

"And there swept Colonel Dudley with his dauntless, fighting band,
 Keen-eyed and lion-hearted to answer the command
 'Charge, bayonets!' O river, murmuring to the flowery shore;
 Can you tell us just how many smote the dust to rise no more?
 But the foe man fled in terror, and the patriots on their track
 Thus were led into an ambush, whence there was no turning back.

"Fatal error! quick surrounded, there they yielded up their lives,
 Cleft by savage battle-axes and the whetted scalping knives.
 "'Stay the slaughter!' cried Tecumseh, rushing on the dreadful scene
 (For that order lay one laurel on his dust, and keep it green).
 Down the southern bank, Clay's soldiers charged the worsted foe again,
 Spiked their guns and took their batteries, and made captives of their men.
 Nine long days ere stubborn Proctor owned the whipping he had got,
 Moved his camp and marched his soldiers to a safe and sheltered spot.

"What was gained? Forever after that decisive victory,
 Fear of the revengeful savage faded from the old Mannee,
 They had turned the name to terror all along the wooded shore;
 Day and night the vigil ceased not—loaded rifle—guarded door.
 Day and night the wild cry sounded, homes fell to a smoldering heap,
 Wives were widowed, men were tortured, children murdered in their sleep

"Now the heavy cloud was lifted, and the wary savage foe
 Shrank away from English friendship that but added to their woe,
 Then there dawned for fair Miami first rays of the coming morn,
 And the poor man's stumpy acres blossomed into fields of corn."

Thus ended my history lesson, and every pulse was stirred
 By the beautiful scene before me and what I had read and heard,
 And there on the blood-rich soil by the storied river-flow
 Let us rear a memory token for seventy years ago.
 O, wise Ohio statesmen! could ye do a fitter deed
 Than build in strength and beauty for days of age and need
 A rest for homeless soldiers who on the land and wave
 Made offer of their own lives their country's life to save?
 A monument of meaning from base to crowning dome,
 And be its name recorded—"FORT MEIGS MEMORIAL HOME."