Forty Years On

VOICE

Forty years on, when a- far and a- sun-der Par- ted are those who are sing- ing to- day,

ACCCOMP.

When you look back, and for- get- ful- ly won- der What you were like in your work and your play,

Then, it may be, there will of- ten come o’er you, Glimp- ses of notes like the catch of a song-

CHORUS

Vis- sions of boy- hood shall float be- fore you, Ech- oes of dream- land shall bear them a- long, Follow

up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Till the field ring a- gain and a-
Forty years on, when afar and asunder
Parted are those who are singing today,
When you look back, and forgetfully wonder
What you were like in your work and your play,
Then, it may be, there will often come o'er you,
Glimpses of notes like the catch of a song -
Visions of boyhood shall float them before you,
Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along.

Chorus
Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!
Till the field ring again and again,
With the tramp of the twenty-two men.
Follow up! Follow up!

Routs and discomfitures, rushes and rallies,
Bases attempted, and rescued, and won,
Strife without anger, and art without malice, -
How will it seem to you, forty years on?
Then, you will say, not a feverish minute
Strained the weak heart and the wavering knee,
Never the battle raged hottest, but in it,
Neither the last nor the faintest, were we!

Chorus
O the great days, in the distance enchanted,
Days of fresh air, in the rain and the sun,
How we rejoiced as we struggled and panted -
Hardly believable, forty years on!
How we discoursed of them, one with another,
Auguring triumph, or balancing fate,
Loved the ally with the heart of a brother,
Hated the foe with a playing at hate!

Chorus
Forty years on, growing older and older,
Shorter in wind, as in memory long,
Feeble of foot, and rheumatic of shoulder,
What will it help you that once you were strong?
God give us bases to guard or beleaguer,
Games to play out, whether earnest or fun;
Fights for the fearless, and goals for the eager,
Twenty, and thirty, and forty years on!

Chorus
Blazoned in honour! For each generation
   You kindled courage to stand and to stay;
You led our fathers to fight for the nation,
   Called "Follow up" and yourself showed the way.
We who were born in the calm after thunder
   Cherish our freedom to think and to do;
If in our turn we forgetfully wonder,
   Yet we'll remember we owe it to you.

Special Verses and Variants:

(Written for Sir Winston Churchill, 12th November 1954.)

Sixty years on - though in time growing older,
   Younger at heart you return to the Hill:
You, who in days of defeat ever bolder,
   Led us to Victory, serve Britain still.
Still there are bases to guard or beleaguer,
   Still must the battle for Freedom be won:
Long may you fight, Sir, who fearless and eager
   Look back to-day more than sixty years on.

E. V. C. Plumptre

(Written for the School's quatercentenary, 19th February 1971.)

Four hundred years in the story of Harrow
   Draw to a close, while the School marches on,
Strong at its heart, yet in range never narrow,
   Guarding the Hill where its glory first shone!
Still must the game be played out till it's ended,
   Still must the bases be rescued or won;
Often old hopes with new faith must be mended
   Following up what the past has begun.

E. M. Malan

Please note that the song, lyrics and music are all protected by international copyright laws and may not be used, distributed or reproduced for public performance without express written permission from Harrow School.