

The Last Laugh

Wilfred Owen, 1893-1918

1 'O Jesus Christ! I'm hit,' he said; and died.
2 Whether he vainly cursed or prayed indeed,
3 The Bullets chirped—In vain, vain, vain!
4 Machine-guns chuckled—Tut-tut! Tut-tut!
5 And the Big Gun guffawed.

6 Another sighed,—'O Mother,—mother,—Dad!'
7 Then smiled at nothing, childlike, being dead.
8 And the lofty Shrapnel-cloud
9 Leisurely gestured,—Fool!
10 And the falling splinters tittered.

11 'My Love!' one moaned. Love-languid seemed his mood,
12 Till slowly lowered, his whole face kissed the mud.
13 And the Bayonets' long teeth grinned;
14 Rabbles of Shells hooted and groaned;
15 And the Gas hissed.