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THE MILITIA OF MERCY'S PATRIOTIC SONG

THE SPIRIT OF '76

AN APPEAL

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
G. FREDERICK BICKFORD

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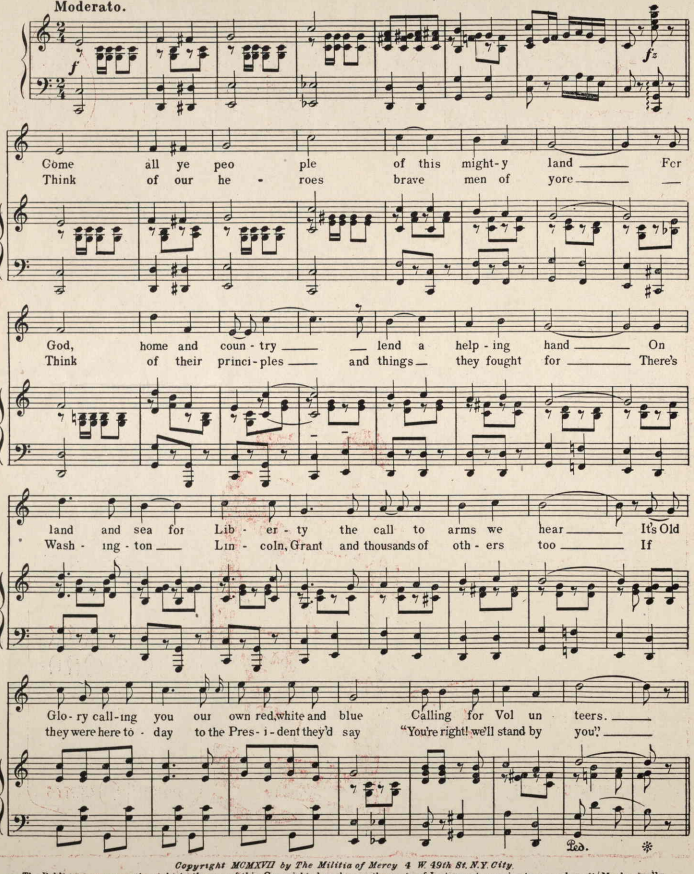
Arr. by Stephen O. Jones.

Moderato.



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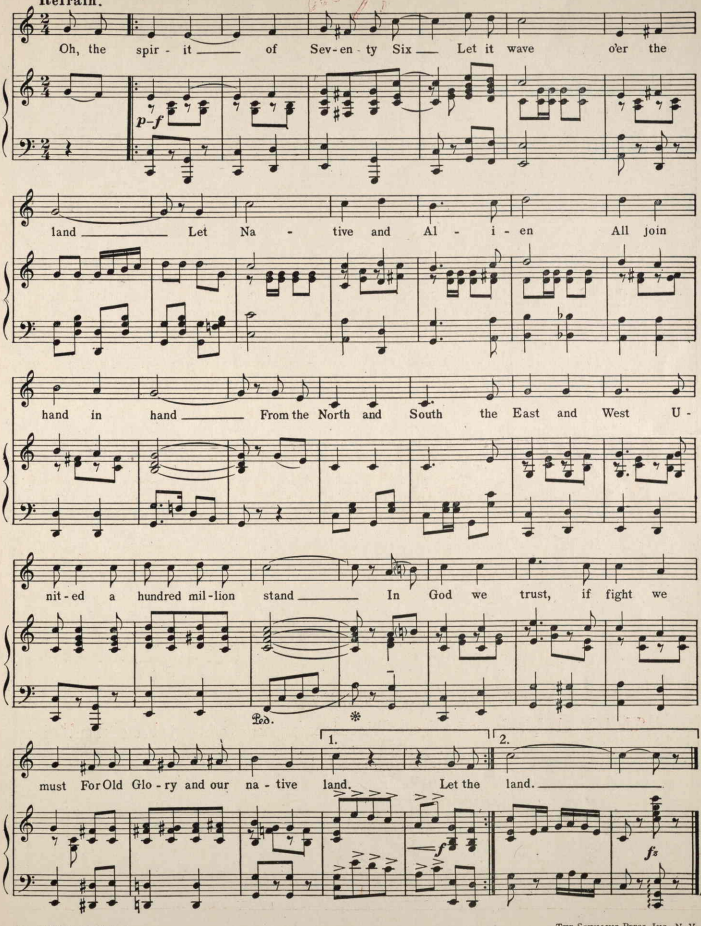

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Its object shall be to create and develop in the United States for all time a Militia of patriotic American women, trained and prepared for such service as women can render toward national needs.

To the Members and Friends of The Militia of Mercy:

Our organization is now thoroughly equipped to undertake the care of the families of the Naval Militiamen and the Naval recruits (the first line of defense) and has been officially designated and authorized by the Honorable Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, and by Commodore R. P. Forshew, Commanding Naval Militia of the State of New York, to perform these specific duties.

The Naval Militia—the only reserve to which the Navy could look for officers and men in the event of war—who have been holding themselves in readiness to respond when our Country needed them, have been called to the Colors.

With wives and little ones; with mothers and sisters dependent upon them, these breadwinners have marched away to 'an unknown destination;' their step firm, their heads held high, their eyes fixed on the Stars and Stripes and their hearts filled with the never-failing spirit of the true American patriot.

And while we get no visible sign from these men who go eagerly, fearlessly to their posts of duty, we well know that within each breast there lurks a great, aching fear for the safety and welfare of those who watched them go—watched them through eyes that glistened with unshed tears.

These volunteer sailors, who have established their homes and assumed obligations in their civil life, are now suddenly summoned to serve their Country, and the incomes of a great majority of them will thereby be reduced to a figure entirely inadequate to supply those dependent upon them with the necessaries of life.

Could any group of people make a stronger appeal for assistance than do these families left behind? And yet they do not appeal. Some of them would rather starve to death than ask for aid. Therefore, we ask in their stead. Not for alms, but for the assistance which it is our privilege to give and their right to expect in order that they may adjust their lives to the vicissitudes which the absence of the wage-earner will bring about.

Our Slogan is:

'Won't You Help to Protect a Family Whose Breadwinner Has Gone to Protect You?'

Checks may be sent to The Harriman National Bank, 527 Fifth Avenue, or to The Militia of Mercy, 4 West 49th Street, New York City.

In the spirit of this Cause which makes a simple, direct appeal in a language of its own, we are,

Yours faithfully,

THE MILITIA OF MERCY.