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Verse B. 3/4

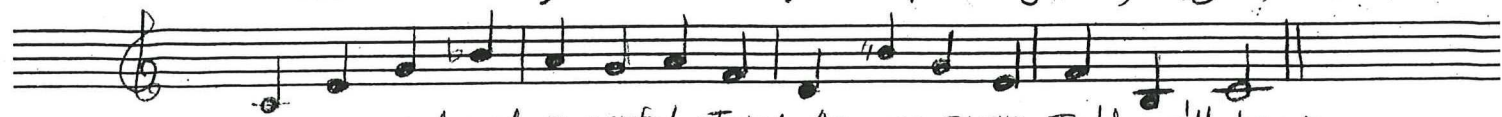
James Bird

Morr.

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Sons of freedom, listen to me, And ye daughters, too, give ear,



Of a sad and mournful story, As was ever told you'll hear.

2) **Hull, you know, his troops surrendered**
And defenseless left the west.
Then our forces quick assembled,
The invaders to resist.

3) **Among the troops that marched to Erie**
Was the Kingston Volunteers.
Captain Thomas them commanded
To protect our west frontier.

4) **Tender were the words of parting.**
Mothers wrung their hands and cried.
Maidens wept their swains in secret,
Fathers tried their tears to hide.

5) **But there's one among their number,**
Tall and graceful is his mien.
Firm his step, his look undaunted,
Scarce a nobler youth was seen.

6) **One sweet kiss he snatched from Mary,**
Craved his mother's prayer once more,
Pressed his father's hand and left them
For Lake Erie's distant shore.

7) **Mary tried to say, "Farewell, James,"**
Waved her hand but nothing spoke.
"Farewell, Bird, may God protect you,"
From the rest at parting broke.

8) **Soon they came where noble Perry**
Had assembled all his fleet.
Here the noble Bird enlisted,
Hoping soon the foe to meet.

9) **Where is Bird? The battle rages.**
Is he in the fight or no?
Here the cannon's roar tremendous.
Dare he meet the hostile foe?

10) **Aye, behold him see with Perry**
In the selfsame ship they fight;
Though his shipmates fall around him,
Nothing can his soul afright.

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- 11) But behold! a ball has struck him,
Sent the crimson colors flow.
"Leave the deck," exclaimed brave Perry.
"No," cried Bird, "I will not go.
- 12) Hark on deck I took my station.
Ne'er will Bird his colors fly.
I'll stand by my gallant captain,
Till we conquer or we die."
- 13) Still he fought the faint and bleeding,
Till our Stars and Striped arose,
Victory having crowned our efforts,
All triumphant o'er our foe.
- 14) Then did Bird receive a pension?
Was he to his friends restored?
No, nor never to his bosom
Clasped the maid his heart adored.
- 15) Forth there came most dismal tidings
From Lake Erie's distant shore.
Better far if Bird had perished
Midst the battles awful roar.
- 16) "Dearest parents," said the letter,
"This will bring sad news to you,
Do not mourn your first-beloved,
Though it breaks your heart in two.
- 17) "Brothers, sister," read the letter,
"This is the last you'll have from me.
I must suffer for deserting
From the brig Niagarie."
- 18) Sad and gloomy was the morning
Bird was ordered out to die.
Where's the heart not dead to pity
But for him would breathe a sigh?
- 19) Lo, he fought so brave at Erie,
Freely bled and nobly dared.
Let his courage plead for mercy,
Let his precious life be spared.
- 20) See him march and beat his fetters,
Harsh they clank upon the air.
But his step is firm and manly,
For his heart ne'er harbored fear.
- 21) See him kneel upon his coffin!
Sure his death will do no good.
Spare him! Hark! Oh God, they've shot him!
See his bosom stream with blood.
- 22) Farewell, Bird. Farewell forever.
Home and friends we'll see no more.
Now his mangled corpse lies buried
On Lake Erie's distant shore.