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JOY OF A NATURALIST

By S. DEAN, Cairns

*I might have been rich if I'd wanted
The Gold, instead of the friendships I've made;
I might have had fame, if I'd wanted
Instead of the Hours I've played.*

*I'm standing today on the far edge of life
And I'm just looking backwards to see
What I've done with the years, and the days that were mine
And all that has happened to me.*

*I haven't much of a fortune to leave
To those that shall carry my name
And nothing I've done shall entitle me here
To a place on the Tablets of Fame.*

*But I've loved the great sky and its places of blue;
I've lived with the birds and the trees;
I've turned from the pleasures of silver and gold
To share in such pleasures as these.*

*I've lived with my friends, and shared in their joys;
Known sorrow with all its tears,
I've harvested much from my acres of life
Though some say I've squandered my years.*

*For much that is fine has been mine to enjoy
And I think I have lived of my best.
I have no regrets, as I'm nearing the end
For the Gold I might have possessed.*