

Jefferson And Liberty

Words & Music:
Traditional Irish Tune/American Lyric Variation

This song refers to the contentious election of 1800 & the people's feelings for President-Elect Thomas Jefferson. Many people felt that laws passed during President Adams' administration, particularly the Alien & Sedition Acts, had infringed on their constitutional rights. These people looked to Jefferson as a symbol of freedom from oppressive government. Jefferson was elected in what has been called the "Revolution of 1800."

Em D
The gloomy night before us flies, the reign of terror now is o'er;
Em B7 Em
Its gags, inquisitors, and spies, its herds of harpies are no more!

CHORUS:

Em G D
Rejoice! Columbia's sons, rejoice! To tyrants never bend the knee!
Em D G Am B7 Em
But, join with heart and soul and voice, for Jefferson and Liberty!

No lordling here, with gorging jaws shall wring from industry the food;
Nor fiery bigot's holy laws lay waste our fields and streets in blood.

CHORUS:

Here strangers, from a thousand shores compelled by tyranny to roam,
Shall find, amidst abundant stores a nobler and a happier home.

CHORUS:

Here art shall lift her laureled head, wealth, industry, and peace divine;
And where dark, pathless forests spread, rich fields and lofty cities shine.

CHORUS:

His country's glory, hope, and stay, in virtue and in talents tried,
Now rises to assume the sway, o'er freedom's temple to preside.

CHORUS:

From Europe's wants and woes remote, a friendly waste of waves between,
Here plenty cheers the humblest cot, and smiles on every village green.

CHORUS:

Here free as air, expanded space, to every soul and sect shall be
That sacred privilege of our race the worship of the Deity.

CHORUS:

Let foes to freedom dread the name; but should they touch the sacred tree,
Twice fifty thousand swords would flame for Jefferson and Liberty.

CHORUS:

From Georgia to Lake Champlain, from seas to Mississippi's shore,
Ye sons of freedom loud proclaim the reign of terror is no more.

CHORUS:

