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IF—

BY

RUDYARD KIPLING



MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1914

IF—

If you can keep your head when all
about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on
you ;

If you can trust yourself when all men
doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubt-
ing too ;

If you can wait and not be tired by
waiting,

Or being lied about, don't deal in
lies,

Or being hated don't give way to
hating,

And yet don't look too good, nor
talk too wise :

If you can dream—and not make
dreams your master ;

If you can think—and not make
thoughts your aim ;

If you can meet with Triumph and
Disaster

And treat those two impostors just
the same ;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've
spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap
for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life
to broken,

And stoop and build 'em up with
worn-out tools :

If you can make one heap of all your
winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-
toss,
And lose, and start again at your be-
ginnings
And never breathe a word about
your loss ;
If you can force your heart and nerve
and sinew
To serve your turn long after they
are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing
in you
Except the Will which says to them :
' Hold on !'

If you can talk with crowds and keep
 your virtue,
 Or walk with Kings—nor lose the
 common touch,
 If neither foes nor loving friends can
 hurt you,
 If all men count with you, but none
 too much ;
 If you can fill the unforgiving minute
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance
 run,
 Yours is the Earth and everything that's
 in it,
 And—which is more—~~you'll be~~ a
 Man, my son !



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