

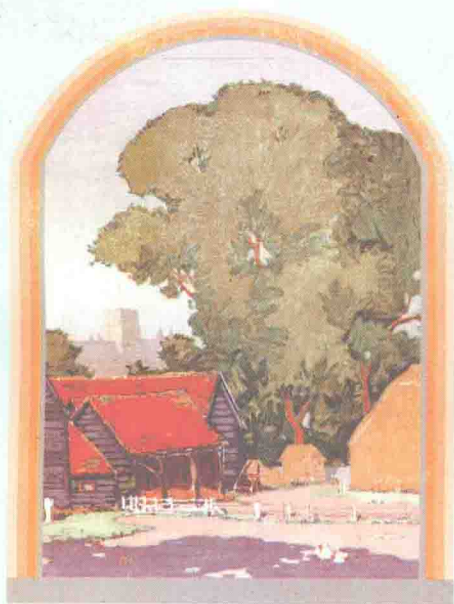
Cock-a-Doodle-Do! and Other Stories

英美文学精品详注丛书

第二辑 第三册

鸡鸣喔喔

〔美〕麦尔维尔 著



中国对外翻译出版公司

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[美] Herman Melville 著
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《鸡鸣喔喔》

赫尔曼·麦尔维尔(1819 - 1891) 生于纽约。父亲生意失败,撒手人间后,他只得辍学,开始养家。他干过很多活,当过船上服务员,航行去过英国的利物浦。后来参加了海军,返回美国后开始创作。1846年出版了游记《泰皮》,即他生前最受欢迎的作品。1847年结婚。婚后,创作了两部现实主义海洋小说:《雷得本的初次航行》(1849)和《白外衣》(1850)。1851年出版了《白鲸》,立即得到了评论家的赞赏,大概也 19 世纪美国最著名的小说。他后期的著作,自失败之作《皮埃尔》开始,越来越不成功;这些作品的巨大成就是在作者去世多年以后才为人所认识的。他最后一部杰作《比利·伯得》问世,批评界都认为是一部巨大的成功之作,于是他的声誉开始恢复。现在他的地位很稳固:美国杰出的海洋小说家,他不仅擅长叙述故事,而且还对人的心理和形而上进行了深入探索。

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Cock-a- Doodle-Doo!

and Other Stories

Herman Melville (1819 – 1891).

Born in New York, after his father's business failure and death, he was forced to leave school and support his family. He had various jobs till he sailed to Liverpool, England, as a cabin boy. Later he joined the U.S. Navy and when he returned to the States, he started writing. In 1846 he published "*Typee or A Deep at Polynesian Life*" which was the most popular of his books during his lifetime. After marrying in 1847, he wrote "*Redburn: His First Voyage*" (1849) and "*White Jacket*" (1850) — two realistic sea-stories. In 1851 he published "*Moby Dick*" which was immediately admired by critics and is possibly the most famous American novel of the century. Melville later work, beginning with the unsuccessful "*Pierre*" (1853), is a story of less and less success though of considerable achievement which was recognized only many years after the author's death. His last great masterpiece, the classic "*Billy Budd*", was still in manuscript when he died in 1891, almost unknown. This novel was not published until 1924 and its great critical success began the rehabilitation of Melville's reputation. Now his place is secure — the great American novelist of the sea, and at the psychological and metaphysical level, much more than just a great story-teller.

La Spiga

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO! **OR THE CROWING** **OF THE NOBLE COCK BENEVENTANO**

In all parts of the world many high-spirited revolts from rascally despotisms had of late been knocked on the head; many dreadful casualties, by locomotive and steamer, had likewise knocked hundreds of high-spirited travellers on the head (I lost a dear friend in one of them); my own private affairs were also full of despotisms, casualties, and knockings on the head, when early one morning in Spring, being too full of hypos to sleep, I sallied out to walk on my hill-side pasture.

