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## Empire

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# Empire

**Author Bio**

Brendan is a first-year English major from Middletown, Maryland. He is currently a staff writer for The Gettysburgian, writing articles for the paper's News section. Some of his favorite writers include Lord Byron, Oscar Wilde, and Joe Dunthorne.

# Empire

Brendan Raleigh

A shipwreck, the farmhouse  
Stands alone, disturbingly undisturbed.  
Without a soul to regale with  
Embellished tales of fruitful harvests  
And good-humored gatherings.  
Even after all, blind to its failure,  
Busy hoping to fend off reality  
With the blunted blade of deception.  
Proof of its lies lie throughout  
And within its forlorn fields;  
Its fences rotting and unkempt,  
Ragweed creeping like a cautious general  
Across the blood-soaked battleground;  
Family photos damaged and defiled  
By carelessness, haste, and hate.  
Its silos, soulless silhouettes  
Sitting atop the misty, sullen hilltops.  
And yet, its foundation stands,  
A tribute to and reminder of  
The desolation of a fallen empire:  
Blessed with fortune, cursed with pride.