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THE ANXIOUS DEAD

(By Lieut.-Colonel John McCrae, of the Canadian Forces,
in the Spectator)

O guns, fall silent till the dead men hear
Above their heads the legions pressing on:
(These fought their fight in time of bitter fear
And died not knowing how the day had gone.)

O flashing muzzles, pause, and let them see
The coming dawn that streaks the sky afar;
Then let your mighty chorus witness be
To them, and Caesar, that we still make war.

Tell them, O guns, that we have heard their call,
That we have sworn, and will not turn aside,
That we will onward till we win or fall,
That we will keep the faith for which they died.

Bid them be patient, and some day, anon
They shall feel earth enwrap in silence deep,
Shall greet, in wonderment, the quiet dawn,
And in content may turn them to their sleep.