

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

THE CAMBRIDGE MISCELLANY



II  
MARLBOROUGH  
AND OTHER POEMS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---



*Charles Hamilton Sorley*

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

MARLBOROUGH  
and  
OTHER POEMS

BY  
CHARLES HAMILTON  
SORLEY

CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
1932

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107651739](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107651739)

© Cambridge University Press 1932

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1932  
First paperback edition 2011

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-107-65173-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or  
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in  
this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,  
or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## PREFACE

THE call for a new edition of these poems gives an opportunity for issuing them in a form which is intended to be definitive.

They are now arranged in four groups according to subject. It is true that all of them perhaps might be described by the title of one of these groups, as poems of life and thought. But some owe their inspiration directly to nature—to the wind-swept downs which the author loved and which he looked upon as “wise” as well as “wide”; a few reflect the experiences of school life; yet others show how his spirit faced the great adventure of war and death. Within each group the poems are printed, as nearly as may be, in the order of their composition, the title-poem being restored to its proper chronological place. When the date, exact or approximate, is known, it has been given; in those cases in which the date specifies the day of the month, it has been taken from the author’s manuscript.

A single piece of imaginative prose is included amongst the poems. Other passages of prose were added to the third edition with the view of illustrating ideas occurring in the poems and prominent in the author’s mind. With the exception of a

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

few sentences from an early essay, these prose passages are all taken from familiar letters. To the present edition a few notes have been appended, in which some topical allusions are explained and what is known about the origin of the separate pieces is told.

The frontispiece is from a drawing in chalks by Mr Cecil Jameson.

Of the author personally, and of what he was to his family and his friends, I do not speak. Yet I may quote the phrase used by a German lady in whose house he had been living for three months. "The time with him," she wrote, "was like a holiday and a feast-day." Many have felt what she put into words: though it was the graver moods of his mind that, for the most part, sought expression in his poems. I may also put on record here the main facts concerning his short life.

He was born at Old Aberdeen on 19th May 1895. His father was then a professor in the University of Aberdeen, and he was of Scottish descent on both sides. From 1900 onwards his home was in Cambridge. He was educated at Marlborough College, which he entered in September 1908 and left in December 1913, after obtaining a scholarship at University College, Oxford. Owing to the war he never went into residence at the University. After leaving school he spent a little more than six months in Germany, first at Schwerin in Mecklenburg and afterwards, for the summer

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

session, at the University of Jena. He was on a walking tour on the banks of the Moselle when the European war broke out. He was put in prison at Trier on the 2nd August, but released the same night with orders to leave the country. After some adventures he reached home on the 6th, and at once applied for a commission in the army. He was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Seventh (Service) Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment before the end of the month, Lieutenant in November, and Captain in the following August. He was sent to France with his battalion on 30th May 1915, and served for some months in the trenches round Ploegsteert. Shortly after he had entered upon his life there, a suggestion was made to him about printing a slim volume of verse. But he put the suggestion aside as premature. "Besides," he added, "this is no time for oliveyards and vineyards, more especially of the small-holdings type. For three years or the duration of the war, let be." Four months later his warfare was accomplished. His battalion was moved south to take part in the battle of Loos, and he fell on 13th October 1915, in an attack in which the "hair-pin" trench near Hulluch was captured by his company. "Being made perfect in a little while, he fulfilled long years."

W. R. S.

CAMBRIDGE, *March* 1919

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*The Fifth Edition is an exact reprint of the Fourth Edition except for a few verbal changes on pages 58 and 60. These changes are due to the recovery, after nearly six years, of some of the author's manuscripts which he had left behind him in Germany in August 1914.*

W. R. S.



## CONTENTS

### OF THE DOWNS

		PAGE
I	BARBURY CAMP . . . . .	3
II	STONES . . . . .	6
III	EAST KENNET CHURCH AT EVENING . . . . .	8
IV	AUTUMN DAWN . . . . .	10
V	RETURN . . . . .	13
VI	RICHARD JEFFERIES . . . . .	15
VII	J. B. . . . .	16
VIII	THE OTHER WISE MAN . . . . .	17
IX	MARLBOROUGH . . . . .	23
X	LE REVENANT . . . . .	26
XI	LOST . . . . .	29

### OF SCHOOL

XII	RAIN . . . . .	33
XIII	A TALE OF TWO CAREERS . . . . .	36
XIV	WHAT YOU WILL . . . . .	40

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
 Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## OF LIFE AND THOUGHT

	PAGE
XV A CALL TO ACTION . . . .	45
XVI PEACE . . . . .	48
XVII THE RIVER . . . . .	51
XVIII THE SEEKERS . . . . .	54
XIX ROOKS . . . . .	56
XX ROOKS (II) . . . . .	57
XXI THE SONG OF THE UNGIRT RUNNERS . . . . .	59
XXII GERMAN RAIN . . . . .	60
XXIII BRAND . . . . .	61
XXIV PEER GYNT . . . . .	62
XXV TO POETS . . . . .	63
XXVI "IF I HAVE SUFFERED PAIN"	64
XXVII WHOM THEREFORE WE IG- NORANTLY WORSHIP . . . . .	66
XXVIII DEUS LOQUITUR . . . . .	67
XXIX EXPECTANS EXPECTAVI . . . . .	68

## OF WAR AND DEATH

XXX "ALL THE HILLS AND VALES ALONG" . . . . .	71
XXXI TO GERMANY . . . . .	73

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
 Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

	PAGE
XXXII "A HUNDRED THOUSAND MILLION MITES WE GO".	74
XXXIII TWO SONNETS . . . .	76
XXXIV A SONNET . . . .	78
XXXV "THERE IS SUCH CHANGE IN ALL THOSE FIELDS" .	79
XXXVI "I HAVE NOT BROUGHT MY ODYSSEY" . . . .	81
XXXVII IN MEMORIAM S. C. W., V. C.	85
XXXVIII BEHIND THE LINES . . .	86
ILLUSTRATIONS IN PROSE . . . .	93
NOTES . . . . .	127

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-65173-9 - Marlborough and Other Poems  
Charles Hamilton and Sorley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---