

A Nation Once Again

Verse1

G Em G G7
When boyhood's fire was in my blood,
Am D7 G
I read of ancient freemen.
Em G G7
For Greece and Rome who bravely stood
Am D7
Three hundred men and three men.
Bm Am D7
And then I prayed I yet might
Em
See our fetters rent in twain
C Am D7
And Ireland long a province,
G D7 G
Be a nation once again.

Chorus

D7 C
A nation once again,
Am D7
A nation once again,
G Em Am D7
And Ireland long a province be
G D7 G
A nation once again.

Verse2

And from that time, through wildest woe,
That hope has shone a far light
Nor could love's brightest summer glow
Outshine that solemn starlight
It seemed to watch above my head
In forum, field and fane
Its angel voice sang round my bed:
A nation once again!

Chorus

Verse3

It whisper'd, too, that freedom's ark
And service high and holy
Would be profaned by feelings dark
And passion vain or lowly,
For Freedom comes from God's right hand
And needs a godly train,
And righteous men must make our land
A nation once again!

Chorus

Verse4

So as I grew from boy to man
I bent me to that bidding.
My spirit of each selfish plan
And cruel passion ridding
For thus I hoped someday to aid,
Oh can such hope be vain
When my dear country shall be made
A nation once again!

Chorus

The lyrics to A Nation Once Again have been an inspiration to Irish nationalists for nearly 200 years.

The words were written by Thomas Davis, who lived in Dublin and was prominent in the nationalist movement in the 1840s. The opening lines of the song with their reference to ancient Greece and Rome reflect Davis' classical education at Trinity College, Dublin.

Davis composed many other songs and lyrics but sadly died in 1845, aged 30. For more information about *A Nation Once Again*, and videos of various performers, visit <http://www.irishmusicforever.com/a-nation-once-again>

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