

**WAR POEMS FROM THE  
YALE REVIEW  
WITH A FOREWORD  
BY THE EDITORS**

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War poems from the Yale review with a foreword by the editors by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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*from The Yale Review*

REPRINTS FROM THE  
YALE REVIEW



*A Book of Yale Review Verse,*  
1917

*War Poems from The Yale Review,*  
1918

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## FOREWORD



**T**HOUGH it is still too early to say what goal of permanent art the verse inspired by the Great War will eventually reach, it is already possible to see the direction in which it is moving. Certain distinctive and dynamic values have unmistakably appeared—values which set the characteristic war poetry of our day in marked contrast with that of the past, and with what we know of the curiously archaic expression of modern Germany. Our own product, which this little collection from the work of a score of British and American writers may illustrate, is almost strangely free from the mood of the older war minstrels. Our poets to-day are seldom tempted by the pomp and circumstance of armies. They indulge in very little glorification of the sheer joy of combat, the hot hatreds and bloody vengeance of battle. The war is seen by them rather as a new atonement than as a mighty drama of arms; and its heroes for them are the men, the women, the children, who have suffered to the uttermost for the redemption of the world. The overwhelming grief; the superhuman endurance; the poignant and triumphant dignity of death; the terrible losses, the spiritual reparations—these are the themes that our war poets have made peculiarly their own. It is as if they were con-

strained by that warning uttered out of the fulness of the wisdom of peace—

The tumult and the shouting dies;  
The captains and the kings depart:  
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,  
An humble and a contrite heart.

But for all the tragedy and pathos, there is no weak lament, no vain longing for the peace that is gone. Never in history have war poets been so preoccupied with the greatness of their cause. The beauty of the ideal towards which humanity to-day is struggling through blood, touches and consecrates their art.

THE EDITORS.

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