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Hills and the Sea

Some quotes from Hilaire Belloc's *Hills and the Sea*:

| In every inch of England you can find the history of England.

Hilaire Belloc. Hills and the Sea (Kindle Location 782). Kindle Edition.

I'd like to start greeting people this way:

| Then I said to them as I left the train at the town I spoke of: "Days, knights!"—for so one addresses strangers in that country. And they answered: "Your grace, we commend you to God."

Hilaire Belloc. Hills and the Sea (Kindle Locations 915-916). Kindle Edition.

The bells of Delft:

| "Since we are to have bells, let us have bells: not measured out, calculated, expensive, and prudent bells, but careless bells, self-answering multitudinous bells; bells without fear, bells excessive and bells innumerable; bells worthy of the ecstasies that are best thrown out and published in the clashing of bells. For bells are single, like real pleasures, and we will combine such a great number that they shall be like the happy and complex life of a man. In a word, let us be noble and scatter our bells and reap a harvest till our town is famous for its bells."

Hilaire Belloc. Hills and the Sea (Kindle Locations 344-347). Kindle Edition.

On the inspirational nature of Ely:

| Ely is dumb and yet oracular. The town and the hill tell you nothing till you have studied them in silence and for some considerable time. This boast is made by many towns, that they hold a secret. But Ely, which is rather a village than a town, has alone a true claim, the proof of which is this, that no one comes to Ely for a few hours and carries anything away, whereas no man lives in Ely for a year without beginning to write a book. I do not say that all are published, but I swear that all are begun.

Hilaire Belloc. Hills and the Sea (Kindle Locations 594-597). Kindle Edition.

The changing nature of the military:

| I saw (when I had long lost my manners and ceased to care for refinements) that the French were attempting, a generation before any others in the world, to establish an army that should be a mere army, and in which a living man counted only as one numbered man.

Hilaire Belloc. Hills and the Sea (Kindle Locations 1088-1090). Kindle Edition.

On the inspiration of being a foot soldier:

| In the process things had passed which would seem to you incredible if I wrote them all down. I cared little in what vessel I ate, or whether I had to tear meat with my fingers. I could march in reserve more than twenty miles a day for day upon day. I knew all about my horses; I could sweep, wash, make a bed, clean kit, cook a little, tidy a stable, turn to entrenching for emplacement, take a place at lifting a gun or changing a wheel. I took change with a gunner, and could point well. And all this was not learnt save under a grinding pressure of authority and harshness, without which in one's whole life I suppose one would never properly have learnt a half of these things—at least, not to do them so readily, or in such unison, or on so definite a plan. But (what will seem astonishing to our critics and verbalists), with all this there increased the power, or perhaps it was but the desire, to express the greatest thoughts—newer and keener things. I began to understand De Vigny when he wrote, "If a man despairs of becoming a poet, let him carry his pack and march in the ranks."

| pack and march in the ranks.

Hilaire Belloc. Hills and the Sea (Kindle Locations 1112-1114). Kindle Edition.

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