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THE

DEFENDERS

"Our flag on the land and our flag on the ocean,
An angel of peace wheresoever it goes,
Nobly sustained by Columbia's devotion,
The angel of death it shall be to our foes."

Poetry by

Thos Buchanan Read

Music by

FR. WERNER STEINBRECHER.

Boston
Published by Oliver Ditson & Co. 277 Washington St.

Firth Pond & Co. N York. | J. Church Jr. Cin. | J.C. Haynes & Co. Boston. | J.E. Gould. Philad.a | C.C. Clapp & Co. Boston.

Entered according to act of Congress A.D. 1862 by O. Ditson & Co. in the Clerks Office of the Dis.t Court of Mass.

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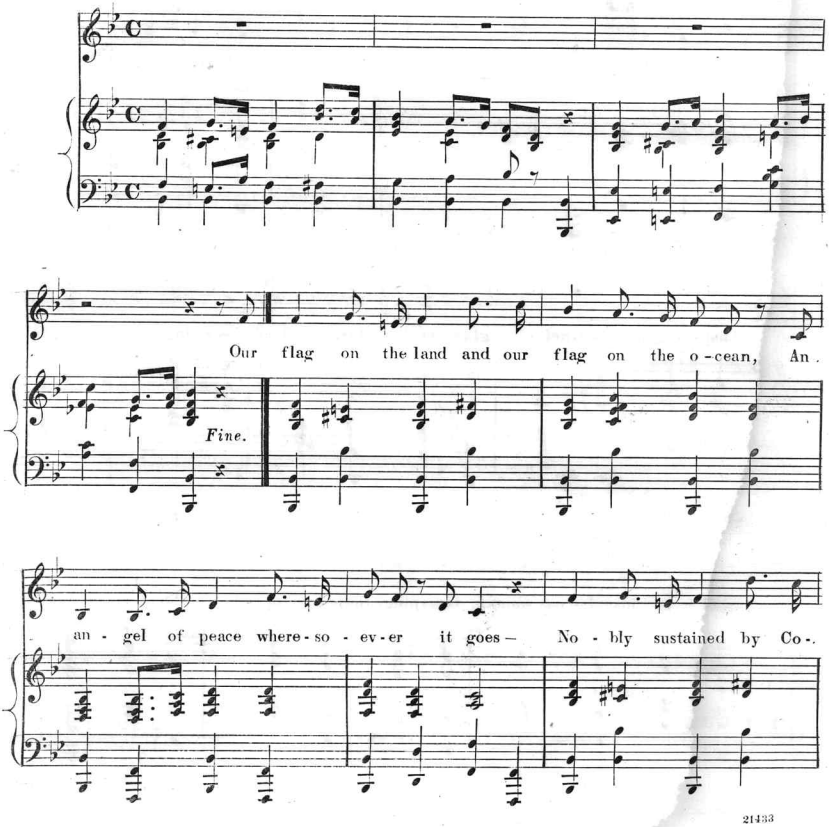
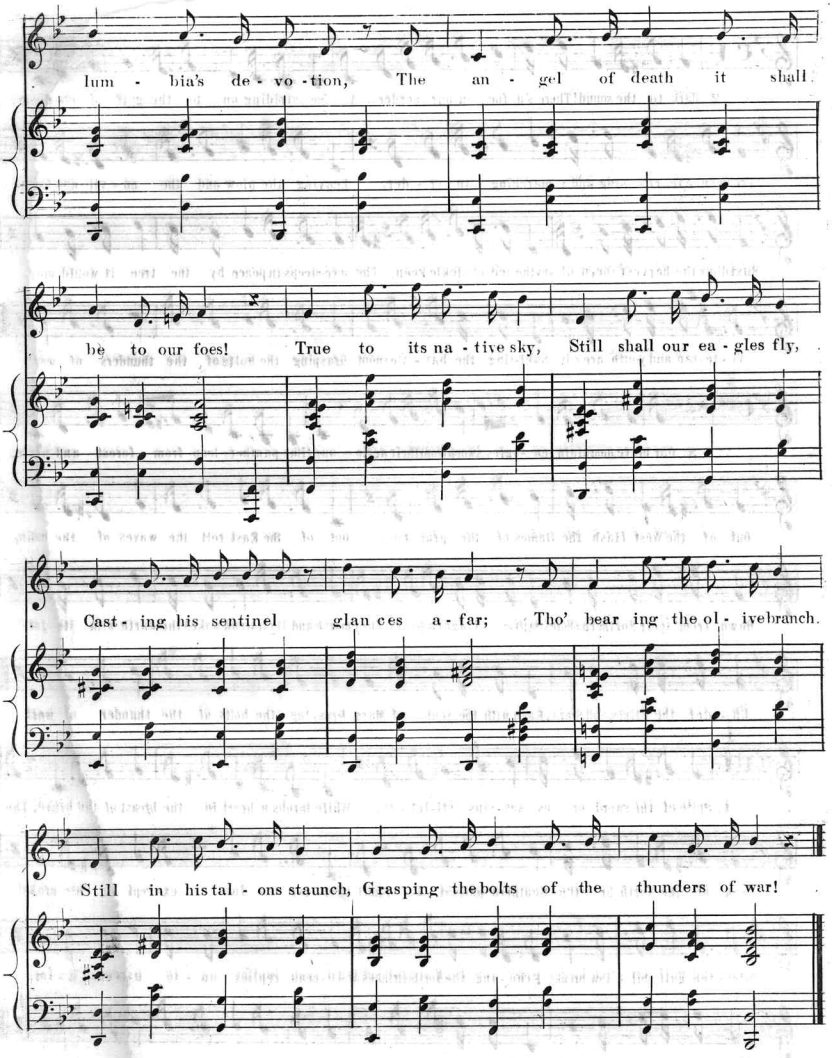
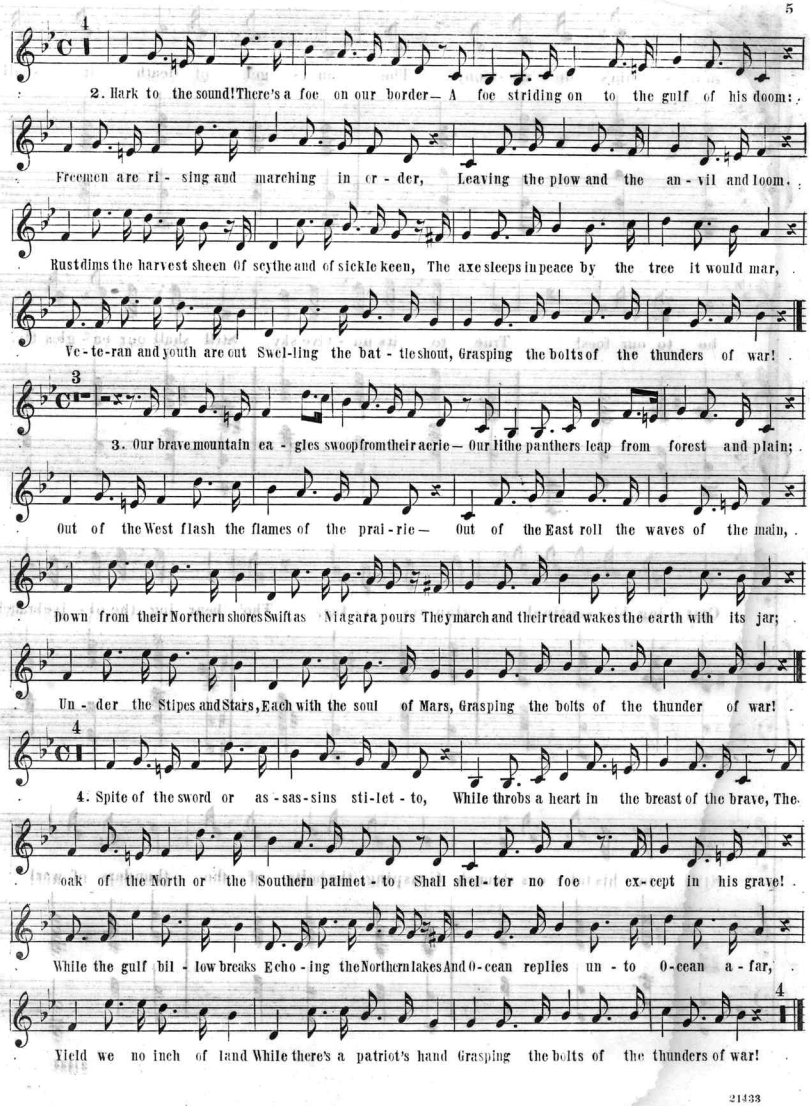
THE DEFENDERS.

