

Our neutral friend.

Chicago: Lyon & Healy (Clark & Washington Sts.), 1860

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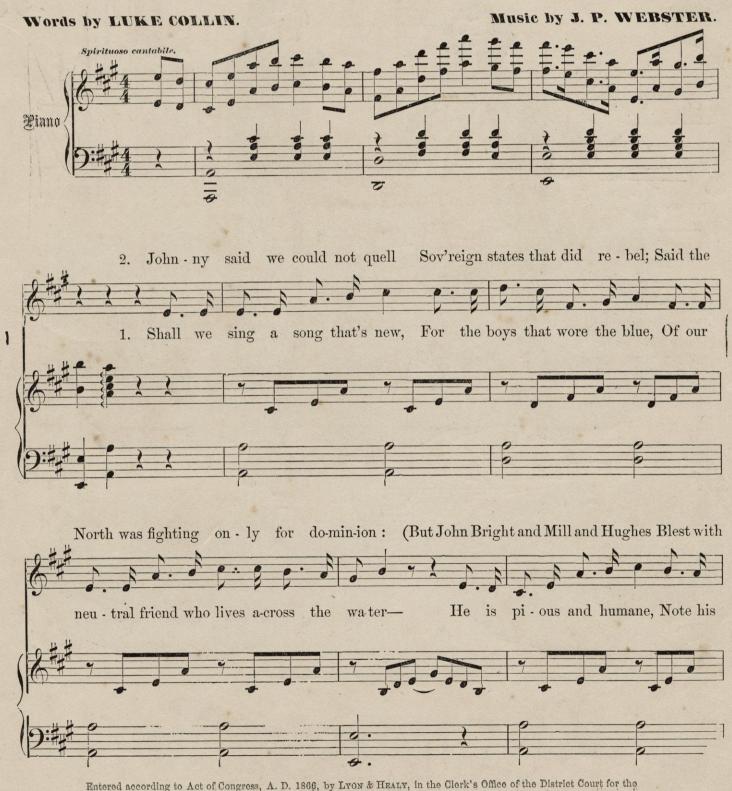


