

# THE MAN HE KILLED

Thomas Hardy

a poem

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THE  
PROUD READER

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“ Had he and I but met  
By some old ancient inn,  
We should have sat us down to wet  
Right many a nipperkin !  
“ But ranged as infantry,  
And staring face to face,  
I shot at him as he at me,  
And killed him in his place.  
“ I shot him dead because—  
Because he was my foe,  
Just so : my foe of course he was ;  
That’s clear enough ; although  
“ He thought he’d ‘list, perhaps,  
Off-hand like—just as I—  
Was out of work—had sold his traps—  
No other reason why.  
“ Yes ; quaint and curious war is !  
You shoot a fellow down  
You’d treat if met where any bar is,  
Or help to half-a-crown.”



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