

## **I'd Rather Be A Failure**

I'd rather be a failure than the man who's never tried;  
I'd rather seek the mountain-top than always stand aside.  
Oh, let me hold some lofty dream and make my desperate fight,  
And though I fail I still shall know I tried to serve the right.

The idlers line the ways of life and they are quick to sneer;  
They note the failing strength of man and greet it with a jeer;  
But there is something deep inside which scoffers fail to view-  
They never see the glorious deed the failure tried to do.

Some men there are who never leave the city's well-worn streets;  
They never know the dangers grim the bold adventurer meets;  
They never seek a better way nor serve a nobler plan;  
They never risk with failure to advance the cause of man.

Oh, better 'tis to fail and fall in sorrow and despair,  
Than stand where all is safe and sure and never face a care;  
Yes, stamp me with the failure's brand and let men sneer at me,  
For though I've failed the Lord shall know the man I tried to be.

Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959)