mended again and again—the little woman, hardly more than a girl, sat down and cried. The bright Sabbath morning was only a mockery without him!

A few years ago they had bought this farm, paying part, mortgaging the rest in the usual way. Edward Smith was a man of terrible energy. He worked “nights and Sundays,” as the saying goes¹, to clear the farm of its brush and of its insatiate

1. as the saying goes —— 此所謂,常言

他們的頭從柵欄的縫裏伸出來。

一隻母牛用一種低沉的音樂的低音叫喚，一隻小牛從附近一個小柵裏答應她，還有一頭豬帶着犯罪的神氣從蔬菜叢中疾忙的走出來。看見了這一切，看見了蔬菜裏的豬，園裏的纏結的草，和她曾經屢次修理的破籬笆——那差不多還不過是個女孩兒模樣的小婦人便坐下來哭了。沒有他，這光明的安息日的早晨只不過是一種嘲笑罷了！

數年之前，他們買了這塊農場，付了一部份的錢，其餘是照常抵押的。愛德華·斯密斯是個具有驚人能力的男子。他是像常言說的，“連夜連禮拜日”都工作的，要想把那農場清了草萊，並且清了它

道。

mortgage! In the midst of his Herculean¹ struggle came the call for volunteers, and with the grim and unselfish devotion to his country which made the Eagle Brigade² able to “whip its weight in wild-cats,”³ he threw down his scythe and grub-axe, turned his cattle loose⁴ and became a blue-coated cog in a vast machine for killing men, and not thistles. While the millionaire sent his money to England for safe-keeping, this man, with his girl-wife and three babies, left them on a mortgaged farm, and went away to fight for an idea. It was foolish, but it was sublime for all that.⁵

That was three years before, and the young wife, sitting on the well-curb on this bright Sabbath harvest

1. Hercules, 希臘神話中的英雄, 以偉力著名, 此處用作形容詞, 義為偉力無倫。

2. 美國以鷹為國徽。

的不能壓足的押債！在他的雄偉的奮鬥當中，招募義勇隊的消息來了，他因對於他那足使鷹徽隊能勾“征服不馴”的國家具有一種嚴肅無私的篤愛，所以他拋下他的鐮刀和鋤頭，放了他的牲口，而在一具殺人的——不是斬荆棘的——大機器裏成爲一個藍色衣服的輪齒了。富翁們都把錢匯到英國去存放，這個有了個女孩兒模樣的妻子和三個娃娃的男子，却將他們撇在一塊已經押當了的農場上，而去爲理想戰爭了。這是愚蠢的，然而終是光明磊落的。

那是三年前的事了，那年青的妻子，當這光明的安息日的收穫的早晨，坐在井欄之上，心中起了不

3. 直譯：使得野貓也感斤兩。

4. turn...loose, 解放。

5. for all that——notwithstanding。

morning, was righteously rebellious. It seemed to her that she had borne her share of the country's sorrow. Two brothers had been killed, the renter in whose hands her husband had left the farm had proved a villain; one year the farm had been without crops, and now the over-ripe grain was waiting the tardy hand of the neighbor who had rented it, and who was cutting his own grain first.

About six weeks before, she had received a letter saying, "We'll be discharged in a little while." But no other word had come from him. She had seen by the papers that his army was being discharged, and from day to day other soldiers slowly percolated in blue streams back into the State and county, but still *her* hero did not return.

Each week she had told the children that he was coming, and she had watched the road so long that

服氣的意思，也是該當的。在她想來，她對於國家的憂患，總算已經分了一份兒的了。她的兩個兄弟是戰死了，她丈夫把農場交給他手裏的那個佃戶，又證明是個匪類；有一年，農場全無收成，如今這過熟的麥子，正等着那租田的隣人的遲慢的手，而地却要首先割他自己的麥子。

大約六個禮拜之前，她接到一封信說，“我們不久就要遣散了。”但從此再沒有接到他的消息。她從報紙上看見他的軍隊已在遣散，而且天天有其他的兵士像藍色的流水似的流回省裏和區裏，然而她的英雄仍舊沒有歸來。

每個禮拜她都告訴他的孩子，說他要來了，而且她曾向那路上觀望得那末長久，甚至觀望已成了無

watching had become unconscious; and as she stood at the well, or by the kitchen door, her eyes were fixed unthinkingly on the road that wound down the coolly.

Nothing wears on the human soul like waiting. If the stranded mariner, searching the sun-bright seas, could once give up hope of a ship, that horrible grinding on his brain would cease. It was this waiting, hoping, on the edge of¹ despair, that gave Emma Smith no rest.

Neighbors said, with kind intentions: "He's sick, maybe, an' can't start north just yet. He'll come along one o' these days."

"Why don't he write?" was her question, which silenced them all. This Sunday morning it seemed to her as if she could not stand it

1. on the edge of——瀕於。

意識；且當她立在井邊，或在廚房的門口時，她的眼睛總是無思想地注在那沿溝屈曲的路上。

最能消磨人類的靈魂的莫如等待。倘如一個擱淺了的海員，探望著日光照耀的海上，而能放棄了有船來的希望，那末在他腦筋上的那種可怕的痛楚就可停止了。如今使愛瑪·斯密斯心中不甯的，就是這種瀕於絕望的等待，希望。

隣舍家懷着好意說：“或者他是病了，還不能動身北上吧。他大概日內總要到了的。”

“他爲什麼不寫信呢？”是她的詰問，這就使大家都無話可說了。這一天禮拜日的早晨，她好像是再也

longer. The house seemed intolerably lonely. So she dressed the little ones in their best calico dresses and home-made jackets, and, closing up the house, set off down the coolly to old Mother Gray's.