It was a cool and misty, damp, disagreeable air. The country looked underdone, its raw juices squirting out all round. I buttoned out this squitchy air as well as I could with my lean, double-breasted dress-coat – my overcoat being so long-skirted I only used it in my wagon – and spitefully thrusting my crab-stick into the oozy sod, bent my blue form to the steep ascent of the hill. This toiling posture brought my head pretty well earthward, as if I were in the act of butting it against the world. I marked the fact, but only grinned at it with a ghastly grin.

All round me were tokens of a divided empire. The old grass and the new grass were striving together. In the low wet swales the verdure peeped out in vivid green; beyond, on the mountains, lay light patches of snow, strangely relieved against their russet sides; all the humped hills looked like brindled kine in the shivers. The woods were

CROWING: sound of the cock, often used to indicate vanity or conceit. **COCK**: male of the hen.

high-spirited revolts: vigorous revolts (*it refers to the year 1948*). **rascally**: dishonest; mean. **of late**: lately. **knocked on the head**: repressed violently. **dreadful**: terrible. **casualties**: people killed. **likewise**: in the same way.

knockings on the head: repressions.

hypos: *abbreviation for hypochondria*. **sallied out**: departed; went out. **hill-side**: on the side of the hill. **pasture**: field where grass is grown to feed animals. **cool**: almost cold. **misty**: foggy. **damp**: humid. **disagreeable**: unpleasant. **underdone**: (*figurative*) not fully cooked. **raw**: uncooked. **squirting out**: coming out in narrow streams. **buttoned out**: closed my coat so as to keep the cold out. **squitchy**: (*slang*) cold and damp. **lean**: not thick. **my overcoat being**: as my overcoat was. **long-skirted**: excessively long. **wagon**: vehicle. **spitefully**: angrily. **thrusting**: pushing with force. **crab-stick**: walking stick. **oozy sod**: moist earth. **steep**: almost vertical. **toiling**: hard; fatiguing. **posture**: position. **pretty well earthward**: inclined towards the earth. **butting**: hitting. **marked**: noticed; observed. **grinned**: smiled in an unpleasant way. **ghastly grin**: very unpleasant smile. **tokens**: marks; traces. **striving**: trying to survive. **swales**: depressions in the ground. **verdure**: vegetation; green plants. **peeped out**: came out. **patches**: small areas. **relieved**: made less monotonous. **russet**: yellowish brown. **humped**: curved. **brindled**: grey with dark spots. **kine**: (*archaic*) cattle. **in the**

strewn with dry dead boughs, snapped off by the riotous winds of March, while the young trees skirting the woods were just beginning to show the first yellowish tinge of the nascent spray.

I sat down for a moment on a great rotting log nigh the top of the hill, my back to a heavy grove, my face presented toward a wild, sweeping circuit of mountain enclosing a rolling, diversified country. Along the base of one long range of heights ran a lagging, fever-and-agueish river, over which was a duplicate stream of dripping mist, exactly corresponding in every meander with its parent water below. Low down, here and there, shreds of vapor listlessly wandered in the air, like abandoned or helmless nations or ships – or very soaky towels hung on criss-cross clothes-lines to dry. Afar, over a distant village lying in a bay of the plain formed by the mountains, there rested a great flat canopy of haze, like a pall. It was the condensed smoke of the chimneys, with the condensed, exhaled breath of the villagers, prevented from dispersion by the imprisoning hills. It was too heavy and lifeless to mount of itself; so there it lay, between the village and the sky, doubtless hiding many a man with the mumps, and many a queasy child.

