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THE SPIKE. It was late-afternoon. Forty-nine of us, forty-eight men and one woman, lay on the green waiting for the spike to open. We were too tired to talk much. Emma Goldman Anarchism and Other Essays 1910 Text from the Dana Ward's copy of Emma Goldman's Anarchism and Other Essays. Second Revised Edition. New... This vigorous survey of American letters is the first chapter of John Macy's admirable volume The Spirit of American Literature, published in 1913—a book shrewd, penetrating and salty, which has unfortunately never reached one-tenth of the many readers who would find it permanently delightful and profitable. In 1816, off the coast of Africa, the French frigate La Méduse, through the gross incompetence of its captain, was wrecked and sunk. The captain deserted the ship early, rowing his family away in a precious and nearly empty lifeboat.