

Lyon's Favourite

Somewhat bouncy march tempo

♩ = 150

American 19th Century
The Complete Fifer's Museum
by James Hulbert (1807)

The musical score for 'Lyon's Favourite' is presented in four staves. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is characterized by a bouncy, march-like tempo. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The second staff continues the melody with a second ending bracket. The third and fourth staves provide further melodic development, also featuring repeat signs and first ending brackets. Chord symbols (D, A, G) are placed above the notes to indicate harmonic accompaniment.

Matthew Lyon indentured himself to buy passage from Ireland to the American Colonies. He paid off his indenture, bought a printing press and set up a newspaper in Vermont. During the American Revolution, Lyon served as one of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys. He was elected to the United State Congress as a Representative from Vermont, and became well known as a harsh critic of President John Adams. It has been said that parts of the Alien and Sedition Act were written to silence Lyon; and he was arrested and re-elected to the House while in prison. Supporters of candidate Thomas Jefferson raised money to pay his bail, and his wife had a coach waiting at the jail when he was released so that he could speed to Washington and avoid a second arrest. He cast the deciding vote in the House of Representatives, breaking the tie between Jefferson and Aaron Burr.

Lyon later moved to Kentucky and was again elected to the House of Representatives. In his later life he moved to Missouri and to Arkansas and was again elected to the House, but died before taking office. Counties in Vermont and Kentucky are named after him.

During his early years in Congress he became famous for fighting the first duel on the floor of the US House of Representatives, against Rep. Griswold of Connecticut, fought with hickory stick (Griswold) and fire tongs (Lyon).