

“The Exiles of ’48”

Verse 1

From Van Diemen’s shore where the wild winds gather,
They sent our bravest far from the land.
For Ireland’s cause they bore their fetters,
Seven young hearts in a foreign strand.
Four slipped free to the wide Atlantic,
To America’s promise, bold and bright—
Mitchel, Meagher, McManus, O’Donohoe,
They carried the flame through the darkest night.

Chorus

**Oh, rise up you exiles, wherever you roam,
Your hearts beat steady for the island of home.
From Tasmania’s chains to the halls of the free,
Your story lives on in our history.**

Verse 2

Three remained with their hopes unbroken—
Martin, O’Brien, and O’Dogherty true.
A “conditional pardon” was coldly spoken,
But Ireland still called as the years rolled through.
Home they returned when the chains were lifted,
Back to the fields where their dreams began.
Martin stood firm in the House of Commons,
Arguing Ireland’s rights for every man.

Chorus

**Oh, rise up you exiles, wherever you roam,
Your hearts beat steady for the island of home.
From Tasmania’s chains to the halls of the free,
Your story lives on in our history.**

Verse 3

O’Doherty healed with a steady kindness,
A doctor’s hand and a patriot’s soul.
With Eva beside him he crossed the oceans,
Australia and Ireland each claimed him whole.

And after Martin, young Parnell followed,
Lifting the banner of Home Rule high.
The dream passed on like a torch in darkness,
A flame no empire could ever deny.

Bridge

Then word reached London, startling the throne—
That Duffy, once chained, now ruled a land.
Victoria trembled to hear the story
Of rebels rising where they made their stand.
For the records told of the exiled heroes
Who shaped new nations across the sea—
Meagher in Montana, O’Gorman in Newfoundland,
McGee in Canada’s destiny.

Final Chorus

**Oh, rise up you exiles, wherever you roam,
Your hearts beat steady for the island of home.
From Tasmania’s chains to the halls of the free,
Your story lives on in our history.
And Ireland remembers, proud and strong—
The exiles who proved that hope lives on.**