

ALL QUIET

ALONG THE

POTOMAC

TO-NIGHT.

BALTIMORE:

3.

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"ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC TO-NIGHT?"

MODERATO.

"All

qui - et a - long the Po - to - mac to-night," Ex - cept here and there a stray picket Is

shot as he walks on his beat to and fro, By a ri - fleman hid in the thicket; 'Tis

noth-ing! a pri - vate or two now and then, Will not count in the news of the bat-tle, Not an

of - fi-cer lost! on-ly one of the men Moaning out all a - lone the death rattle. "All

qui - et a - long the Po - to - mac to - night!"

2

“All quiet along the Potomac to-night,”
 Where the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming,
 And their tents in the rays of the clear autumn moon,
 And the light of the camp fires are gleaming;
 There’s only the sound of the lone sentry’s tread,
 As he tramps from the rock to the fountain,
 And thinks of the two on the low trundle bed
 Far away in the cot on the mountain.

3

His musket falls slack— his’ face, dark and grim,
 Grows gentle with memories tender,
 As he mutters a pray’r for the children asleep,
 And their mother—“May heaven defend her!”
 The moon seems to shine as brightly as then—
 That night, when the love yet unspoken
 Leap’d up to his lips, and when low murmur’d vows
 Were pledg’d, to be ever unbroken.

4

Then drawing his sleeve roughly o’er his eyes,
 He dashes off the tears that are welling,
 And gathers his gun close up to his breast,
 As if to keep down the heart’s swelling;
 He passes the fountain, the blasted pine tree,
 And his footstep is lagging and weary,
 Yet onward he goes, thro’ the broad belt of light,
 Toward the shades of the forest so dreary.

5

Hark! was it the night-wind that rustles the leaves!
 Was it the moonlight so wond’rously flashing?
 It look’d like a rifle! “Ha, Mary good bye!”
 And his life-blood is ebbing and plashing.
 “All quiet along the Potomac to-night,”
 No sound save the rush of the river;
 While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead,
 “The Picket’s” off duty for ever.

Clayton.