

# THE BLOOD VOTE

"Why is your face so white, Mother?  
Why do you choke for breath?"

"O I have dreamt in the night, my son,  
That I doomed a man to death."

"Why do you hide your hand, Mother?  
And crouch above it in dread?"

"It beareth a dreadful brand, my son;  
With the dead man's blood 'tis red!"

"I hear his widow cry in the night,  
I hear his children weep,  
And always within my sight,  
O God!  
The dead man's blood  
doth leap."

"They put the dagger into my  
grasp,  
It seemed but a pencil then;  
I did not know it was a fiend a-gasp,  
For the priceless blood of men"

"They gave me the ballot paper,  
The grim death-warrant of doom,  
And I smugly sentenced the man to death,  
In that dreadful little room."

"I put it inside the Box of Blood  
Nor thought of the man I'd slain,  
Till at midnight came like a 'whelming  
flood  
God's word—and the Brand of Cain."

"O little son! O my little son!  
Pray God for your Mother's soul,  
That the scarlet stain may be white again  
In God's great Judgment Roll."



*Written by W. R. Winspear, and drawn by Claude Marquet. St Andrew's Place, Sydney.*