

Primary Source: "The Southern Cross" ^[1]

The Southern Cross was written by George Tucker and first published in March of 1861; it was sung to the tune of "The Star-Spangled Banner," but reflected the Confederate cause. The lyrics are below.

Oh! say can you see, through the gloom and the storm,
More bright for the darkness, that [pure constellation](#)?
Like the symbol of love, and [redemption](#) ^[2] its form,
As it points to the haven of hope for the nation.
How radiant each star, as the beacon afar,
Giving promise of peace, or assurance in war!
'Tis the [Cross of the South](#), which shall ever remain,
To light us to freedom, and glory again!

How peaceful and blest was America's soil,
'Till [betrayed by the guile of the Puritan demon](#)
Which lurks under virtue, and springs from its coil,
To fasten its fangs in the life blood of freemen,
Then boldly appeal, to each heart that can feel,
And crush the foul [viper](#) 'neath liberty's heel!
And the Cross of the South shall in triumph remain,
To light us to freedom and glory again.

'Tis the emblem of peace, 'tis the day star of hope,
Like the [sacred](#) ^[3] [Labarum](#) that guided the Roman,
From the shore of [the Gulf, to the Delaware's slope](#),
'Tis the trust of the free, and the terror of foeman,
Fling its folds to the air, while we boldly declare,
The rights we demand, or the deeds that we dare!
While the Cross of the South shall in triumph remain,
To light us to freedom and glory again.

And if peace should be hopeless, and justice denied,
And war's bloody vulture should flap its black [pinions](#) ^[4],
Then gladly "to arms," while we hurl in our pride,
[Defiance](#) ^[5] to tyrants, and death to their [minions](#) ^[6]!
With our front in the field, swearing never to yield,
Or return like the [Spartan](#), in death on our shield!
And the Cross of the South shall triumphantly wave,
As the flag of the free, or the [pall](#) ^[7] of the brave!

Primary Source Citation:

Tucker, George. "The Southern Cross." H. de Marsan, circa 1861. American Song Sheets Collection, Duke University, Durham, N.C. <https://repository.duke.edu/dc/songsheets/bsvg200605> ^[8]

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THE SOUTHERN CROSS.

Oh! say: can you see, through the gloom and the storm,
More bright for the darkness, that pure Constellation?
Like the symbol of love and redemption its form,
As it points to the Haven of hope for the nation,
How radiant each star, as the beacon afar,
Giving promise of peace, or assurance in war!
'Tis the Cross of the South, which shall ever remain
To light us to Freedom and Glory again!

How peaceful and blest was America's soil,
'Till betrayed by the guile of the Puritan Demon,
Which lurks under Virtue, and springs from its coil
To fasten its fangs in the life-blood of Freemen!
Then boldly appeal to each heart that can feel,
And crush the foul viper 'neath Liberty's heel!
And the Cross of the South shall, in triumph, remain
To light us to Freedom and Glory again!

'Tis the Emblem of peace, 'tis the Day-Star of hope,
Like the sacred LABARUM that guided the Roman;
From the shore of the Gulf to the Delaware's slope,
'Tis the trust of the Free, and the terror of Foemen.
Fling its folds to the air, while we boldly declare
The rights we demand, or the deeds that we dare!
While the Cross of the South shall, in triumph, remain
To light us to Freedom and Glory again!

And if peace should be hopeless and justice denied,
And war's bloody vulture should flap its black pinions:
Then, gladly: To arms! while we hurl, in our pride,
Defiance to Tyrants and death to their minions!
With our front in the field, swearing never to yield,
Or return like the Spartan in death on our shield!..
And the Cross of the South shall triumphantly wave
As the Flag of the Free, or the Pall of the Brave!

H. DE MARSAN
DEALER IN SONGS, TOY BOOKS, ETC.
No. 54 CHATHAM, N.Y.

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