

**FOR THE KING:
AND OTHER POEMS**

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For the King: And Other Poems by Robert Cameron Rogers

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AND OTHER POEMS**

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AND OTHER POEMS

BY

ROBERT CAMERON ROGERS

Author of "The Wind in the Clearing,"
"Will o' the Wasp," etc.



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FOR THE KING.

*“ Chief among the captains was
Adino the Esnite—he lifted up his
Spear against eight hundred, whom
He slew at one time. . . . And after him was
Elesar . . . and
After him was Shammah. . . .
. . . . And David was in an
Hold, and the garrison of the Philistines
Was in Bethlehem. And David longed
And said: ‘ Oh that one would give me drink
Of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is
By the gate!’ And the three mighty men brake through
The host of the Philistines and drew water out of the
Well of Bethlehem and took it and brought it to David.
Nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it
Out to the Lord. And he said: ‘ Be it far from me,
O Lord,
That I should do this: is not this the blood of the men
That went in jeopardy of their lives?’ ”*

2 Samuel xxiii.

FOR THE KING.

I.

Down the steps in the stone that rang
To the smite of our feet—
Through the corridors cleft in the rock,
Past the guard on his beat,
Under archways rude fashioned and low
That echoed and sang
To the jar of our shields—so we ran ;
And the sharp brassy clang
Of swords clinking loud on our mail
In dim passageways, told
There was something afoot for strong men,
To the men in the hold.

II.

Up they sprang from their sleep, catching down each
His bow from the wall,
As we ran with the glint of a rising moon's glance

On our shields :
Like a man in a trance stood the guard at the gate
And let fall
His half-leveled spear in a sudden dismay
From our path.
We were past him, away in the moonlight,
And threading the fields
Ere he gathered himself, ere we heard him shout after
In wrath.
So we ran, all abreast, breathing quick,
With one purpose in mind—
A draught of cold water to fetch
From the fountain that springs
In the steep street of Bethlehem,
Hard by the gate of the town,
For David our master, the Lion of Judah,
Whose crown
Was assured by the word of the seer
From the King of all Kings.

III.

It was dark in the valley ; the opposite mountains
Up-*flung*