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For Private Harper, Marrying

Carol Ely Harper

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FOR ELIZABETH MADOX ROBERTS
WHO DIED MARCH 13, 1941

From the confusion of estranging years,
The imperfections of the changing heart,
This hour leaves only tears;
Tears, and my earliest love, Elizabeth,
and changeless art.

JANET LEWIS

THREE POEMS

FOR PRIVATE HARPER, MARRYING

(Hard, dry, useless theme.)

Do not, Monarch, dote
In a pleated paper boat
Down a useless stream.

Forty miles is far to go
When the ebb is low.

Greedy, last night, weren't you?
Departing from your doors,
Loathing all your little shores,
You had much to do.

Forty miles is far to go
When the ebb is low.

Bars of sand are barriers now
Above the sunken water;
Fleetest sailing boat will falter
In current for a scow.

Forty miles is far to go
When the ebb is low.

Shallow water, Gentleman,
Is movement of some marriage:
Careful, Darling, of your carriage
For you sail on sand.

Forty miles is far to go
When the ebb is low.