



# **Famous Poems Explained; Helps to Reading with the Understanding, with Biographical Notes of the Authors Represented**

*Waitman Barbe*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1909 edition. Excerpt: ... 12 So round his melancholy neck A rope he did entwine, And for the second time in life Enlisted in the Line! 13 One end he tied around a beam, And then removed his pegs, And, as his legs were off, of course He soon was off his legs. 14 And there he hung till he was dead As any nail in town; For, though distress had cut him up, It could not cut him down!--Thomas Hood. BURIAL OF SIR JOHN MOORE Sir John Moore, commanding the British forces in Spain in the war with Napoleon, was killed at the battle of Corunna, Spain, January 16, 1809. The battle occurred at the end of a long and hard retreat, and although the English had the advantage, they embarked at Corunna after the battle and returned to England. The French forces were under Marshal Soult. Alison's History of Europe says that Moore "was wrapped by his attendants in his military cloak and laid in a grave hastily formed on the ramparts of Corunna, where a monument was soon after erected over his uncoffined remains by the generosity of the French Marshal Ney. Not a word was spoken as the melancholy interment by torchlight took place; silently they laid him in his grave, while the distant cannon of the battlefield fired the funeral honors to his memory. "This tomb, originally erected by the French, since enlarged by the British, bears a simple but touching inscription, written of the hero over whose remains it is placed. Few spots in Europe will ever be more the object of general interest. His very misfortunes were the means which procured him immortal fame--his disastrous retreat, bloody death, and finally his tomb on a foreign strand, far from home and friends. There is scarcely a Spaniard but has heard of his tomb and speaks of it with a strange kind of awe." Many fantastic legends have...

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