

## THE GREAT WERE ONCE AS YOU

--Edgar Guest--

The great were once as you.  
They whom men magnify today  
Once groped and blundered on life's way.  
Were fearful of themselves, and thought  
By magic was men's greatness wrought.  
They feared to try what they could do'  
Yet fame hath crowned with her success  
The selfsame gifts that you possess.

The great were young as you,  
Dreaming the very dreams you hold,  
Longing, yet fearing, to be bold,  
Doubting that they themselves possessed  
The strength and skill for every test,  
Uncertain of the truths they knew,  
Not sure that they could stand to fate  
With all the courage of the great.



Then came a day when they  
Their first bold venture made,  
Scorning to cry for aid.  
They dared to stand to fight alone,  
Took up the gauntlet life had thrown,  
Charged full-front to the gray,  
Mastered their fear of self, and then  
Learned that our great men are but men.

Oh Youth, go forth and do! You, too, to  
fame may rise;  
You can be strong and wise. Stand up to  
life and play the man  
You can if you'll but think you can;  
THE GREAT WERE ONCE AS YOU.  
You envy them their proud success?  
'Twas won with gifts that you possess.