"Old Widder' Gray" lived at the "mouth of the coolly." She was a widow woman with a large family of stalwart boys and laughing girls. She was the visible incarnation of hospitality and optimistic poverty. With western open-heartedness she fed every mouth that asked food of her, and worked herself to death as cheerfully as her girls danced in the neighborhood harvest dances.

She waddled down the path to meet Mrs. Smith with a broad smile on her face.

"Oh, you little dears! Come right to your granny." Gimme a

1. widder—widow.

不能忍耐了。屋裏似乎是不可忍耐地寂寞。因此她將孩子們用最好的洋布衣服和家造的短褂裝扮起來，封鎖了屋門，沿溝走去，到葛雷老媽媽家去了。

“老寡婦葛雷”往在“溝口”。她是一個寡婦，有一個由堅強的男孩子和歡樂的女孩子組成的大家庭。她是好客和樂觀主義的貧窮的顯見的化身。她具有一副西部人的慷慨心腸，是凡有嘴向她求吃的她都供給，而且工作到死，高高興興地如同她的女孩兒們在鄰近的收穫跳舞會中跳舞時一樣。

她蹣跚着走下那條小徑來迎接密息司斯密斯，面上帶着滿面的笑容。

“啊，親愛的小東西們！快到你們的祖母這裏來罷。給我一個親

2. granny——grandmother.

kiss! Come right in, Mis' Smith. How are yeh, anyway? Nice mornin', ain't it? Come in an' set down. Everything's in a clutter,¹ but that won't scare you any."

She led the way into the best room, a sunny, square room, carpeted with a faded and patched rag carpet, and papered with white-and-green-striped wallpaper, where a few faded effigies of dead members of the family hung in variously sized oval walnut frames. The house resounded with singing, laughter, whistling, tramping of heavy boots, and riotous scufflings. Half-grown boys came to the door and crooked their fingers at the children, who ran out, and were soon heard in the midst of the fun.

"Don't s'pose² you've heard from

1. in a clutter——in turmoil.

嘴！快進來，斯密斯太太。你好罷？今早天氣好，不是嗎？進來坐坐。屋裏亂得什麼似的，可是你總不會慍憎的。”

她領路到最好的房間裏，一間有陽光的方屋子，地上鋪着一條褪色的百衲地氈，而且用白綠條子的糊壁紙糊着的，那上面有幾個家中已死人的褪色的肖像，掛在各種大小的橢圓的栗樹框子裏。屋子裏回響着唱歌，歡笑，吹哨，重靴的踐踏和魯莽的爭鬥聲。半長成的男孩子走到門口，向孩子們勾勾指頭，那孩子們就跑出去，一會兒就聽見在遊戲中了。

“你沒愛德的消息嗎？”密息司斯

2. s'pose——suppose。

Ed?"¹ Mrs. Smith shook her head. "He'll turn up² some day, when you ain't lookin' for 'm." The good old soul had said that so many times that poor Mrs. Smith derived no comfort from it any longer.

"Liz heard from Al³ the other day. He's comin' some day this week. Anyhow, they expect him."

"Did he say anything of—"

"No, he didn't," Mrs. Gray admitted. "But then it was only a short letter, anyhow. Al ain't much for writin', anyhow.—But come out and see my new cheese. I tell yeh, I don't believe I ever had better luck in my life. If Ed should come, I want you should take him up a piece of this cheese."

It was beyond human nature to

-
1. Ed—Edward.
 2. to turn up—to appear.

密斯搖搖頭。“他有一天等你不盼望他的時候就出現了。”這話，那好心的老太婆已經說了許多回數，所以密息司斯密斯已不復能從中得着安慰了。

“力斯前幾天聽見阿爾的信，他是這禮拜裏面要到了。無論如何，他們總盼他能到。”

“他曾說什麼關於——”

“不，他不曾，”密息司葛雷承認道。“可是那不過是封短信，無論如何，阿爾是不大會寫的，無論如何——可是出來看看我的新奶餅罷，我告訴你，我不相信我生平有比這樣更好的運氣過。如果愛德來的話，我要你把這奶餅帶一塊給他。”

人類的性情是不能拒絕那樣熱

3. Al——Alfred。

resist the influence of that noisy, hearty, loving household, and in the midst of the singing and laughing the wife forgot her anxiety, for the time at least, and laughed and sang with the rest.

About eleven o'clock a wagon-load more drove up to the door, and Bill Gray, the widow's oldest son, and his whole family, from Sand Lake Coolly, piled out amid a good-natured uproar. Every one talked at once, except Bill, who sat in the wagon with his wrists on his knees, a straw in his mouth, and an amused twinkle in his blue eyes.

"Ain't heard nothin' o' Ed, I s'pose?" he asked in a kind of bellow. Mrs. Smith shook her head. Bill, with a delicacy very striking in such a great giant, rolled his quid in his mouth, and said:

"Didn't know but you had. I hear two or three of the Sand Lake

鬧，稱心，和可愛的家庭的影響的，所以在這歌唱和笑樂當中，那妻子就忘記了她的愁惱，至少是在當時，而也同其餘人笑樂歌唱了。

約在十一點鐘的時候，又有滿滿一車人驅至門前，璧爾·葛雷，那寡婦的大兒子，和全家人，從沙湖溝回來，都在和悅的喧嚷聲中擁出來了。每個人都立刻開始說話，只除開璧爾，他坐在車中，手支在膝上，口中含着一支稻草，碧色的眼睛裏有種娛樂的瞬閃。

“沒有聽見愛德的信吧，我猜？”他用一種牛鳴的聲音問道。密息司斯密斯搖搖頭。璧爾便帶着一種在他那樣大個兒身上很是顯著的溫雅神情，拌着嘴裏的東西說道：

“不知道你沒有得着信呢，我聽

boys are comin'. Left New Orieenes some time this week. Didn't write nothin' about Ed, but no news is good news in such cases, mother always says."

