

THE SONG OF 1876, by BAYARD TAYLOR

I.

*WAKEN, voice of the Land's Devotion!
Spirit of freedom, awaken all!
Ring, ye shores, to the Song of Ocean,
Rivers, answer, and mountains, call!
The golden day has come:
Let every tongue be dumb,
That sounded its malice or murmured its fears;
She hath won her story;
She wears her glory;
We crown her the Land of a Hundred Years!*

II.

*Out of darkness and toil and danger
Into the light of Victory's day,
Help to the weak, and home to the stranger,
Freedom to all, she hath held her way!
Now Europe's orphans rest
Upon her mother-breast:
The voices of Nations are heard in the cheers;
That shall cast upon her
New love and honor,
And crown her the Queen of a Hundred Years!*

III.

*North and South, we are met as brothers:
East and West, we are wedded as one!
Right of each shall secure our mother's;
Child of each is her faithful son!
We give Thee heart and hand,
Our glorious native Land,
For battle has tried thee, and time endears:
We will write thy story,
And keep thy glory,
As pure as of old for a Thousand Years!*

“The Song 1876.” *Lancaster Intelligencer*, Wed, May 17, 1876.

Questions

- 1) What is the purpose of the poem?
- 2) Who wrote the poem?
- 3) Think about what historical event the author is alluding to from the past in section I and section III. Underlined words and phrases are included in each section and use them to help you analyze what is important.
 - a) What major U.S. event is the author alluding to in section I?
 - b) What major U.S. event is the author alluding to in section III?
- 4) Immigration was a social issue during the centennial. Compare and contrast the poem to the list of immigrant laws listed below.
 - a) How does the poem describe America's views on immigration?
 - b) Read the timeline of US immigration laws from Pew Research Center from 1790 to 1875
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2015/09/30/how-u-s-immigration-laws-and-rules-have-changed-through-history/>
 - i) Do the laws complicate, support, or refute the author of the poem's ideas about America's view on immigration?

Cohn, D'Vera. "How U.S. immigration laws and rules have changed through history." Pew Research Center.

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