

# The Charge of the Light Brigade

BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

## I

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
“Forward, the Light Brigade!           5  
Charge for the guns!” he said.  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

## II

“Forward, the Light Brigade!”  
Was there a man dismayed?           10  
Not though the soldier knew  
Someone had blundered.  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die.           15  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

## III

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them           20  
Volleyed and thundered;  
Stormed at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of hell           25  
Rode the six hundred.

## IV

Flashed all their sabres bare,  
Flashed as they turned in air  
Sabring the gunners there,

Charging an army, while 30  
All the world wondered.  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right through the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reeled from the sabre stroke 35  
Shattered and sundered.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

## V

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them, 40  
Cannon behind them  
Volleyed and thundered;  
Stormed at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell.  
They that had fought so well 45  
Came through the jaws of Death,  
Back from the mouth of hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred.

## VI

When can their glory fade? 50  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wondered.  
Honour the charge they made!  
Honour the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred! 55