

God Save the King

"...written by Mr. Stansbury, at New York but a short time before the end of the war" (Sargent 88).

Time was, in defense of his King and the Right,
We applauded brave Washington foremost in fight:

On the banks of Ohio he shouted lustily

God save the King!

Disappointed ambition his feet has misled;
Corrupted his heart and perverted his head:

Loyal no longer, no more he cries faithfully

Glory and joy crown the King!

With Envy inflam'd 'tis in Britain the same;
Where leaders, despairing of virtuous fame,
Have push'd from their seats those whose watchword was
constantly

God save the King!

The helm of the State they have clutched in their grasp
When American Treason is at its last gasp:

When Firmness and Loyalty soon should sing valiantly

Glory and joy crown the King!

But Britain, with Glory and Conquest in view,
When nothing was wanted, but just to pursue—
To yield—while her Heroes chanted triumphantly

God save the King!

With curses consign to the Furies his Name,
Whose Counsels thus cover'd his Country with shame!

Loyalists still will chant, tho' heavily,

Glory and joy crown the King!

Tho' ruined so deeply no Angel can save:
The Empire dismember'd: our King made a Slave;
Still loving, revering, we shout forth honestly

God save the King!

Tho' fated to Banishment, Poverty, Death,
Our Hearts are unaltered, and with our last breath

Loyal to George, we'll pray most fervently

Glory and joy crown the King!

Sargent seems, even in 1860, to have been able to print these lines only with difficulty. (Remember that not only was Washington the revered general and first president of the US, he was also a southerner!) He includes a lengthy endnote discussing Washington's career and character, concluding pompously, "It

is not, at this day, too much to say, that the common suffrage of all that is wise and good in human nature, authorizes us to question that man's soundness of judgement or rectitude of purpose, who impugns the character of George Washington" (187).