

The Sea-Ritual

By George Darley

Prayer unsaid, and Mass unsung,
Deadman's dirge must still be rung:
 Dingle-dong, the dead-bells sound!
 Mermen chant his dirge around!

Wash him bloodless, smooth him fair,
Stretch his limbs, and sleep his hair:
 Dingle-dong, the dead-bells go!
 Mermen swing them to and fro!

In the wormless sand shall he
Feast for no foul glutton be:
 Dingle-dong, the dead-bells chime!
 Mermen keep the tone and time!

We must with a tombstone brave
Shut the shark from out his grave:
 Dingle-dong, the dead-bells toll!
 Merman dirgers ring his knoll!

Such a slab will we lay o'er him
All the dead shall rise before him!
 Dingle-dong, the dead-bells boom!
 Mermen lay him in his tomb!