"Well, go put out yer team," said Mrs. Gray, "an' go 'n bring me in some taters,¹ an', Sim, you go see if you c'n find some corn.² Sadie, you put on the water to bile.³ Come now, hustle yer boots, all o' yeh. If I feed this yer crowd, we've got to have some raw materials. If y' think I'm goin' to feed yeh on pie—you're jest mightily mistaken."

The children went off into the fields, the girls put dinner on to boil, and then went to change thejr dresses and fix their hair. "Somebody might come," they said.

"Land sakes' *I hope* not! I don't

1. tat r3—tatters.

2. corn—Indian corn.

見有兩三個沙湖的孩子是來了。是這個禮拜裏面從新奧爾動身的。愛德竟沒有信，可是這種事情，沒有消息是好消息，母親常常說的。”

“好罷，出去放牲口去，”密息司葛雷說道，“替我拿點破布回來，還有，雪姆，你去看看，有珍珠米沒有。沙弟，去把水開一開。來罷，加緊一步，你們大家。要我養活你們這一大羣，咱們得有一點原料。你們若想我給餡兒餅你們吃，你們就大大的錯了。”

孩兒們走出到田間去，女孩兒們把飯煮上，這才去換她們的衣服，理她們的頭髮。“也許有人來的，”她們說。

“地震了，我望不會有吧！我不

3. to bile——to boil。

4. sakes——shakes。

know where in time I'd set 'em 'less they'd eat at the second table," Mrs. Gray laughed, in pretended dismay.

The two older boys, who had served their time in the army, lay out on the grass before the house, and whittled and talked desultorily about the war and the crops, and planned buying a threshing-machine. The older girls and Mrs. Smith helped enlarge the table and put on the dishes, talking all the time in that cheery, incoherent, and meaningful way a group of such women have,— a conversation to be taken for its spirit rather than for its letter, though Mrs. Gray at last got the ear of them all¹ and dissertated at length on girls.

"Girls in love ain't no use in the whole blessed week," she said.

1. got the ear of them all——made all

曉得怎樣安置他們，除非他們在隔壁桌上吃，”密息司葛雷笑着說，故意裝起驚呆的樣子。

兩個曾服兵役的較大孩子在屋前草上，一面削草，一面無次序地談着戰爭和收穫的事情，並且計劃去買一具打麥機器。大些的女孩子和密息司斯密斯，則幫着拚大桌子，鋪排碗碟，一面不住地用這樣一羣女人所常有的那種高興的，不連貫的，和有意義的樣子談着天，——這種談話，與其取其字句，無甯取其精神，雖則後來密息司葛雷終於使大家都傾聽她，而發出關於女孩兒們的長篇議論來。

“戀愛的女孩兒是整個祝福的禮拜都沒有用的，”她說。“在禮拜日，

of them listen to。

“Sundays they’re a-lookin’ down the road, expectin’ he’ll *come*.¹ Sunday afternoons they can’t think o’ nothin’ else, ’cause he’s *here*. Monday mornin’s they’re sleepy and kind o’ dreamy and slimpsy,¹ and good f’r nothin’² on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday they git absent-minded, an’ begin to look off toward Sunday agin, an’ mope aroun’ and let the dishwater git cold, right under their noses.³ Friday they break dishes, an’ go off in the best room an’ snivel, an’ look out o’ the winder.⁴ Saturdays they have queer spurts o’ workin’ like all p’ssessed,⁵ an’ spurts o’ frizzin’ their hair. An’ Sunday they begin it all over agin.”⁶

-
1. slimpsy—slimsy.
 2. good f’r nothin—*not fit for use*.
 3. under their noses—*in one’s sight*.
 4. winder—*window*.

她們朝着路上看，盼望他要來。禮拜日的下午，她們別的什麼也不想，因為是他在這裏。禮拜一的早晨，她們是想瞌睡，而且像做夢似的，嬌弱似的，而禮拜二和禮拜三，她們也無用處。禮拜四，她們就心不在焉，又開始盼望禮拜日，就失了神似的，連在眼前的洗碗水也給冷了。到禮拜五，她們就打碎碗碟，並且躲到閨房裏去嘆氣，俯着窗外看望。到禮拜六，她們就大家着了魔似的忙個不了，忙着鬆頭髮。及到禮拜日，她們便又重新開頭做一遍。”

5. queer spurts — p'sse sol — as if all influenced by some evil spirits.

6. all over a gin — all over again.

The girls giggled and blushed, all through this tirade from their mother, their broad faces and powerful frames anything but¹ suggestive of lackadaisical sentiment. But Mrs. Smith said:

“Now, Mrs. Gray, I hadn’t ought to stay to dinner. You’ve got—”

“Now you set right down! If any of them girls’ beaux² comes, they’ll have to take what’s left, that’s all. They ain’t s’posed to have much appetite, nohow.³ No, you’re goin’ to stay if they starve, an’ they ain’t⁴ no danger o’ that.”

