**Rudyard Kipling

"Danegeld"**

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| **It is always a temptation to an armed and agile nation****To call upon a neighbour and to say:****"We invaded you last night — we are quite prepared to fight,****Unless you pay us cahs to go  away".****And that is called asking for Danegeld,****And the people who ask it explain****That you've only to pay them the Danegeld****And then you'll get rid of the Dane!****It is always a temptation to a rich and lazy nation****To puff and look important and to say: —****"Though we know we should defeat you,****we have not the time to meet you.****We will therefore pay you cash to go away".****And that is called paying the Danegeld;****But we've proved it again and again,****That if once you have paid him the Danegeld****You never get rid of the Dane.****It is wrong to put temptation in the path of any nation,****For fear they should succumb and go away;****So when you are requested to pay up or be molested,****You will find it better policy to say: —****"We never pay any-one Danegeld,****No matter how trifling the cost;****For the end of that game is oppression and shame,****And the nation that plays it is lost!"** |