

NAMES LIKE TRUMPETS

("Places . . . with names like trumpets." London "Observer," August 5, 1917.)

Martinpuich and Pozieres,
Courcelette and Guillemont,
Mouquet Farm, Le Sars and Flers,
Contalmaison, Destremont.

Mellow as orchard beneath Autumn's caresses,
Sweet to the tongue as fruit ripe to the wooing
Were our names in the dead rose-red days ere war's stresses
Shocked us from dreams to our piteous undoing.

Souchez River, Carency,
Angres, the Bois d'Hirondelle,
Lievin and Givenchy,
Vimy's height and Vimy's hell.

Mellow as anthems our belfries once chanted,
Sweet to the ear as a trumpet's far crying,
Shall our names be for all time, though, history-haunted,
Our streets and our orchards lie outraged and dying.

Honour's gentle accolade
Falls on every knightly name.
Hear the faint fanfaronade,
Silver-sweet, each style proclaim.

(Before Lens, August 15th, 1917.)