At one o’clock the long table was piled with boiled potatoes, cobs of boiled corn on the cob, squash and pumpkin pies, hot biscuits, sweet pickles, bread and butter, and honey.

1. anything but—— 决不。决非。

2. beaux——lovers。

那些女孩兒嗤嗤的笑，臉上泛紅，都因她們的母親這番教訓而起，她們的闊臉和雄健身軀，都決不是暗示善感多愁的情性的。但是密息司斯密斯說道：

“密息司葛雷，我是不應該留在這裏吃飯的。你有——”

“你儘管坐下來！要是女孩們的愛人們中有什麼人來，他們就去吃所剩下的東西罷，這就完了。想來他們無論如何沒有多大的食量。不行，即使叫他們餓死，你也要留着，而且他們是不會餓死的。

在一點鐘的時候，那長桌子上就堆着了煮馬鈴薯，一串串煮熟的連軸的珍珠米，南瓜和冬瓜的餡兒餅，熱餅干，甜蜜餞，麵包和牛

3. nohow——not at all。

4. ain't——have not。

Then one of the girls took down a conchshell from a nail, and, going to the door, blew a long, fine, free blast, that showed there was no weakness of lungs in her ample chest.

Then the children came out of the forest of corn, out of the creek, out of the loft of the barn, and out of the garden.

"They come to their feed f'r all the world jest like the pigs when y holler¹ "poo-ee!"² See 'em scoot!"² laughed Mrs. Gray, every wrinkle on her face shining with delight.

The men shut up their jack-knives, and surrounded the horse-trough to souse their faces in the cold, hard water, and in a few moments the table was filled with a merry crowd, and a row of wistful-eyed youngsters circled the kitchen

1. holler——hallo。

2. 呼豬聲。

油，以及蜜糖。於是，便有一個女孩子從釘上取下一海螺壳，走到門口，吹出一種悠長的，美的，自由的聲音，藉以顯示她那廣闊胸膛中的肺並非虛弱。

於是孩子們從珍珠米林中出來，從小灣裏出來，從倉房的皮閣上出來，從園裏出來。

“他們從四處地方奔來吃，恰如豬仔聽見你呼了一聲‘噉喂’一般。瞧他們跑啊！”密息司葛雷笑着說，她臉上的每一皺紋都顯出快樂的光輝了。

男子們收起他們的小刀，圍着馬槽，用冷的硬水淋他們的面，及幾分鐘之後，桌上就滿是一羣快樂的人了；一排眼中渴望的小夥子，

3. scoot—run。

wall, where they stood first on one leg and then on the other, in impatient hunger.

"Now pitch¹ in, Mrs. Smith," said Mrs. Gray, presiding over² the table. "You know these men critters.³ They'll eat every grain of it, if yeh give 'em a chance. I swan⁴, they're made o' India-rubber, their stomachs is, I know it."

"Haf⁵ to eat to work," said Bill, gnawing a cob with a swift, circular motion that rivaled a corn-sheller in results.

"More like workin' to eat," put in one of the girls, with a gigg'e. "More eat 'n work with you."

"*You* needn't say anything, Net. Any one that'll eat seven ears—"

1. pitch in——eat or work or fight hard.

2. 做主席。

圍着廚房的牆壁，他們在那裏，飢不可耐，站立不定。

“現在上勁吃吧，密息司斯密斯，”做主席的密息司葛雷說道。“你知道這些男子們的。他們是會吃得一顆不留的，如果你給他們機會的話。我敢發誓，他們是橡皮做的，他們的胃是，我知道的。”

“應當吃才好工作，”壁爾說着，正把一個珍珠米軸用一種迅速的迴旋運動在那裏齧，其効力賽得過一具剝米器。

“更像爲了要吃而工作呢，”一個女孩子嗤的笑着插進說。“你是多吃少做的。”

“你可以不必開口，奈脫。誰要吃了七個穗的——”

3. criters—creatures。

4. swan—swear。

5. haf—have。

"I didn't, no such thing. You piled your cobs on my plate."

"That'll do to tell Ed Varney. It won't go down here where we know yeh."

"Good land!¹ Eat all yeh want! They's plenty more in the fiel's² but I can't afford to³ give you young uns tea. The tea is for us women-folks, and 'specially f'r Mis' Smith an' Bill's wife. We're a-goin' to tell fortunes by it."

One by one the men filled up and shoved back, and one by one the children slipped into their places, and by two o'clock the women alone remained around the débris-covered table, sipping their tea and telling fortunes.

As they got well down to the grounds in the cup, they shook them

-
1. 俗語之 interjection。
 2. fiel's—field。

“我不會，沒有這樣的事。你把你的軸堆在我盤裏的。”

“這只好對愛德·佛尼去說。我們這裏都知道你，這可以不必來得。”

“好傢伙！你們儘量吃吧！田裏還多着呢，不過我不能把茶給你們小孩子吃。茶是我們娘兒們吃的，特別是給密息司斯密斯和璧爾的老婆吃。我們是要拿它來卜運氣的。”

逐一的，那些男的都吃飽回去了，逐一的，孩子們也都溜到他們的地方去了，及到兩點鐘的時候，就只剩女人留在那鋪滿食屑的桌旁，啜着茶，卜着他們的運氣。

當他們快要吃到杯底的時候，

3. afford to—to be able to。

with a circular motion in the hand, and then turned them bottom-side-up quickly in the saucer, then twirled them three or four times one way, and three or four times the other, during a breathless pause. Then Mrs. Gray lifted the cup, and, gazing into it with profound gravity, pronounced the impending fate.

