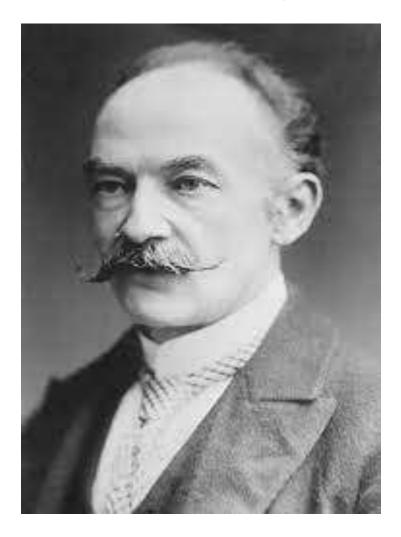
THE MAN HE KILLED

Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy (1840 – 1928)



- He was an English novelist and poet.
- A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, including the poetry of William Wordsworth.

The Man He Killed

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

Had : if To wet : to drink Nipperkin : an ordinary small drinks.



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



Ranged : lined up Infantry : soldiers who fight on foot "I shot him dead because — Because he was my foe, Just so: my foe of course he was; That's clear enough; although

Foe: enemy



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



'list : enlist, as in the army; volunteer to join the army Off-hand : for no particular reason his traps : his 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."



quaint and curious : strange A crown: a British coin that is now no longer in currency

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