

# I AM A STORE

BY  
EDGAR A. GUEST

I'm the sum of all men's labor.  
I'm the songs of every land.  
I'm the glad heart of the neighbor  
And the skill of human hand.  
I'm the dusky savage beating  
On the tom-tom in his glee.  
I'm the wind-bite and the sleeting  
Of the frozen Arctic sea.

I am English in my laces.  
I'm the gayety of France.  
I'm the sum of all the places  
Where the feet of men advance.  
I'm their foibles and their fashions.  
I am all their toil has wrought.  
I'm their dreams, their hopes, their passions  
And the body of their thought.

The earth tang is within me.  
I'm the city's heat and rush.  
Every mortal hope is in me.  
I'm the artist's pen or brush.  
I am all the world's ambition.  
I am every want and need,  
The fulfillment and fruition  
Of the tiniest wind-blown seed.

I am lovely in my beauty.  
I am tender, gentle, wise.  
I am strong and stern for duty,  
But there's laughter in my eyes.  
I am everything which may be  
Found within the cosmic plan,  
From the innocence of baby  
To the last sad rites for man.

I am of the past and present  
And the future that's to be,  
Of the monarch and the peasant,  
Of the mountains and the sea.  
I am of the church and steeple,  
Of the factory and the field,  
And the souls of countless people  
In my splendor stand revealed.

I'm the end of man's endeavor.  
I am all things made complete.  
Here the strangest need whatever  
Will the thing it searches meet.  
I am song and art and story.  
I am fruit of every soil.  
I'm man's greatness and his glory  
And the product of his toil.

I am one of all my brothers  
Of the stores throughout the land.  
Here among the countless others  
As a tower of strength I stand.  
I am strong and wise and tender.  
I am gloriously made,  
And a monument of splendor  
To the majesty of trade.

*These buoyant verses, dedicated to The J. L. Hudson Company, by  
Mr. Guest, are published in observance of the completion  
of the greatest building program in Hudson history*

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