

## MARTHA'S DAUGHTERS

by

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When Kipling wrote about Martha's Sons  
     four-score and three years ago,  
 the engineering profession was admired--  
     a man who chose it was called a hero.  
 Great bridges and dams and highways were built;  
     rivers rerouted, turbines designed.  
 Capital domes were covered with gilt;  
     engineers made certain the gold was refined.  
 The world saw two wars which borrowed its name.  
     Engineers built ships, and tanks, and sought  
 To reach for the skies with aeroplanes  
     which dropped bombs on children being taught  
 That the world should be a more peaceful place.  
     The sons of Mary became unsettled;  
 "Our children are dead--it's a disgrace!"  
     And Martha's Sons' lifework was belittled.  
 The profession lost its luster and fame.  
     Technology was no longer revered.  
 "Let others build the weapons that maim;  
     let others become engineers."  
 The population exploded, and so did some bombs.  
     Nobody wanted to take credit  
 For nuclear power, for pollution,  
     for tombs of casualties of wars in the Orient.  
 And the Sons of Martha (who remained)  
     were considered crazy or simple or both.  
 The infrastructure which they maintained  
     was taken for granted; and Mary's Sons loth  
 To give credit for work where credit was due.  
     "Let children study finance or banking or art  
 But keep them away from science  
     and true applications of which technology is part."  
 And so we let engineering go across  
     to Germany and Japan; to Korea and Taiwan  
 Technology went for "they make it much cheaper than we can."  
     And nobody cared that one  
 Day would come when what we sold to overseas friends  
     counted less than technology bought.  
 But Sons of Mary would not be told;

and Sons of Mary could not be taught.  
 And now Mary's Sons are in distress.  
 They know the new century will bring  
 A lower place for our country, unless--  
 Martha's Sons can rub a ring  
 (Or other equally magical feat) to bring us, once more,  
 to the top of world trade.  
 But engineers are fewer than they were before;  
 and Sons of Martha are not born, but made.  
 Children of Martha ask questions of fate.  
 Martha's children are taught to look  
 Beyond what others see as obvious state;  
 and to query the statements of facts in a book.  
 The inquiring mind, the logical answer,  
 the best way a problem to solve--  
 Martha's children know these things by nature,  
 as sure as our earth does revolve.  
 Children of Martha--to Kipling's surprise--  
 may be light-skinned or black;  
 Female or male are Martha's Children, likewise,  
 for our nation now faces the lack  
 Of enough engineers and scientists, too,  
 to compete for top place in world trade.  
 All Children of Martha must be led to do  
 all things necessary for America's aid.  
 Sons of Mary, take heed of the fact  
 that your nation will surely require of you  
 Your boys and your girls to study and act  
 in support of the red, white and blue.  
 Red and yellow, white and black;  
 Sons and Daughters are needed, and soon.  
 Minorities and women will take up the slack,  
 forming a new technology platoon.  
 And Daughters of Martha are an untapped resource;  
 Brains, not brawn, are needed today.  
 Recruiting young women--recruiting in force--  
 to study technology to lead the way  
 For America's reawakening--a new Renaissance--  
 a revival of science and math.  
 So that Martha's Sons may still walk undisturbed  
 on Martha's Daughters' path.