

"It Comes From the Misty Ages" . . . Elgar
("The Banner of St. George.")

Chorus:

It comes from the misty ages,
The banner of England's might—
The blood-red cross of the brave Saint George,
That burns on a field of white!
It speaks of the deathless heroes,
On fame's bright page inscrolled—
And bids great England ne'er forget
The glorious deeds of old!

O'er many a cloud of battle,
The banner has floated wide,
It shone like a star o'er the valiant hearts
That dash'd the Armada's pride!
For ever amid the thunders,
The sailor could do or die,
While tongues of flame leaped forth below
And the flag of Saint George was high.

O, ne'er may the flag beloved
Unfurl in a strife unblest,
But ever give strength to the righteous arm,
And hope to the hearts oppressed.
It says to the passing ages,
"Be brave if your cause be right,
Like the soldier saint whose cross of red
Still burns on your banner white."

Great race, whose Empire of splendour
Has dazzled a wondering world!
May the flag that floats o'er thy wide domains
Be long to all winds unfurled!
Three crosses in concord blended,
The banner of Britain's might!
But the central gem of the ensign fair
Is the cross of the dauntless Knight!

"It Comes From the Misty Ages."—This Chorus forms an Epilogue to a Cantata, "The Banner of St. George." Words by Shapcott Wensley, and music by Sir Edward Elgar. The composition is familiar to all the leading choral societies in the British Empire. It was first sung in its entirety in Canada some ten years ago, by the National Chorus of Toronto.