

COPYRIGHT / USAGE

Material on this site may be quoted or reproduced for **personal and educational purposes** without prior permission, provided appropriate credit is given. Any commercial use of this material is prohibited without prior permission from The Special Collections Department - Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Commercial requests for use of the transcript or related documentation must be submitted in writing to the address below.

When crediting the use of portions from this site or materials within that are copyrighted by us please use the citation: *Used with permission of the University of Baltimore.*

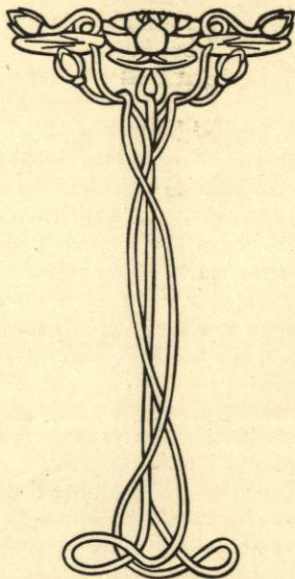
If you have any requests or questions regarding the use of the transcript or supporting documents, please contact us:

Langsdale Library
Special Collections Department
1420 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201-5779
<http://archives.ubalt.edu>

Fort McHenry

by

JOHN F. GONTRUM



Republished to strengthen the sentiment
for the preservation of Fort McHenry

FORT McHENRY

Romanic lyre was never thrilled,
Nor Homer's harp aspiring rung,
By deeds heroic nobler than
Those of our own land yet unsung.
Then join the anthem of the brave;
Sing of Patapsco's shining wave,
That gave to Freedom's golden age
The thrice illustrious heritage
Of gallant Fort McHenry!

The gory field of Marathon,
The shades of dark Thermopylæ,
And all the glorious victories won
In thy dear cause, O Liberty—
None gave the world a nobler name
To consecrate to deathless Fame
Than on that day when o'er the wave
The foeman saw the ramparts brave
Of gallant Fort McHenry!

Not Balaklava's desperate charge,
Nor Austerlitz with carnage red,
Not Waterloo's disastrous rout,
Nor Gravelotte with all her dead;
Not these alone shall live in story,
Not these alone shall grow in glory,
Beloved by all, unknown by few,
Thy name shall live the ages through,
O, gallant Fort McHenry!

And not alone at Bunker Hill,
Where fought and bled our patriot sires,
And Lexington and Valley Forge,
Shall Freedom light our beacon fires;

But with Long Island's martyred band,
Heroic sons of Maryland,
Thy walls with valorous blood baptized,
By fame shall be immortalized,
O, gallant Fort McHenry!

As stood Horatio's noble band
And held the hosts by Tiber's flood,
As heroes of the Grecian land
Repulsed the Persian with their blood,
So from the gates of Baltimore,
And from our new-born Freedom's shore,
Thy valiant garrison that day
Turned the invading host away,
O, gallant Fort McHenry!

Stay, sentinel of the watch, I pray;
Bow low thy head in reverence dear;
Tread softly o'er the ramparts gray;
For Freedom's brow was star-crowned here!
Here Freedom's heavenly hand unfurled
Her starry symbol to the world;
And here we give our vows to thee,
Resplendent Banner of the Free
That waves o'er Fort McHenry!

When freemen seek for Freedom's shrine
In this, our land of liberty,
Then from thy walls her star divine
Will lead their steps to thee, to thee!
Unheeded never be her calls
While floats her flag above thy walls!
And may thy ramparts ever be
The fortress of the brave and free,
O, gallant Fort McHenry!