

Westerly Articles in Electronic Form

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A DETAIL FROM EACH OF FOUR CANVASES

1562

Far below, the wind-sway and horse-sway of lances
lurching by hundreds, to eddy with a single impulse;
helmets like bubbles;

 a wave may break
in some rare surge across the rock,
rustle dying stalks and tumble
popping in the grass.

 But if in all this massacre
there might have been a single death
to give the others meaning, who can know?

1812

Faint blobs of men come
staggering in companies through snow,
hopeless with the future they have learnt
mirror-gazing in the flame of Moscow,
led by the only one of all their broken army
incapable of understanding what it meant.

1873

A creek has pared the country
to its skeleton of gold.
Parasites and scavengers collect:
shanties grow, by surprise,
to a township with a street
of celebrating heads—crowds upon the rooftops
flapping banners **WELCOME TO SIR HERCULES.**
The Governor's carriage churns through mud.
Is it known if diggers revelling in packs
save His Excellency from the sight
of three small Chinese dangling
by their broken necks?