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THE DEATH ANGEL

By FRANCIS HARD

We struggled in the waves, and I was ware
Of a strange presence moving by my side,
More beautiful than dawn, and dreamy-eyed,
Who half enmesht me with her falling hair,
Blacker than night, yet thousandfold more fair;
And with the siren-voice of dreams she cried:
"Forbear to struggle more, but gently slide
Into my arms: new rapture waits thee there."

To that soft plea I would have yielded then,
But tender voices cried into my ear,
And then the sobs of loved ones I could hear;
And so I turned, and fought the waves again.
My comrade from my side she reft away:
I entered into night, he into day.