

When, O gallant warders
Of the Belgian borders,
Our Foes came parleying at your gate:
"Hear our Master's message!
Vield his armies passage!
Else all your land lies desolate!"
(Chorus repeals). Did ye pause to palter?
Nay, without one falter,
On that base assaulter
Proud defiance hurled;
While your banner olden—
Red and black and golden—
To your endless glory ye unfurled.

There the evil clangour
Of the German's anger

Burst where ye couched across his way.
Yet in wrath ye faced him,
Leaped upon and chased him,
Launched like young lions on your prey.
(Chorus repeats). Aye! though bolted thunder
Rent your ranks in sunder,
To the whole earth's wonder,
Still ye fought on and on!
Proved at Liége's portal
Heroes as immortal
As your proud sires who smote the Don.

Thus your dread endurance Shook our Foe's assurance, Thus laughed to scorn his plot profound-Free of your resistance, Far in southern distance Fair France's knell and ours to sound. Through that respite given, Though long rearward chriven, Now with ranks unriven We attack in turn. (Chorus repeats) Therefore, Banner olden, Red and black and golden Here we uplift thee by our Standard stern. Vowing, as we take thee And saluting "break" thee, Never to forsake thee, Flag of bright renown. Till with legions scattered, Rent and spent and shattered, Belgium's spoiler we have beaten down!

Alfred Perceval Graves