

A Poem
written aboard the
S.S. Runic
by a certain
Reverend Saxton



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holograph original in the possession of Seamus Taaffe.

I

There was an Expedition
Which sailed for Southern Seas
They are carrying food of all kinds
Including bread and cheese

They hoped to reach the Southern Pole
And thus create a name
To be inscribed on Britain's Scroll
With other men of fame

There was one called Dr Marshall
The lamb of all the fold
Who instructed all the others
In reference to the cold

II

There were dumb-bells *a la* Sandow
To make the muscles hard
And they copied all the postures
You find on Sandow's card

Not least among that festive band
Was one who looked quite chic
He wore a blanket for a coat
While on the boat "Runic"

Tho' his name was Mr Adams
An Eve he did not own
He'd either walk with other men

Above a brilliant shirt of blue
And waistcoat all of white
Appears the face of Mr Joyce
Who's quite a shining light

He always speaks in accents clear
With words of mildest hue
His syllables extend to six
Where you're content with two

III

There's only one in all the gang
Who might be called a liar
Because altho' his name is Wild
His nature's free from fire

There is the elongated Day
Some times called the "Skiver"
Who's sure when blizzards come along
To find himself a cover

Good Marston we can picture quite
With palette in his hand
Carrying to the canvas clear
The glories of the land

In Priestley I would make a pun
upon Geology
It's different from a hollow horse
For that's a hollow "Gee"

At the rotund Mr Roberts
We give a final look
Altho' a jolly good Auctioneer
He's better as a Cook

I hope this Expedition bold
Is feel healthy still
I would not like to be the cause
Of making them all ill

III

And we their fellow passengers
Of this have little doubt
Whatever hardships they may find
They'll never have a bout

And when we hide from Summer heat
And seek for corners cool
We'll say of each one of the band
He's certainly no fool

When they return in triumph great
From regions dark and cold
We'll all feel proud, if we're allowed
To bow before the Pole

— Rev Saxton

NOTE: The SS *Runic* was a steamship built at Harland and Wolff in Belfast for the White Star Line and entered service in 1901. The seven men of the Nimrod expedition featured here went out from England aboard the *Runic*; according to the Fishers, Ernest Joyce was aboard, too. Nothing can be learned of Rev. Saxton.