It must be admitted that, to a critical observer, she had abundant preparation for hitting close to the mark,¹ as when she told the girls that "somebody was comin'." "It's a man," she went on gravely. "He is cross-eyed—"

"Oh, you hush!" cried Nettie.

"He has red hair, and is death on^d b'iled corn and hot biscuit."

1. hit to the mark—to attain one's object,

牠們用手將它做一種迴旋的運動，然後急急將它倒轉來放在茶盤上，這才向這邊旋轉三四次，向那邊也旋轉三四次，息聲屏氣的停了一回。於是密息司葛雷將杯掀開，蕭然的凝視裏面，口中說出臨頭的運數。

在一個精細的旁觀者看來，不能不承認她有充分的準備以達她的目的，如當她對女孩兒們說，“有人會來”的時候。“這是一個男人，”她莊嚴地繼續說，“他是鬪眼的——”

“啊，你住口吧！”奈底嚷道。

“他有紅頭髮，而且很歡喜養珍珠米和熱餅干。”

2. is death on——is very fond of.

The others' shrieked with delight.

"But he's goin' to get the mitten,² that red-headed feller³ is, for I see another feller comin' up behind him."

"Oh, lemme see, lemme see!" cried Nettie.

"Keep off," said the priestess, with a lofty gesture. "His hair is black. He don't eat so much, and he works more."

The girls exploded in a shriek of laughter, and pounded their sister on the back.

At last came Mrs. Smith's turn, and she was trembling with excitement as Mrs. Gray again composed her jolly face to what she considered a proper solemnity of expression.

1. 上面的話是暗指 Nettie 說的，大家心裏都明白，故覺好笑，而上文所謂 hit the mark, 亦即此意。

其他諸人樂得嚷起來。

“但他是要被拒絕了，那個紅頭髮的朋友是，因為我看見另外一個人在他後面來了。”

“啊，讓我看，讓我看！”奈底嚷道。

“走開罷，”那女祭師用一種儼然的姿勢說。“他的頭髮是黑的。他並不吃的那麼多，却工作的更多。”

於是女孩兒們闕然發出一陣尖利的笑聲，搗着他們的姊妹的背。

末了輪到密息司斯密斯了，而當密息司葛雷又把和悅的臉裝成她所認為正當的莊嚴面容的時候，她就心裏激動得發抖。

2. to get the mitten——to be refused.

3. feller——fellow.

"Somebody is comin' to *you*," she said, after a long pause. "He's got a musket on his back. He's a so'dier. He's almost here. See?"

She pointed at two little tea-stems, which really formed a faint suggestion of a man with a musket on his back. He had climbed nearly to the edge of the cup. Mrs. Smith grew pale with excitement. She trembled so she could hardly hold the cup in her hand as she gazed into it.

"It's Ed," cried the old woman. "He's on the way home. Heavens an' earth. There he is now!" She turned and waved her hand out toward the road. They rushed to the door to look where she pointed.

A man in a blue coat, with a musket on his back, was toiling slowly up the hill on the sun-bright, dusty road, toiling slowly, with bent head half hidden by a heavy knap-

“有人要到你這裏來，”她經過一段長時的停頓之後說道。“他背上有一支槍。他是一個兵士。他是差不多已在這裏了。看見嗎？”

她指在兩片小小的茶瓣上，那茶瓣確實構成一個背槍人的隱約的暗示。他已差不多爬上杯口了。密息司斯密斯激動得臉發蒼白。她顫抖着，致使她向杯中凝視時，差不多手都拿不住了。

“這就是愛德，”那老婦人嘆道。“他是回家來了。謝天謝地。他現在已在那裏了！”她回轉身來，揮手向路上指去。他們擁到門口，看其所指的地方。

一個穿藍軍服的人，背上有一支槍，慢慢地在那日光照耀的灰塵路上跋涉上山來，是慢慢地跋涉，彎着的頭半被一個背囊所藏匿。他

sack. So tired he seemed that walking was indeed a process of falling. So eager to get home he would not stop, would not look aside, but plodded on, amid the cries of the locusts, the welcome of the crickets, and the rustle of the yellow wheat. Getting back to God's country, and his wife and babies!

Laughing, crying, trying to call him and the children at the same time, the little wife, almost hysterical, snatched her hat and ran out into the yard. But the soldier had disappeared over the hill into the hollow beyond, and, by the time she had found the children, he was too far away for her voice to reach him. And, besides, she was not sure it was her husband, for he had not turned his head at their shouts. This seemed so strange. Why didn't he stop to rest at his old neighbor's house? Tortured by hope and doubt, she

似乎是非常疲倦，以至走路實際是一種跌仆了。他是這般迫切的要回家，所以他不肯停止，不肯旁視，却只艱步前行，在蝗虫的聲中，蟋蟀的歡迎中，以及黃色的麥的相擦聲中。是回到上帝的故鄉，及他的妻和孩子呢！

笑着，哭着，同時又要叫他又
要叫孩子，那個幾乎發昏亂病的小小的妻子抓了她的帽子就跑出院子裏來了。但那兵士已經從山的那邊隱入一個坑裏去了，及追他尋着孩子們的時候，他已走得很遠，她的聲音已及不到他了。況且，她也拿不穩這個就是她的丈夫，因為他們叫喊時，他並不曾回頭過。這個似乎很奇怪。他爲什麼不停下來在他的老隣舍家裏休息一回呢？她被希

hurried up the coolly as fast as she could push the baby wagon, the blue-coated figure just ahead pushing steadily, silently forward up the coolly.

