



Of Old Sat Freedom  
on the Heights

William George Cusins  
(1833–1893)

**Sir William George Cusins** (1833–1893) was born in London, England. At ten years old, he entered the Chapel Royal, later studied in Brussels and then in London at the Royal Academy of Music. He became a concert pianist, touring in England, Leipzig, Berlin and elsewhere. He played violin in various London orchestras, became conductor of the Philharmonic Society, and taught at the RAM. He was organist to Queen Victoria's private chapel and was appointed Master of the Queen's Musick by Queen Victoria. He died at Remonchamps, Ardennes, France, and was buried at Kensal Green, London. He edited editions of Robert Schumann's piano music and his compositions include various orchestral pieces, an oratorio, piano works, marches, and songs.

Of old sat Freedom on the heights,  
The thunders breaking at her feet:  
Above her shook the starry lights:  
She heard the torrents meet.

There in her place she did rejoice,  
Self-gather'd in her prophet-mind,  
But fragments of her mighty voice  
Came rolling on the wind.

Then stept she down thro' town and field  
To mingle with the human race,  
And part by part to men reveal'd  
The fullness of her face—

Grave mother of majestic works,  
From her isle-altar gazing down,  
Who, God-like, grasps the triple forks,  
And, King-like, wears the crown:

Her open eyes desire the truth.  
The wisdom of a thousand years  
Is in them. May perpetual youth  
Keep dry their light from tears;

That her fair form may stand and shine,  
Make bright our days and light our dreams,  
Turning to scorn with lips divine  
The falsehood of extremes!

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

W. G. Cusins

Grave

S *f* Of old sat Free - dom on the heights, The thun - ders

A *f* Of old sat Free - dom on the heights, The thun - ders

T *f* Of old sat Free - dom on the heights, The thun - ders

B *f* Of old sat Free - dom on the heights, The thun - ders

5  
S break - ing at her feet: A - bove her shook the star - ry lights: She

A break - ing at her feet: A - bove her shook the star - ry lights: She

T break - ing at her feet: A - bove her shook the star - ry lights: She

B break - ing at her feet: A - bove her shook the star - ry lights: She

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

9

S heard the tor-rents meet. There in her place she did re -

A heard the tor-rents meet. There in her place she did re -

T heard the tor-rents meet. There in her place she did re -

B heard the tor-rents meet. There in her place she did re -

13

S joyce, Self - gath - er'd in her proph - et - mind, But

A joyce, Self - gath - er'd in her proph - et - mind, But

T joyce, Self - gath - er'd in her proph - et - mind, But

B joyce, Self - gath - er'd in her proph - et - mind, But

16

S frag - ments of her might - y voice Came roll - ing on the wind.

A frag - ments of her might - y voice Came roll - ing on the wind.

T frag - ments of her might - y voice Came roll - ing on the wind.

B frag - ments of her might - y voice Came roll - ing on the wind.

