

To hail their safe return. Bright at their head,
Fair Judith led their steps, with winning grace,
She, their deliverer named, their crown of joy,
The glory and rejoicing of their land!
Her lofty brow, with the green olive twined,
And her dark eye, flashing with triumph proud,
As thus she poured her high, victorious song,
And led with graceful feet the sacred dance.

Break forth into praises! with timbrel and harp,
Exalt ye the name of your Saviour and God;
Almighty, all-glorious, omniscient, and wise,
Who spake, and the heathen were scattered abroad!

His mandate went forth, and the valiant one fell,—
The terror of Judah, the scourge of her race;
Not by giant hands smitten, she sank on the earth,
Weak weapons subdued him,—a woman's fair face!

Jehovah decreed it.—He bade her go forth,
Mid the chariots and horsemen that covered the plain;
Her trust in that arm, which is mighty to save,
In that strength, which each wile of the foe could
make vain.

She went forth undaunted,—her buckler and shield,
Strong faith in the Lord; and her weapons of might,
A bright gem and a smile,—they flashed on his eyes,
And the mighty one sank, overpowered by their light.

The wine cup stood by him,—the falchion hung near,
He slept,—and the hand, which love's soft wreaths
had wove
To twine round the brow of the lost and the wept,
Sternly grasped the keen blade, and the warrior's neck
clove!

The Persian affrighted beheld the bold deed,
And Media quaked to its furthest sea,
But the voice of her people alone smote her ear,
As gladly they shouted the song of the free!