

## The Man He Killed Thomas Hardy

"Had he and I but met  
By some old ancient inn,  
We should have sat us down to wet  
Right many a nipperkin\*!

\*a container holding about  
half a pint of beer or ale

"But ranged as infantry,  
And staring face to face,  
I shot at him as he at me,  
And killed him in his place. 5

"I shot him dead because--  
Because he was my foe,  
Just so: my foe of course he was;  
That's clear enough; although 10

"He thought he'd 'list\*, perhaps,  
Off-hand like--just as I--  
Was out of work--had sold his traps\*--  
No other reason why. 15

\*enlist

\*personal 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." 20

\*an old British coin