When the excited, panting little group came in sight of¹ the gate they saw the blue-coated figure standing, leaning upon the rough rail fence, his chin on his palms, gazing at the empty house. His knapsack, canteen, blankets, and musket lay upon the dusty grass at his feet.

He was like a man lost in a dream. His wide, hungry eyes devoured the scene. The rough lawn, the little unpainted house, the field of clear yellow wheat behind it, down across which streamed the sun, now almost ready to touch the high hill to the west, the crickets crying merrily,

1. in sight of——在望。

望和懷疑所苦悶，急忙走上溝沿，儘她能推動孩車的速度前去，那藍服的人形正在她頭裏徐徐地默默地沿溝向前推進。

當那激動的喘急的小集團望見大門的時候，他們看見那藍服人形站住，靠在那粗樸欄干牆上，下頷托在掌中，凝視着那空屋。他的背囊，水壺，被單，和槍，都放在腳下灰塵的草上。

他是像一個迷失在夢中的人。他的闊的飢餓的眼睛吞噬那景象。那不平的草坪，那小小的未漆的屋，那後面的純黃的麥田；陽光從那上面流過，如今是差不多已經碰着西面的高山了；蟋蟀兒欣然在叫，一

a cat on the fence near by, dreaming, unmindful of the stranger in blue—

How peaceful it all was. O God! How far removed from all camps, hospitals, battle lines. A little cabin in a Wisconsin coolly, but it was majestic in its peace. How did he ever leave it for those years of tramping, thirsting, killing?

Trembling, weak with emotion, her eyes on the silent figure, Mrs. Smith hurried up to the fence. Her feet made no noise in the dust and grass, and they were close upon him before he knew of them. The oldest boy ran a little ahead. He will never forget that figure, that face. It will always remain as something epic, that return of the private. He fixed his eyes on the pale face covered with a ragged beard.

“Who *are* you, sir?” asked the wife, or, rather, started to ask, for

隻貓在附近的圍牆上方在做夢，並不注意這個穿藍的客人——

這一切都是多麼和平。啊，上帝！這裏離開所有的營盤，醫院，戰線，是多遠啊。這不過是威士康星溝上一座小小的矮屋，但在它的和平之中，是覺莊嚴燦爛的。他爲什麼要離開它，去過那跋涉，熬渴，和殺人的幾年呢？

顫抖着，因感情激動而無力，眼睛注在那沉默的人形，密息司斯 密斯急忙趕上圍牆去。她的腳在塵土和草上並無聲音，及到他們走近他時，他才知道他們。最大的孩子跑得略爲上前一點。他將永遠不忘那個形像，那張臉面。這將永爲一個史詩的事蹟——那次士兵的回家。他把他的眼睛釘在那張蓋着蓬鬆鬍子的蒼白的臉上。

“你到底是誰？”那妻子問，或寧是驚得問出來，因爲他旋轉身來，

he turned, stood a moment, and then cried:

“Emma!”

“Edward!”

The children stood in a curious row to see their mother kiss this bearded, strange man, the elder girl sobbing sympathetically with her mother. Illness had left the soldier partly deaf, and this added to the strangeness of his manner.

But the youngest child stood away, even after the girl had recognized her father and kissed him. The man turned then to the baby, and said in a curiously unpaternal tone:

“Come here, my little man; don’t you know me?” But the baby backed away under the fence and stood peering at him critically.

“My little man!” What meaning in those words! This baby seemed like some other woman’s

站了一會，這才呼道：

“愛瑪！”

“愛德華！”

孩子們做成一個好奇的行列，站着看他們的母親和這個有鬍子的陌生人親嘴，那較大的女孩兒，則跟着母親同情地嗚咽。疾病已使這兵士部份地成聾，而又復加入他的狀態的奇異。

但那最小的孩子却躲開去，雖至那女孩兒已經認識她的父親且已和他親嘴之後。那人於是轉向着幼孩，而用一種奇異地不像父親的聲音說道：

“這裏來，我的小人兒；你不認識我嗎？”但那幼孩子却躲到圍牆底下去，站在那裏端詳地窺探他。

“我的小人兒！”這幾個字裏有怎樣的意義啊！這孩子似乎已像別個

child, and not the infant he had left in his wife's arms. The war had come between him and his baby—he was only a strange man to him, with big eyes; a soldier, with mother hanging to his arm, and talking in a loud voice.

“And this is Tom,” the private said, drawing the oldest boy to him. “*He’ll* come and see me. *He* knows his poor old pap when he comes home from the war.”

The mother heard the pain and reproach in his voice and hastened to apologize.

“You’ve changed so, Ed. He can’t know yeh. This is papa, Teddy; come and kiss him—Tom and Mary do. Come, won’t you?” But Teddy still peered through the fence with solemn eyes, well out of reach.¹ He resembled a half-wild

1. out of reach——不得接近, 不能及。

女人的兒子，而不是他當初留在他妻子臂上的那個嬰兒了。戰爭曾經隔絕他和他的孩子——他對於他，不過是一個大眼睛的陌生人；不過是個兵士，讓母親挽住他的臂，而且大聲談話。

“那末這是湯姆了，”那士兵將最大的孩子挽近身來說道，“他會來看我的。他認識他的可憐的老爸爸，當他從戰爭回來的時候。”

母親從他聲音中聽出痛苦和責備的意思，便急忙的辯解。

“你是那麼樣的變了，愛德。他不能認識你了。這是爸爸呢，退第；來跟他親嘴吧——湯姆和馬利都親過了。來罷，不肯嗎？”但是退第仍在圍牆裏用莊嚴的眼睛張望，不得接近，他像似一頭半野的小貓，遲

kitten that hesitates, studying the tones of one's voice.