My eye ranged over the capacious rolling country, and over the mountains, and over the village, and over a farmhouse here and there, and over woods, groves, streams, rocks, fells – and I thought to myself, what a slight mark, after all, does man make on this huge great earth. Yet the earth makes a mark on him. What a horrid accident was that on the Ohio, where my good friend and thirty other good fellows were sloped into eternity at the bidding of a thick-headed engineer, who knew not a valve from a flue. And that crash on the railroad just over yon mountains there, where two infatuate trains ran pell-mell into each other, and climbed and clawed each other's backs; and one

shivers: shaking; trembling. **strewn**: covered in a disorderly manner. **snapped off**: broken off. **riotous**: turbulent; exuberant. **skirting**: running along the edge of. **tinge**: colour. **nascent**: growing. **spray**: small branches. **rotting**: decaying. **log**: piece of wood. **nigh**: near. **grove**: small group of trees. **presented**: directed. **sweeping**: curving. **rolling**: undulated. **range of heights**: series of hill-tops. **lagging**: slow moving. **fever-and-agueish**: malarious. **duplicate**: identical; double. **stream**: river. **dripping**: falling in drops. **mist**: fog. **meander**: curve. **its parent water**: the water from which it originated. **shreds**: torn pieces. **vapor**: *U.S. spelling of vapour*. **listlessly**: lazily. **helmless**: uncontrolled. **soaky**: wet. **criss-cross clothes-lines**: lines for hanging clothes with pieces crossing over each other. **canopy**: rooflike covering. **haze**: vapour. **pall**: thick dark covering. **prevented from dispersion by**: which couldn't be dispersed because of. **lifeless**: without life. **to mount of itself**: to drift away without help from the wind. **doubtless**: without doubt. **hiding**: concealing. **mumps**: contagious viral disease. **queasy**: about to vomit. **ranged**: moved. **capacious**: spacious; able to contain much. **farmhouse**: house attached to a farm. **groves**: group of trees. **streams**: rivers. **fells**: rocky hills. **slight**: light; not significant. **after all**: considering everything. **huge**: very large; enormous. **fellows**: men. **sloped**: caused to fall. **bidding**: desire. **thick-headed**: stupid; dumb. **knew... flue**: who wasn't able to distinguish a valve from a flue. **yon**: those in the distance. **infatuate**: foolish. **pell-mell**: with reckless speed. **clawed**: attached to.

locomotive was found fairly shelled, like a chick, inside of a passenger car in the antagonist train; and near a score of noble hearts, a bride and her groom, and an innocent little infant, were all disembarked into the grim hulk of Charon, who ferried them over, all baggageless, to some clinkered iron-foundry country or other. Yet what's the use of complaining? What justice of the peace will right this matter? Yea, what's the use of bothering the very heavens about it? Don't the heavens themselves ordain these things – else they could not happen?

A miserable world! Who would take the trouble to make a fortune in it, when he knows not how long he can keep it, for the thousand villains and asses who have the management of railroads and steamboats, and innumerable other vital things in the world. If they would make me Dictator in North America a while, I'd string them up, and hang, draw, and quarter; fry, roast, and boil; stew, grill, and devil them, like so many turkey-legs – the rascally num-skulls of stokers; I'd set them to stoking in Tartarus – I would !

Great improvements of the age! What! to call the facilitation of dead and murder an improvement! Who wants to travel so fast? My grandfather did not, and he was no fool. Hark! here comes that old dragon again – that gigantic gad-fly of a Moloch – snort! puff! scream! – here he comes straight-bent through these vernal woods, like the Asiatic cholera cantering on a camel. Stand aside! here he comes, the chartered murderer! the death monopoliser! judge, jury, and hangman all together, whose victims die always without benefit of clergy. For two hundred and fifty miles that iron fiend goes yelling through the land, crying 'More! more! more!' Would that fifty conspiring mountains would fall atop of him! And, while they were about it, would they also fall atop of that smaller dunning fiend, my creditor, who frightens the life out of me more than any locomotive

shelled: with a shell around it. **chick**: baby bird.

score: group of twenty.

a bride: a woman who has just got married. **her groom**: her husband. **disembarked**: caused to land. **grim hulk**: sinister boat.

