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Two Crows

By FRANCIS HARD

Two crows flapped over dismally
 (So wearily, so drearily)
 To the blackened limb of a blasted tree;
 The shells flew screaming overhead,
 And the field was covered thick with dead—
 The earth reeked with its dead.

One crow lamented to his mate
 (So wearily, so drearily):
 "How long, how long must we now wait
 For the taste of food that was so good
 Before the shrapnel shattered the wood
 And loaded the ground with dead?"

"The odor sweet of dying men"
 (Lamented he so drearily),
 "How strangely pleasant was it when
 I sensed it first with ravished breath!
 But I am sated, and sick to death,
 And would fain lie yon with the dead."

A shell came moaning through the air
 (So drearily, so eerily)
 And burst where the crows were plaining there;
 It shivered the wreck of the blasted tree,
 And bits of crow fell bloodily
 Among the tangled dead.