

THE SWARTWOUT CHRONICLES.

“ Though still bright gleam their bayonets,
 Unstained with hostile gore,
 Far distant yet is England's host,
 Unheard the cannon's roar.
 Yet not in vain they flew to arms ;
 It made the foeman know
 That many a gallant heart must bleed
 Ere freedom's star be low.

“ Guards of a nation's destiny !
 High is that nation's claim,
 For not unknown your spirit proud,
 Nor your daring chieftain's name.
 'Tis yours to shield the dearest ties
 That bind to life the heart,
 That mingle with the earliest breath,
 And with our last depart.

“ The angel-smile of beauty
 What heart but bounds to feel?
 Her fingers buckled on the belt,
 That sheathes your gleaming steel.
 And if the soldier's honored death
 In battle be your doom,
 Her tears shall bid the flowers be green
 That blossom round your tomb.

“ Tread on the path of duty,
 Band of the patriot brave,
 Prepared to rush, at honor's call,
 'To glory or the grave,'
 Nor bid your flag again to be furled
 Till proud its eagles soar,
 Till the battle-drum has ceased to beat,
 And the war-torch burns no more.”¹

Halleck also composed a song in honor of the Iron Grays, which was sung to the tune of “Adams and liberty.” It comprised six stanzas, the last one of which reads:

“ All hail to the band who like Spartans have joined
 Heart and hand to repel the assaults of aggression,
 Inspired by one soul, and informed by one mind,
 They will check by their deeds the inroads of oppression.
 May glory emblaze, in the liveliest rays
 The patriotic skill of the true 'Iron Grays,'
 And gratitude honor the worth of the brave
 With a wreath for his brow and a tear for his grave.”²

¹ The life and letters of Fitz-Greene Halleck. By James Grant Wilson, New York, 1869, pp. 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155.

² The popular song was published in the *New York Gazette* in 1814.