Charon: the ferryman who brought the dead across the rivers Styx or Acheron to Hades. **ferried**: transported. **baggageless**: without luggage. **clinkered**: dirty with coal impurities. **iron-foundry**: producing iron. **complaining**: lamenting. **right**: vindicate.

bothering: annoying. **the very heavens**: *note the emphatic use of very*. **ordain**: decide; arrange. **else**: otherwise. **take the trouble to make**: be interested in making.

keep: maintain; hold on to.

for: because of. **thousand villains**: *note thousand is not followed by the preposition of*. **villains**: evil men. **asses**: stupid men. **have the management**: direct.

a while: for some time. **string them up**: tie them up. **draw, and quarter**: eviscerate and cut into pieces. **devil**: prepare by coating with spiced paste before cooking. **rascally**: mean; base. **numskulls**: stupid men. **stokers**: men who take care of steam engines. **stoking**: taking care of steam engines. **Tartarus**: part of Hades where evildoers are.

murder: killing.

fast: quickly. **he was no fool**: he wasn't stupid.

Hark: (*exclamation*) listen; pay attention.

gad-fly: large fly (*Beelzebub: Lord of the Flies*). **Moloch**: Canaanite god of fire. **he comes**: *note the pronoun he is used for the train*. **straight-bent**: (*oxymoron*) not bent and bent. **vernal**: of the spring. **cantering**: riding. **chartered**: hired. **murderer**: killer.

all together: all in one.

benefit of clergy: comfort of priests.

fiend: devil. **yelling**: shouting; making a loud noise.

Would: I wish. **atop**: on. **were about**: were doing that. **dunning**: wanting the payment of my debt. **frightens the life out of me**: troubles me.

— a lantern-jawed rascal, who seems to run on a railroad track, too, and duns me even on Sunday, all the way to church and back, and comes and sits in the same pew with me, and pretending to be polite and hand me the prayer-book opened at the proper place, pokes his pesky bill under my nose in the very midst of my devotions, and so shoves himself between me and salvation, for how can one keep his temper on such occasions?

I can't pay this horrid man; and yet they say money was never so plentiful — a drug in the market; but blame me if I can get any of the drug, though there never was a sick man more in need of that particular sort of medicine. It's a lie: money ain't plenty — feel of my pocket. Ha! here's a powder. I was going to send to the sick baby in yonder hovel, where the Irish ditcher lives. That baby has the scarlet fever. They say the measles are rife in the country, too, and the varioloid, and the chicken-pox, and it's bad for teething children. And after all, I suppose many of the poor little ones, after going through all this trouble, snap off short; and so they had the measles, mumps, croup, scarlet fever, chicken pox, cholera-morbus, summer-complaint, and all else, in vain! Ah! there's that twinge of the rheumatics in my right shoulder. I got it one night on the North River, when, in a crowded boat, I gave up my berth to a sick lady, and stayed on deck till morning in drizzling weather. There's the thanks one gets for charity! Twinge! Shoot away, ye rheumatics! Ye couldn't lay on worse if I were some villain who had murdered the lady instead of befriending her. Dyspepsia, too — I am troubled with that. Hallo! here come the calves, the two-year-olds, just turned out of the barn into the pasture, after six months of cold victuals. What a miserable looking set, to be sure! A breaking up of a hard winter, that's certain: sharp bones sticking out like elbows; all quilted with a strange stuff dried on their flanks like layers of pancakes. Hair worn quite off

lantern-jawed rascal: evil man whose lower jaw projected over the upper one. **duns:** asks me to pay back my debt.
pew: bench at church.
pretending to be: behaving as if he were. **hand:** pass; give.
proper: right. **pokes:** pushes. **pesky:** bothersome.
in the very midst: exactly in the middle. **devotions:** prayers.
shoves: pushes. **for:** because. **one:** *impersonal pronoun*.
keep his temper: stay calm.

plentiful: abundant. **blame me:** *exclamation of disappointment*.
get: have; obtain. **there never was:** *emphatic inversion*.
sort: type; kind. **a lie:** something not true.
ain't: (*dialect*) isn't. **plenty:** much. **feel of:** touch.
sick: ill. **yonder:** over there.
hovel: decrepit house. **ditcher:** man who digs ditches.
scarlet fever: viral disease. **measles:** (*sing. or pl.*) viral disease common in children. **rife:** common; widespread. **varioid, and the chicken pox:** two viral diseases. **teething children:** little children whose teeth are growing.
croup: viral disease.
summer-complaint: viral disease.
twinge: feeling.