"I'll fix' him," said the soldier, and sat down to undo his knapsack, out of which he drew three enormous and very red apples. After giving one to each of the older children, he said:

"*Now* I guess he'll come. Eh, my little man? Now come see your pap."

Teddy crept slowly under the fence, assisted by the overzealous Tommy, and a moment later was kicking and squalling in his father's arms. Then they entered the house, into the sitting-room poor, bare, art-forsaken² little room, too, with its rag carpet, its square clock, and its two or three chromos and pictures

1. fix——bring (one) round as by bribery, 像用賄賂一般的誘人過來。

疑着，在研究一個人聲的腔調。

“我要哄他過來，”那兵士說，就坐下來解開他的背囊，從裏面抽出三個極大而且很紅的蘋果。他給較大的孩子每人一個之後，便說道：

“現在我猜他會來了。喂，我的小人兒？現在來看你的爸爸吧。”

退第慢慢從圍牆底下爬出，有那過分熱心的湯米幫助着，過一刻之後，他就在他父親的臂膊裏踢呀嚷呀了。於是大家進得屋來，進入坐起間，是間貧乏的，光光的，沒裝璜的小屋，却也有它的破地毯，它的方形鐘，和從哈潑斯週刊剪下來

2. art-forsaken——forsaken by art, 無裝飾之意。

from *Harper's Weekly* pinned about.

"Emma, I'm all tired out," said Private Smith, as he flung himself down on the carpet as he used to do, while his wife brought a pillow to put under his head, and the children stood about munching their apples.

"Tommy, you run and get me a pan of chips, and Mary, you get the tea-kettle on, and I'll go and make some biscuit."

And the soldier talked. Question after question he poured forth about the crops, the cattle, the renter, the neighbors. He slipped his heavy government brogan shoes off his poor, tired, blistered feet, and lay out with utter, sweet relaxation. He was a free man again, no longer a soldier under command. At supper he stopped once, listened and smiled. "That's old Spot. I know her voice. I s'pose that's her calf out there in the pen. I can't milk her to-night, though.

釘着的兩三幅彩色石印圖和圖畫。

“愛瑪，我是累壞了，”士兵斯密斯說着，便照慣做的樣子將自己投身在地毯上，他的妻拿一個枕頭放在他頭底下，孩子們站在四週齷着他們的蘋菓。

“愛瑪，你跑去替我拿一盤子碎柴來，馬利，你把茶壺放上，我要去做些餅來。”

於是那兵士談話了。他一個問題一個問題的發出來，問起收穫，牲口，佃戶，和隣人的事。他把那政府頒發的沉重的粗皮鞋從他那可憐的，疲乏的，生炮的腳上脫下來，以一種極端的甜蜜的懶散狀態伸着。他重新又是個自由人了，不復是個聽命於人的兵士了。在晚飯的時候，他曾停頓一回，聽着而微笑。“那是老斯潑脫。我聽得出她的聲音。我猜那在欄裏的就是她的小

I'm too tired. But, I tell you, I'd like a drink o' her milk. What's become of old Rove?"

"He died last winter. Poisoned, I guess." There was a moment of sadness for them all. It was some time before the husband spoke again, in a voice that trembled a little.

"Poor old feller!¹ He'd 'a'² known me half a mile away. I expected him to come down the hill to meet me. It 'ud 'a'³ been more like comin' home if I could 'a' seen him comin' down the road an' waggin' his tail, an' laughin' that way he has. I tell yeh, it kind o'⁴ took hold o'⁵ me to see the blinds down an' the house shut up."

"But, yeh see, we—we expected

-
1. feller——fellow。
 2. He'd 'a'——He should have——。
 3. It 'ud 'a'——It would have——。
 4. kind of——something like to, 好像

牛。不過今天晚上我不能擠她的奶了。我是太累了。可是我告訴你，我想喝她的奶。老洛夫怎麼樣了呢？”

“他去年冬天死了。我想是中毒死的。”他們大家當中便有一個悲傷的頃刻。過了一晌，那丈夫才用一種略帶顫抖的聲音重新說話。

“可憐的老朋友！他該是半哩路外就認識我的。我盼望他下山來接我。這要更要像似回家些，如若我能看見他到路上來，搖着尾巴，並且用那樣子笑着。我告訴你，我看見屋裏的百葉窗關着，我好像是大受感動呢。”

“可是，你知道，我們——我們

是。

5. took hold of——affected deeply, 深深感動。

you'd write again 'fore you started. And then we thought we'd see you if you *did* come," she hastened to explain.

"Well, I ain't worth a cent on writin'.¹ Besides, it's just as well yeh didn't know when I was comin'. I tell you, it sounds good to hear them chickens out there, an' turkeys, an' the crickets. Do you know they don't have just the same kind o' crickets down South? Who's Sam hired t' help cut yer grain?"

"The Ramsey boys."

