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Emancipation. Emancipation Ode.

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Emancipation Ode.

FORWARD! Ye scattered sons of Africa
Now freed from bondage in America,
Forward! like Israel's host in swarming
band,
Forward to Glory! in a freedman's land.
With a steady beat
And with a joyful heart;
March on to meet
That which ye long have sought:
Glory and Honor, Honor yet unbought.

2.

Let thoughts of servitude
Be buried in the barren womb of nought,
In stately plentitude,
March bravely on; the battle ye have fought
Is won, won with all Honor pure,
March! let not filthy gain allure
Your beaming eye,
To God on high
Thy hope intrust, aim thou the vaulted sky.

3.

Within the foolish breast,
Anger doth raving rest,
Fit mate to Malice, friend to Prejudice,
But in your bosoms deep,
Let Understanding sleep
With honest Wisdom, Truth, her stores
increase
O Afric Sons!
Thy Glory now is won
Thy praise resounds throughout from Sun
to Sun.

4.

Forward! ye stalwart sons of Africa land,
Once captive, scourged by cruel, devilish
hand;
Sold into slavery,
And in base tyranny,
Suffered and bled, yet still contentedly
Ye bore your heavy yoke
And 'neath the rooted oak,
In solemn tears to God ye crying spoke.
Now with a gladsome mind,
"Let joy be unconfined,"
March on, march on, march on to victory.

5.

What, though no guiding cloud
Leads on the way,
What! though no fiery shroud
Doth bid ye stay,
What! though the nations roar
That ye be slaves no more,
And like a madden beast paw Freedom's
cage,
Forward! to Wisdom's Rule,
Let all your thoughts be schooled,
Forward! let fools be fools and rant in rage.

6

Freedom! O Afric Sons!
Freedom! the day is won!
Forward! to Glory true, and Wisdom free,
Forward! with gladsome mind,
"Let Joy be unconfined"
March on, march on, march on to Victory.
JNO. NATHL SAMUELS-BELBODER,
1902.

Brit. Guiana.

Sojourning in Charleston, S. C.