

# FRENCH-CANADIAN SONGS

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THE folk-lore of French Canada is rich in popular songs, hardly known outside of the province of Quebec. Most of these songs are characteristic and not very easily translated into English.

Mr. William McLennan has published, in 1886, a translation of some songs of old Canada (1), and Mr. William Wood has given, a few years ago, an interesting paper entitled: *Foot-notes to Canadian Folksongs* (2).

George T. Lannigan has also translated a few French-Canadian songs. His translations are interesting; he has succeeded in presenting these songs in the best shape possible.

We thought that the publication of these quaint songs, preceded by a few historical notes (3) and followed by Lannigan's translations, would interest our readers.

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### À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE

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The most popular song is surely *A la Claire Fontaine*. It is known all over French Canada, it is hummed by the young and the old, by the educated men and by the pea-

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(1) *Songs of old Canada*, translated by William McLennan. Montreal, Dawson Bros., 1886.

(2) *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, second series, vol. II. Section II, p. 77.

(3) The French text and most of the notes are taken from Mr. Gagnon's able study: *Chansons Populaires du Canada*.