

## **FORTY YEARS ON**

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 catch of a song,  
Visions of boyhood shall float then before you,  
Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along.

### **Chorus**

Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!  
Till the field rings again and again  
With the tramp of the thirty true 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 wavering knee.  
Never the battle raged hottest, but in it  
Neither the last nor the faintest were we.

### **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 gives 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**