

The Crimean War and the Charge of the Light Brigade



W. Simpson del. E. Waller lith.

Published March 1st 1855 by P. & D. Colnaghi & Co. 13 & 14, Pall Mall East. ... Published to Her Majesty

By A. S. Low, 10, St. Martin's Lane.

W. Simpson del.
Paris: Goupil & Co.

CHARGE OF THE LIGHT CAVALRY BRIGADE.

25th OCT. 1854.

UNDER MAJOR GENERAL THE EARL OF GARRISON.

OF LONDON'S JOURNALIST & EDITOR.

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!
Charge for the guns!" he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Module 23 Lesson 3
Document Analysis

II

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
 Someone had blundered.
 Theirs not to make reply,
 Theirs not to reason why,
 Theirs but to do and die.
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
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
 Rode the six hundred.

IV

Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
 All the world wondered.
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre stroke
 Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not
 Not the six hundred.

V

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell.
They that had fought so well
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?
O the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
 Noble six hundred!

Discussion Questions:

What is geopolitics?

How was the Crimean War an example of geopolitics?

Provide a few modern examples of geopolitics:

How did the Crimean War help lead to the decline of the Ottoman Empire?

How was the Crimean War different from prior wars?

What geopolitical struggle is known as the “Great Game”?

Which 19th-century artistic style does the Tennyson poem fit? Why?