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

20 *mp poco più mosso* *cresc.*

S Then stept she down thro' town and field To min - gle with the

A *mp poco più mosso* *cresc.*

A Then stept she down thro' town and field To min - gle with the

T *mp poco più mosso* *cresc.*

T Then stept she down thro' town and field To min - gle with the

B *mp poco più mosso* *cresc.*

B Then stept she down thro' town and field To min - gle with the

25 *f* *mf*

S hu - man race, to min - gle with the hu - man race, And

A *f* *mf*

A hu - man race, to min - gle with the hu - man race, And

T *f* *mf*

T hu - man race, to min - gle with the hu - man race, And

B *f* *mf*

B hu - man race, to min - gle with the hu - man race, And

28 *rit.*

S part by part to men re - veal'd The full - ness of her

A *rit.*

A part by part to men re - veal'd The full - ness of her

T *rit.*

T part by part to men re - veal'd The full - ness of her

B *rit.*

B part by part to men re - veal'd The full - ness of her

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

31 *p* *Tempo 1*

S face— Grave moth - er of ma - jes - tic works, From her

A face— Grave moth - er of ma - jes - tic works, From her

T face— Grave moth - er of ma - jes - tic works, From her

B face— Grave moth - er of ma - jes - tic works, From her

34 *dim.* *mf*

S isle - al - tar gaz - ing down, Who, God - like, grasps the

A isle - al - tar gaz - ing down, Who, God - like, grasps the

T isle - al - tar gaz - ing down, Who, God - like, grasps the

B isle - al - tar gaz - ing down, Who, God - like, grasps the

37 *cresc.* *f*

S tri - ple forks, And, King - like, wears the crown: Her

A tri - ple forks, And, King - like, wears the crown: Her

T tri - ple forks, And, King - like, wears the crown: Her

B tri - ple forks, And, King - like, wears the crown: Her

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

40

S o - pen eyes de - sire the truth, her o - pen eyes de - sire the

A o - pen eyes de - sire the truth, her o - pen eyes de - sire the

T o - pen eyes de - sire the truth, her o - pen eyes de - sire the

B o - pen eyes de - sire the truth, her o - pen eyes de - sire the

43

S truth. The wis - dom of a thou - sand years Is in them. *rit. molto*

A truth. The wis - dom of a thou - sand years Is in them. *rit. molto*

T truth. The wis - dom of a thou - sand years Is in them. *rit. molto*

B truth. The wis - dom of a thou - sand years Is in them. *rit. molto*

Andante grazioso

47

S May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears, —

A May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears, —

T May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears, —

B May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears, —

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

51

S May per - pet - ual youth — Keep dry their light from tears;

A May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears;

T May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears;

B May per - pet - ual youth Keep dry their light from tears;

55

S *p* That her fair form may stand and shine, Make bright our

A *p* That her fair form may stand and shine, Make bright our

T *p* That her fair form may stand and shine, Make bright our

B *p* That her fair form may stand and shine, Make bright our

59

S days and light our dreams, — Turn - ing to scorn with

A days and light our dreams, Turn - ing to scorn with

T days and light our dreams, — Turn - ing to — scorn with —

B days and light our dreams, Turn - ing to scorn — with



# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

63

S lips di - vine The false - hood of ex - tremes! the

A lips di - vine The false - hood of ex - tremes! the

T lips di - vine The false - hood of ex - tremes! the

B lips di - vine The false - hood of ex - tremes! the

67

S false - hood of ex - tremes! May per - pet - ual

A false - hood of ex - tremes! May per - pet - ual

T false - hood of ex - tremes! May per - pet - ual

B false - hood of ex - tremes! May per - pet - ual

70

S youth Keep dry their light from tears; That her fair

A youth Keep dry their light from tears; That her fair

T youth Keep dry their light from tears; That her fair

B youth Keep dry their light from tears; That her fair

## Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

74 *cresc.*

S form may stand and shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Make bright our

A form may stand and shine, Make bright our

T form may stand and shine, \_\_\_\_\_ Make bright our

B form may stand and shine, Make bright our

77 *mf*

S days and light our dreams, \_\_\_\_\_ Turn - ing to scorn with

A days and light our dreams, Turn - ing to scorn with

T days and light our dreams, \_\_\_\_\_ Turn - ing to scorn with

B days and light our dreams, Turn - ing to scorn with

81

S lips \_\_\_\_\_ di - vine \_\_\_\_\_ The false - - - hood, the

A lips \_\_\_\_\_ di - vine \_\_\_\_\_ The false - - - hood, the

T lips \_\_\_\_\_ di - vine \_\_\_\_\_ The false - - - hood, the

B lips \_\_\_\_\_ di - vine \_\_\_\_\_ the false - - - hood, the

# Of Old Sat Freedom on the Heights

85 *Allargando molto* *f*

S  
false - - - hood of ex - - - tremes!

A  
false - - - hood of ex - - - tremes!

T  
false - - - hood of ex - - - tremes!

B  
false - - - hood of ex - - - tremes!

Detailed description: This is a musical score for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Allargando molto' and the dynamics are 'f' (forte). The lyrics are 'false hood of ex-tremes!'. The Soprano and Alto parts have melodic lines with slurs over the words 'hood' and 'ex-tremes!'. The Tenor and Bass parts provide harmonic support with chords and single notes. The Soprano part starts with a fermata over the first measure.

Harper & Brothers  
(1880)

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