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Chants Before Battle

By Aleister Crowley

(*Variaë lectiones*)

(Only one poet has struck the True Note of British Patriotism, the author of—

“We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do,  
We've got the ships, we've got the men, we've got the money, too.”

If, however, all our poets had had this perfect thought, in all its detail, English literature might have been enriched somewhat as follows.)

By G——y C——r

The voys of peple touchede the  
  hevene  
So loude cryden they with  
  mery stevene  
“God save swich a lord, that is so  
  so good  
He wilneth no destruccioun of  
  blood!”  
Certes, we wolde not in listes  
  fighte,  
But an we wolde, shippes  
  mortal dight  
We have, and eek the villeins  
  valiaunt  
With sheeldes bright and swerdes  
  for to daunt.  
By good Saint Jingo of our  
  nacioun!