

TRIUMPHS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

BY J. G. LYONS.

1. **N**OW gather all our English bards, let harps and hearts be strung,
To celebrate the triumphs of our own good English tongue ;
For stronger far than hosts that march with battle-flags unfurled,
It goes with FREEDOM, THOUGHT, and TRUTH, to rouse and rule the world.
2. Stout Albion learns its household lays on every surf-worn shore,
And Scotland hears its echoing far as Orkney breakers roar ;
From Jura's crags and Mona's hills it floats on every gale,
And warms with eloquence and song the homes of Innisfail,
3. On many a wide and swarming deck it scales the rough wave's crest,
Seeking its peerless heritage—the fresh and fruitful West ;
It climbs New England's rocky steep, as victor mounts a throne ;
Niagara knows and greets the voice, still mightier than its own.
4. It spreads where winter piles deep snows on bright Canadian plains,
And where on Essequibo's banks eternal summer reigns :
It glads Acadia's misty coasts, Jamaica's glowing isle,
And bides where gay with early flowers green Texan prairies smile :
It tracks the loud, swift Oregon, through sunset valleys rolled
And soars where Californian brooks wash down their sands of gold :
5. It sounds in Borneo's camphor groves, on seas of fierce Malay,
In fields that curb old Ganges' flood, and towers of proud Bombay ;
It wakes up Aden's flashing eyes, dusk brows, and swarthy limbs ;
The dark Liberian soothes her child with English cradle hymns.
6. Tasmania's aids are wooed and won in gentle English speech ;
Australian boys read Crusoe's life by Sidney's sheltered beach ;
It dwells where Afric's southmost cape meets oceans broad and blue,
And Nieuwveld's rugged mountains gird the wide and waste Karroo :
7. It kindles realms so far apart, that, while its praise you sing,
These may be clad with Autumn's fruits, and *those* with flowers of Spring :
It quicken's lands whose meteor lights flame in an Arctic sky,
And lands for which the Southern Cross hangs orb'd fires on high,
8. It goes with all that prophets told, and righteous kings desired ;
With all that great apostles taught, and glorious Greeks admired ;
With Shakespeare's deep and wondrous verse, and Milton's loftier mind :
With Alfred's laws, and Newton's lore,—to cheer and bless mankind.
9. Mark, as it spreads, how deserts bloom, and error flies away
As vanishes the mist of night before the star of day !
But grand as are the victories whose monuments we see,
These are but as the dawn, which speaks of noontide yet to be.
10. Take heed, then, heirs of Alfred's fame, take heed, nor once disgrace
With deadly pen or spoiling sword our noble tongue and race.
Go forth, prepared in every clime to love and help each other ;
And judge that they who counsel strife would bid you smite—a brother.
11. Go forth, and jointly speed the time, by good men prayed for long,
When Christian states, grown just and wise, will scorn revenge and wrong ;
When Earth's oppressed and savage tribes shall cease to pine or roam,
All taught to prize these English words—FAITH, FREEDOM, HEAVEN, and HOME.

—Selected.