

Solidarity Forever
(Words by Ralph Chaplin)

When the unions' inspiration through the workers blood shall run
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one
But the union makes us strong

Chorus

Solidarity forever
Solidarity forever
Solidarity forever
For the union makes us strong

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel could turn
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn
That the union makes us strong

Chorus

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold
Greater than the might of armies magnified a thousand fold
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old
For the union makes us strong

Chorus

Ralph Chaplin, the famous poet, artist, writer and organiser for the International Workers of the World, wrote this song in 1915. The idea had come to him earlier whilst helping the coalminers in a great West Virginian coal strike. Little did he dream then that this song would live on after most of his other work was forgotten. Chaplin recalled "I wanted a song to be full of revolutionary fervour and to have a chorus that was singing and defiant."