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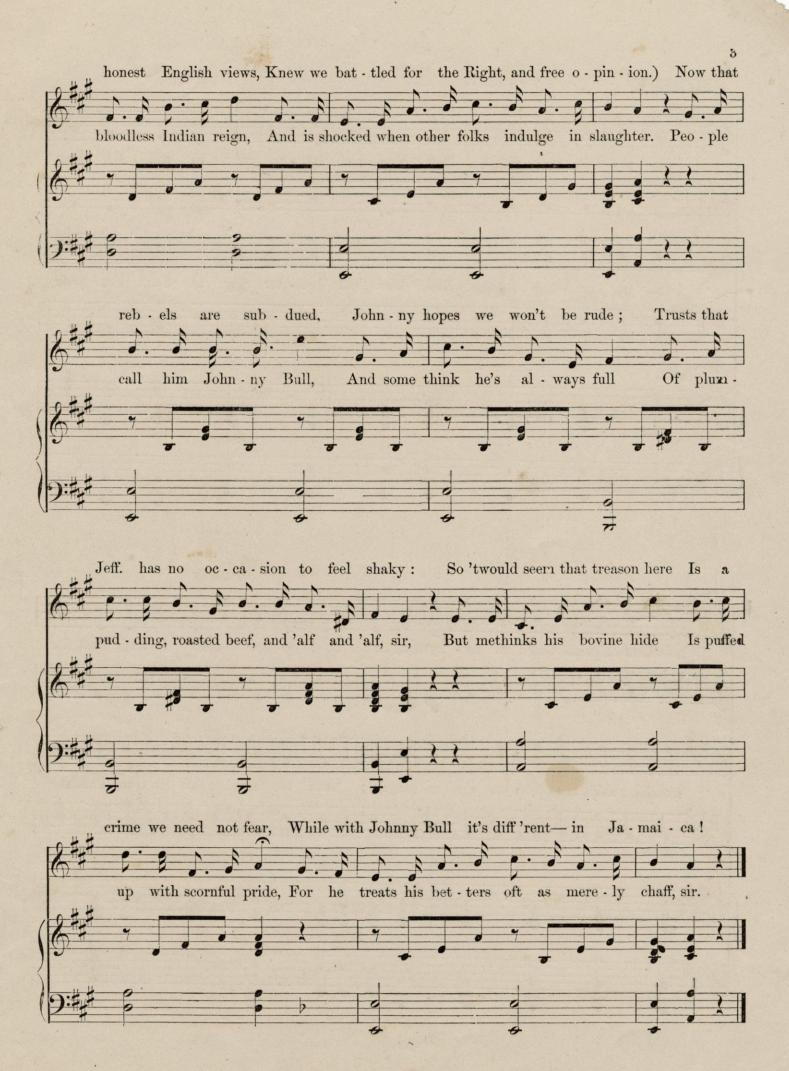
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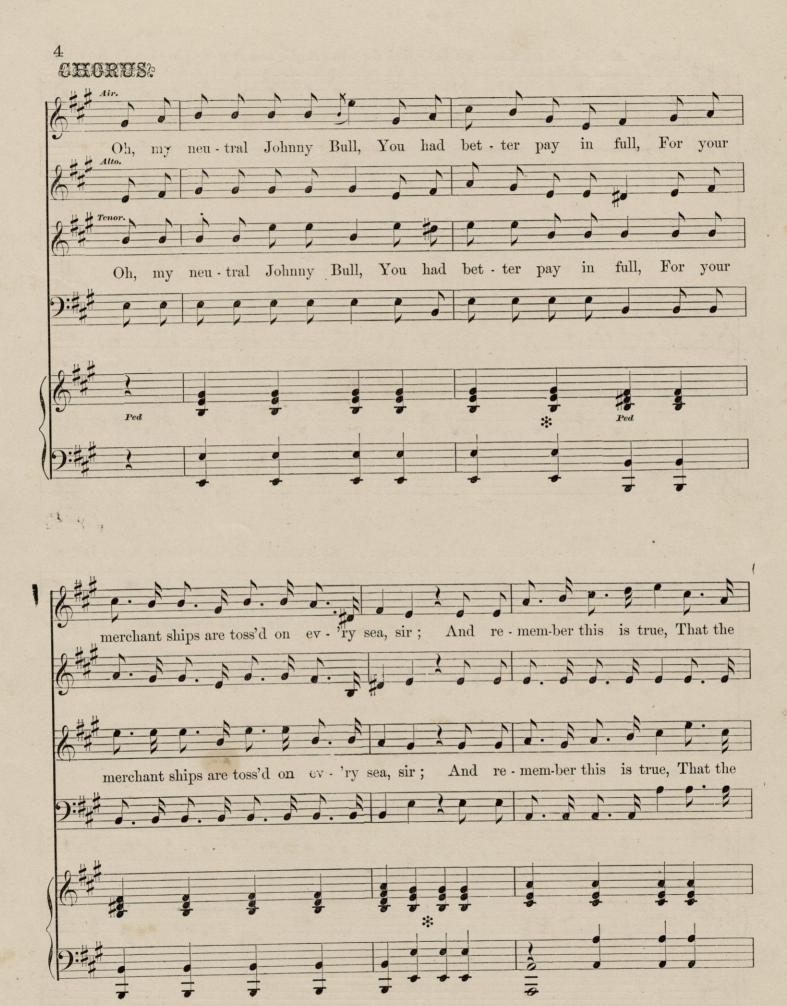
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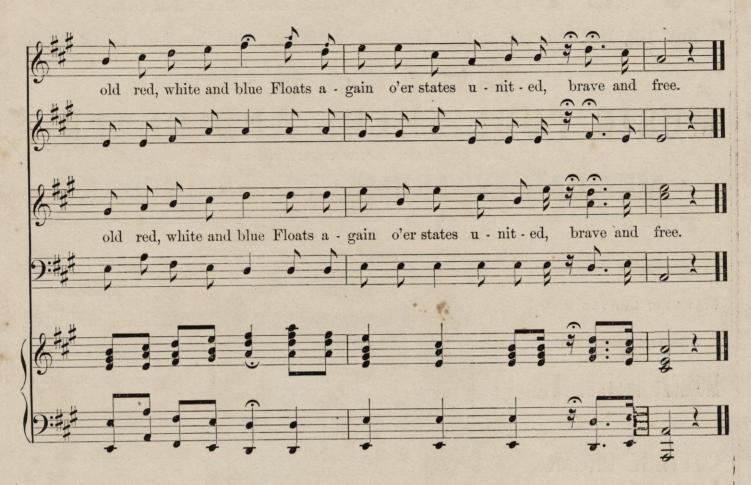
OUR NEUTRAL FRIEND.



Entered according to Act of Congress, A. D. 1866, by Lyon & Healy, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.







In the year of 'sixty-one,
Ere the war had scarce begun,
With unseemly haste the Queen made proclamation—
Though the rebs. had not a boat
On the shore, nor yet afloat—
They should have the rights accorded to a nation:
They should enter neutral ports,
Under gracious British forts,
Though they'd neither deck nor flag upon the ocean.
"Bless my soul!" says neutral John,
"They've an 'orrid corner stone,
But a swift confed'rate fleet I'll put in motion."

Also sailed the Shenandoah,
When the war was wholly o'er,
Sweeping whalers from the sea with British thunder:
From her cannons, grim and black
As the desolated track
Which she made where'er she went, with wreck and plunder.
Johnny plied a lively trade,
And a jolly spec. he made,
What with slipping into ports that were blockaded,
And with taking rebel loans;
Though the latter he disowns
When he sees the list in public prints paraded.

Then the Alabama bold,
Built by British toil and gold,
Arm'd with British guns, and mann'd by British fee, sirs;
From the Mersey, where she lay,
With John's blessing sailed away,
And our merchant ships were sunk in every sea, sirs.
True this man-of-war so brave
Quickly found a watery grave,
When she took the old Kearsarge's gage of battle,
While the rebel pirates sought
Refuge on a British yacht,
When the gallant Wiuslow's shot began to rattle.

"Now," says Uncle Sam to John,
When he'd silenced every gun,
"I'll be paid for ships destroyed by your permission."
"Let us argue that," says he,
"There are points 'twixt you and me,
For to settle which we'll have a high commission."
"No, we'll let the matter lie;"
And our uncle winked his eye—
"Guess my boys can do a spell without the pewter—
And we'll take our pay in full
From our neutral friend John Bull,
When it comes our turn to play the part of neuter."

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