"Looks like a good crop; but I'm afraid I won't do much gettin' it cut. This cussed² fever an' ague has got me down pretty low.³ I don't know when I'll get rid of it. I'll bet I've took twenty-five pounds of quinine if I've taken a bit. Gimme

1. 即不會寫字之意。

2. cussed——cursed, 被詛咒的。

盼望你動身之先再寫信來的。那末我們想你來的時候，我們總會接着你，”他急忙的解釋。

“好罷，我的寫字是不值一文錢的。而且你們不知道我來，也是一樣的。我告訴你，在那外面聽聽小鷄兒和吐綬鷄和蟋蟀兒的叫，確實是好聽。你知道他們南方沒有這樣的蟋蟀兒嗎？撒姆僱來幫你割麥的是誰？”

“拉姆綏的後生們。”

“看起來收成很好；可是我怕我割麥出不了多力了。這該死的熱病和瘧疾已使我衰得厲害了。我不曉得什麼時候才脫得清。我敢打賭，倘如我吃金鷄納的話，包管二十磅也有得吃了呢。再給我一塊餅干。

3. got me down pretty low——made me very weak.

another biscuit. I tell yeh, they taste good, Emma. I ain't had anything like it— Say, if you'd 'a' hear'd me braggin' to th' boys about your butter 'n' biscuits I'll bet your ears 'ud 'a' burnt."

The private's wife colored¹ with pleasure. "Oh, you're always braggin' about your things. Everybody makes good butter."

"Yes; old lady Snyder, for instance."

"Oh, well, she ain't to be mentioned. She's Dutch."

"Or old Mis' Snively. One more cup o' tea, Mary. That's my girl! I'm feeling better already. I just b'lieve the matter with me is, I'm *starved*."

This was a delicious hour, one long to be remembered. They were like lovers again. But their tender-

1. colored——blushed, turned red.

我告訴你，它們的味道很好，愛瑪。我從不會有過這樣的東西——你曉得，倘如叫你聽見我對弟兄們誇口你的牛油和餅干，包管你的耳朵也要發燒呢。”

這士兵之妻喜得面上泛紅。“你老是誇口你的東西，好牛油是人人能做的。”

“是的；例如斯尼特那老太婆。”

“啊，好罷，她是不該提起的。她是荷蘭人。”

“或者斯奈夫雷那老太太。再給我一杯茶，馬利。這才是我的女孩子！我已經覺得好些了。我才相信我是怎麼回事，原來是餓極了。”

這是一個意味深長的時間，一個要長久記着的時間。他們重又像似愛人了。但他們的深情，像典型

ness, like that of a typical American family, found utterance in tones, rather than in words. He was praising her when praising her biscuit, and she knew it. They grew soberer when he showed where he had been struck, one ball burning the back of his hand, one cutting away a lock of hair from his temple, and one passing through the calf of his leg. The wife shuddered to think how near she had come to being a soldier's widow. Her waiting no longer seemed hard. This sweet, glorious hour effaced it all.

Then they rose, and all went out into the garden and down to the barn. He stood beside her while she milked old Spot. They began to plan fields and crops for next year.

His farm was weedy and encumbered, a rascally renter had run away with his machinery (departing between two days), his children need-

的美國家庭的一樣，與其說是從說話裏吐露出來，無寧說是從語氣裏吐露出來的。他常讚美她的餅干時，實在就是讚美她，而她心裏也明白。後來他把身上受傷的地方給她看，一個子彈燙傷她的手背，一個子彈從他太陽穴上削去一片頭髮，還有一個從他的腿肚穿過去，那時他們便覺比較心頭清醜了。那妻子想起怎樣近於做一個兵士的寡婦，不覺的顫抖起來，她的等待已似乎不復難受了。這一個甜蜜而光榮的時間已將一切都抹去了。

於是他們立起身來，一齊走入園中，直到倉房裏去。他立在她的旁邊，她來擠老斯潑脫的奶。他們開始計劃明年種田和收穫的事。

他的農場是荒蕪的且有阻礙的，一個流氓的佃戶將他的機器帶跑了（是兩天之內就走的），他的孩子們

ed clothing, the years were coming upon him, he was sick and emaciated, but his heroic soul did not quail. With the same courage with which he had faced his southern march he entered upon a still more hazardous future.

Oh, that mystic hour! The pale man with big eyes standing there by the well, with his young wife by his side. The vast moon swinging above the eastern peaks, the cattle winding down the pasture slopes with jangling bells, the crickets singing, the stars blooming out sweet and far and serene; the katydids rhythmically calling, the little turkeys crying querulously, as they settled to roost in the poplar tree near the open gate. The voices at the well drop lower, the little ones nestle in their father's arms at last, and Teddy falls asleep there.

The common soldier of the American volunteer army had returned.

要衣服，他的年紀又來了，他是病而憔悴，但是他的英雄的靈魂却不畏憚。用着他對付南方行軍的同樣的勇氣，他進入一個更要艱險的將來了。

啊，那個神祕的時間！這個大眼睛的蒼白的人立在井旁，有他的年青的妻子在他旁邊。巨大的月輪搖曳在東面的山峯之上，牲口帶着琳瑯響的鈴從牧地的坡上迤邐而來，蟋蟀兒歌唱着，羣星吐得甜蜜，遙遠，而清郎；蝨斯有節奏地鳴着，小吐綬鷄喧嚷地叫着，當他們棲止在開着的門附近白楊樹上的時候。井旁的人聲漸漸低沉了，小的們終於都躲在他們的父親的臂膊，退第便在那裏睡着了。

這個美國義勇隊的普通兵士已經回家了。他的對南方的戰爭是過

His war with the South was over,
and his fight, his daily running fight
with nature and against the injustice
of his fellow-men, was begun again.

去了，然而他的奮鬥，他的對於自然和對於同胞的不公道的逐日不斷的奮鬥，又是重新開始了。