Words by THOMAS BUCHANAN READ. Music by FR. WERNER STEINBRECHER.




lum - bia's de - vo - tion, The an - gel of death it shall
be to our foes! True to its na - tive sky, Still shall our ea - gles fly,
Cast - ing his sentinel glan ces a - far; Tho' bear ing the ol - ive branch.
Still in his tal - ons staunch, Grasping the bolts of the thunders of war!


2. Hark to the sound! There's a foe on our border— A foe striding on to the gulf of his doom:
Freemen are ri - sing and marching in or - der, Leaving the plow and the an - vil and loom.
Rust dims the harvest sheen Of scythe and of sickle keen, The axe sleeps in peace by the tree it would mar,
Ve - te - ran and youth are out Swel - ling the bat - tle shout, Grasping the bolts of the thunders of war!
3. Our brave mountain ea - gles swoop from their aerie— Our lithe panthers leap from forest and plain;
Out of the West flash the flames of the prai - rie— Out of the East roll the waves of the main,
Down from their Northern shores Swift as Niagara pours They march and their tread wakes the earth with its jar;
Un - der the Stipes and Stars, Each with the soul of Mars, Grasping the bolts of the thunder of war!
4. Spite of the sword or as - sas - sins sti - let - to, While throbs a heart in the breast of the brave, The
oak of the North or the Southern palmet - to Shall shel - ter no foe ex - cept in his grave!
While the gulf bil - low breaks Echo - ing the Northern lakes And O - cean replies un - to O - cean a - far,
Yield we no inch of land While there's a patriot's hand Grasping the bolts of the thunders of war!

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