

**406**

**John Boyle O'Reilly**



**Exported from Wikisource on July 25, 2024**

I do not know the meaning of the sign,  
But bend before its power, as a reed bends  
When the black tornado fills the valley to the lips.  
Three times in twenty years its shape has come  
On lines of fire on the black veil of mystery;  
At first, tho' strange, it seemed familiar,  
And lingered on the mind as if at rest;  
The second time it flashed a thrill came, too,  
For supernature spoke, or tried to speak;  
The third time, like a blow upon the eyes,  
It stood before me, as a page might say:  
'Read, read,—and do not call for other warning'.



This work was published before January 1, 1929, and is in the [public domain](#) worldwide because the author died at least 100 years ago.



# About this digital edition

This e-book comes from the online library [Wikisource](#). This multilingual digital library, built by volunteers, is committed to developing a free accessible collection of publications of every kind: novels, poems, magazines, letters...

We distribute our books for free, starting from works not copyrighted or published under a free license. You are free to use our e-books for any purpose (including commercial exploitation), under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 Unported](#) license or, at your choice, those of the [GNU FDL](#).

Wikisource is constantly looking for new members. During the transcription and proofreading of this book, it's possible that we made some errors. You can report them at [this page](#).

The following users contributed to this book:

- Hesperian
- Kathleen.wright5
- Pathosbot
- Beeswaxcandle
- Jusjih
- Danny~enwikisource
- Rocket000

- Boris23
- KABALINI
- Bromskloss
- Tene~commonswiki
- AzaToth
- Bender235
- PatríciaR