crowded boat: boat full of people. **berth:** bed.
drizzling: raining.
gets: obtains.
Shoot away: go away. **ye:** (*archaic*) you.
villain: evil man. **murdered:** killed.
befriending her: becoming her friend; helping her. **Dyspepsia:** bad digestion. **calves:** young cows.
barn: farm building.
victuals: food. **miserable looking set:** group that looks miserable. **sticking out:** projecting.
elbows: joints in the arms. **quilted:** matted. **stuff:** substance.
flanks: sides. **layers:** strata. **worn quite off:** very little.

too, here and there; and where it ain't pancaked, or worn off, looks like the rubbed sides of mangy old hair-trunks. In fact, they are not six two-year-olds, but six abominable old hair-trunks wandering about here in this pasture.

Hark! By Jove, what's that? See! the very hair-trunks prick their ears at it, and stand and gaze away down into the rolling country yonder. Hark again! How clear! how musical! how prolonged! What a triumphant thanksgiving of a cock-crow! '*Glory be to God in the highest!*' It says those very words as plain as ever cock did in this world. Why, why, I begin to feel a little in sorts again. It ain't so very misty, after ali. The sun yonder is beginning to show himself: I feel warmer.

Hark! There again! Did ever such a blessed cock-crow so ring out over the earth before! Clear, shrill, full of pluck, full of fire, full of fun, full of glee. It plainly says – '*Never say die!*' My friends, it is extraordinary, is it not?

Unwittingly, I found that I had been addressing the two-year-olds – the calves – in my enthusiasm; which shows how one's true nature will betray itself at times in the most unconscious way. For what a very two-year-old, and calf, I had been to fall into the sulks, on a hill-top too, when a cock down in the lowlands there, without discourse of reason, and quite penniless in the world, and with death hanging over him at any moment from his hungry master, sends up a cry like a very laureate celebrating the glorious victory of New Orleans.

Hark! there it goes again! My friends, that must be a Shanghai; no domestic-born cock could crow in such prodigious exulting strains. Plainly, my friends, a Shanghai of the Emperor of China's breed.

But my friends the hair-trunks, fairly alarmed at last by such clamorously-victorious tones, were now scampering off, with their tails flirting in the air, and capering with their legs in clumsy enough sort of style, sufficiently

pancaked: covered with the strange stuff.

mangy: shabby. **hair-trunks**: a chest covered with hide from which the hair has not been removed. **two-year-olds**: calves which are two years old. **wandering about**: going astray.

Hark! By Jove: *exclamation.*

prick their ears: listen carefully. **gaze**: look attentively.

rolling: undulated. **yonder**: over there.

thanksgiving: thanking God.

those very words: *note the emphatic use of very.* **plain**: clear; simple. **in sorts**: (*idiom*) well. **ain't**: (*dialect*) isn't.

misty: foggy.

himself: *note the sun is considered masculine.*

shrill: strident. **full of pluck**: vigorous.

glee: joy; happiness. **plainly**: simply.

Unwittingly: without knowing. **addressing**: talking to.

shows: proves; demonstrates.

betray itself: come out.

the sulks: depression.

lowlands: valleys.

penniless: without a penny; poor.

hanging: being suspended.

laureate: person who receives an award.

victory of New Orleans: *the last battle of the "War of 1812" in which Andrew Jackson caused the British to retreat.* **goes**: sings.

Shangai: long-legged breed of fowl with feathered shanks.

domestic-born cock: cock born here. **strains**: musical phrases.

Plainly: clearly; no doubt. **breed**: type.

at last: finally.

scampering off: running away. **flirting**: fluttering; moving.

capering: running. **clumsy**: lacking dexterity.