

St. Dunstan's Red and White

Ex eodem fonte fides et scientia

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Young Wisdom

The years that formed your manhood did not take
Your gift for laughter or you boyishness
I had been given strength to bear nor break
Kissing a schoolboy in a battledress;
So young you seemed, so confident and brave—
So vulnerable, for cruelty and guns—
I told my heart, "There is a world to save,
And countless mothers weeping for their sons!"

And now across the miles of land and sea
Your hard-won wisdom comes to calm my fears;
You, whom I taught to live, are teaching me
That wisdom is no attribute of years.
That, sorrow-taught, we'll learn to travel on
A safer way than we have ever gone.

—LUCY GERTRUDE CLARKIN