

# THE MAN HE KILLED

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**Thomas Hardy**

# Thomas Hardy (1840 – 1928)



- He was an English novelist and poet.
- A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, including the poetry of William Wordsworth.

# The Man He Killed

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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!

Had : if

To wet : to drink

Nipperkin : an ordinary small drinks.



"But ranged as infantry,  
And staring face to face,  
I shot at him as he at me,  
And killed him in his place.



Ranged : lined up

Infantry : soldiers who fight on foot

"I shot him dead because —  
Because he was my foe,  
Just so: my foe of course he was;  
That's clear enough; although

Foe: enemy



"He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,  
Off-hand like — just as I —  
Was out of work — had sold his traps —  
No other reason why.



‘list : enlist, as in the army; volunteer to join the army  
Off-hand : for no particular reason  
his traps : his belongings



"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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quaint and curious : strange

A crown: a British coin that is now no longer in currency