

OF SWORD AND BREAD AND WINE

March, you legions,
 Fight, you legions,
 Rest, you legions,
Of sword and bread and wine,

Sweat and bleed and cry, you legions,
Past columns in wrack and decline,

 There, by thrust of victorious sweep,
 There, by must of laborious reap,
 There, by lust of censorious keep,

Sing not in chords of dread and pine,
But sweat and bleed and cry in line,
Sweep and reap and keep of thine,
Your sword and bread and wine,

Then march well, you legions,
 Fight well, you legions,
 Rest well, you legions,
Legions of the gods and Rome and mine,
Of sword and bread and wine.

by John Patrick Seekamp c 2017

