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Remembrance

By MARY C. SHAW

Although I've never glimpsed the Taj Mahal
 Dreaming in starlight on a summer's night,
 Whenever gaudy peacocks strut and cry
 That vision flashes out, a wondrous sight!

And though I have not sailed a Chinese junk
 From Canton down a sluggish yellow stream,
 The pungent tang of candied ginger brings
 Weird chant of coolies in an Orient dream.

Pillars of marble by a sapphire sea—
 Their crumbling, ancient beauty I've not seen;
 Yet all that loveliness comes back to me
 When scented blooms of oleander lean.

Soft thud of camels plodding in the sand
 I've never known, nor tinkling of their bells,
 Nor curtained palanquin in purple night
 Swaying like craft upon an ocean's swells.

Whence all this drift and flow of vivid scene
 To quicken long-forgotten sight and sound?
 How, where, or when we mortals only guess—
 Slim wraiths of memories once lost, but found,