

LITERATURE



THE MAN WITH A HOE.

Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans
Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground.
The emptiness of ages in his face.
And on his back the burden of the world.
Who made him dead to rapture and despair,
A thing that grieves not and that never hopes.
Stolid and stunned, a brother to the us?
Who loosened and let down his brutal jaw?
Whose was the hand that slanted back this brow?
Whose breath blew out the light within this brain?
Is this the thing the Lord God made and gave
To have dominion over sea and land;
To trace the stars and search the heavens for power;
To feel the passion of eternity!
Is this the dream he dreamed who shaped the suns
And pillared the blue firmament with light?
Down all the stretch of Hell to his last gulf
There is no shape more terrible than this—
More tongued with censure of the world's blind greed—
More filled with signs and portents for the soul—
More fraught with menace to the universe.

What gulf between him and the seraphim!
Slave of the wheel of labor, what to him
Are Plato and the swing of the Pliades?
What the long reaches of the peaks of song.
The rift of dawn, the reddening of the rose?
Through this dread shape the suffering ages look;
Time's tragedy is in that aching stoop.
Through this dead shape humanity betrayed,
Plundered, profaned and diaphanized,
Cries protest to the judges of the world.
A protest that is also prophecy.
O, masters, lords, and rulers in all lands.
Is this the handiwork you give to God,
This monstrous thing distorted and abject-quenched?
How will you ever straighten up this shape,
Give back the upward looking and the light.
Rebuild in it the music and the dream.
Touch it again with immortality.
Make right the immortal infamies,
Perfidious wrongs, immediate woes?
O, masters, lords, and rulers in all lands.
How will the Future reckon with this man?
How answer his brute question in that hour
When whirlwinds of rebellion shake the world?
How will it be with kingdoms and with kings—
With those who shaped him to be the thing he is—
When this dumb Terror shall reply to God,
After the silence of the centuries?

The work of fiction was David Harbo, a native of New York, and rapidly gained a wide popularity. His first novel, "The Man with a Hoe," was published in 1898 and was a great success. It was a story of a man who had been a slave and was now a free man, but he was still a man with a hoe. The story was a powerful one, and it was a great success. It was a story of a man who had been a slave and was now a free man, but he was still a man with a hoe. The story was a powerful one, and it was a great success.

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