

I Looked On Life.

I looked on Life and found it to consist mostly,  
Of things we might have had - but missed.

I looked on Death and found that it was made,  
Of laws we never knew but disobeyed.

I looked on Youth and found it half awake,  
Wishing for things it lacked the will to make.

I looked on Age and found its cheeks were wet,  
With tears of pain, impotence and regret.

I looked on Wealth greater than human need,  
And saw it crush the owner and his seed.

I looked on Poverty and found it based,  
On ignorance, and indolence, and waste.

I looked on Fame and found its head was bowed,  
With poppies blown from bloody ground.

I looked on War and saw its turgid tide,  
Of ancient cruelties and racial pride.

I looked on Love but could not separate,  
The tangled threads of lust, self-love and hate.

I looked on God, God looked on me and smiled  
I saw myself, untutored, and as a child.