Gold, gold, glittering gold;
It captivates both young and old;
It charms the rich, it charms the poor,
The more men have they want the more.
For love of gold men risk their lives,
And leave their children and their wives,
Meaning, of course, when they have found
The gold that’s buried under ground,
To hasten back, with gladsome heart,
From wife and child no more to part,
But, seated in the old arm chair,
To tell their tale with greatest care.

Published in the SS Great Britain Gazette, the ship’s on-board newspaper, in 1861. The poem is an extract from “A Colonial Ditty” and is about the experiences of prospectors (miners) searching for gold in Australia.

The name of the poet is unknown.