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BESTRIDE THE NARROW WORLD

JOHN BEECHER

We dangled them upon the edge a week
letting them savor death and then reprieved
them from their jeopardy a space. The style
is new. The abominations of his war
moved Lincoln to unmanly tears. Perhaps
he pondered Scripture overmuch. We too
bring God into our speeches. Fustian
we spout as well to cloak our naked sword
in words of righteous tone. Small matter if
the skeptical are unconvinced. We have
the countervailing force to make them cringe.
No power makes us stoop to parley. Proud
as pterodactyls in their prime are we,
mighty as mammoths whose unrivaled thews
the tundra binds in ice perpetual.

Acknowledgment: FELLOWSHIP

Handset & printed damp by John & Barbara Beecher at the
Rampart Press in Phoenix, Arizona. Edition limited to 200.

January † mcmlxiiij