The Unhealthy Claim.

Say! you feller! you
With that spade and pick!
What do you 'spose to do
On this side of the crick?
Goin' to tackle this claim?—Well-I reckon
You'll let up agin purty quick!

No bluff understand—
But the same has been tried,
And the claim never panned
Or the fellers has lied;
For they tell of a dozen that tried it
And quit most onsatisfied.

The luck's dead agin it!
The first man I see
That stuck a pick in it
Proved that thing to me—
For he sorto took down and got homesick
An' went back where he'd orto be!

Then others they worked it
Some—more or less—
But finally shirked it
In grades of distress.
With an eye out, a jaw or skull busted,
Or some sort o' seriousness.

The last one was plucky—
He wasn't afeerd.
An' bragged he was lucky
An' said that he'd heerd
A heap o' bluff talk an' swore through his beard
He'd work any claim that he keered.

Don't you strike nary lick
With that pick till I'm through;
This feller talked slick
An' as peart-like as you.
An' he says "I'll abide here
As long as I please."
But he didn't—he died here—
And I'm his decease!

