

WESTMINSTER REVIEW

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War Sonnets

(By Alexander Louis Fraser)

I.—To France

Sister of ours! who kept the world in cheer,
Whose eyes were beautiful, whose lips were sweet,
When at thy rich-carved door thou late didst hear
The wasting tread of the invaders' feet—

That ancient enemy who had returned
To plunder what expressed the soul of thee,
The fires, some thought were dead, all brightly burned,
And thou didst pledge thine all for Liberty!

France! the world knows from History's blood-dipped pen
What rich thoughts, what great deeds were thine of yore;
And Fame will tell how thy stout hearted men,
These trying years, the brunt of battle bore—

How Germany lies buried at Verdun,
How Freedom there a glorious victory won!

II.—"Kin Unknown"

No mother wept when thou didst take thy leave,
No home hopes now in vain for thy return,
No saddened family for months shall grieve
When from some messenger thy fate they learn.

Still thou art not unclaimed, for Britain knows
That thou didst cross the world for sake of her;
And thou, brave boy, art brother to all those
Whom Freedom doth in those scarred fields inter.

What was it made thee quit thy 'customed task,
When War's shrill bugle woke thy quiet vale?
Wouldst thou begin anew? In vain we ask;
But now where worth is known, they bid thee "Hail!"
And what if to this old world thou wast strange?
Down storied fields with heroes thou dost range.

Westminster Manse,
Smiths Falls, Ontario.

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