

We'll journey side by side till death,  
Bids the pulse cease with our last breath,  
How light will seem the cares of life  
If we together share its strife.  
Its greatest task shall seem no more  
Than seeking shells on the sea shore,  
Though waves may rush around our feet.  
Their force together we shall meet.  
Though bright or dim, in calm or storm,  
Faithful each duty we'll perform  
And thus a placid life be spent  
While simple wants shall bring content."

'Twas close of day and near the hour  
When they might 'scape the tyrant's  
power,

A boat was slowly seen to cross,  
Holding its course without much loss,  
At least it kept its steady way  
From the Canadian shore which lay  
'Cross to the other landing bay.  
Down near the shore there two men stood,  
Whose actions seemed to bode no good.  
Mara and his friends were near,  
And watched their movements without  
fear.

Before the boat had touched the strand  
A stranger gave a loud command.  
"Halt, fugitives, you're not yet free,  
You've got to deal just here with me."  
All stared, and great was their surprise,  
There stood the planter in disguise.  
He followed them from day to day,  
And guessed their course would mostly  
lay

Along the underground railway.\*

He had a bailiff near at hand  
ready to act at his command,  
And now, forthwith to make arrest,  
He drew a warrant from his breast.  
The planter said, "Here, seize for me  
This dame, she is my property,  
This fellow, Mara, you can hold,  
His owner wants him quickly sold,  
And this free nigger, called old Ben,  
We'll clap him in the nearest pen.  
All law and gospel he defies,  
And helps each fugitive that flies."  
Poor Cleopa could scarcely stand  
When the rude bailiff seized her hand,  
But Mara quickly burst his grip,  
Though threatened with a club or whip,

And now the planter he addressed :  
"Vile wretch with infamy possessed,  
Without a single mark or trace  
Of human feeling in your face,  
Dare breathe on her your poisonous breath,  
Touch her and you will meet your death ;  
Attempt your threat and you and I  
Shall test who shall be first to die."  
The planter cried, "Ha, bravely spoke,  
Yet you shall see this is no joke.  
I've other bailiffs here beside,  
We'll quickly crush your upstart pride,  
Here, men, come on, this hero seize  
Ere he again our fate decrees."

The empty boat lay on the shore,  
Mara sprung in and seized an oar  
Quick Cleopa was at his side,  
Ben entered, and the rushing tide  
Would soon have sent the boat away  
Far down the rapids in the spray.  
Were it not the planter now *that*  
And bailiff firmly held the bow,  
To keep the boat from running out  
While they for help began to shout.  
The other bailiffs heard the cry,  
And down the steep were drawing nigh.  
Mara determined to be free  
Cried, "Die Cleopa's enemy."  
Then with a furious deadly stroke  
Struck down the planter, but he broke  
The only oar that was at hand  
To safely bring the boat to land—  
Disaster met the little band,  
Out they had swung in the wild stream,  
From either shore was heard a scream,  
For many saw they were adrift,  
And to escape could make no shift.  
From side to side the whirling boat  
Was tossed on high and scarce could float,  
No effort of its helpless crew  
Could stay destruction then in view ;  
They seemed as if prepared for fate,  
And calmly the event await.  
They tried to steer, though wildly tossed,  
But felt as if forever lost.  
The furious current nought could stand,  
They were seen bowing hand in hand,  
As if to greet the spirit land.  
Each fated one with placid face  
Saw death approach with rapid pace,  
Then by an eddy they were swept,  
When naught their doom could intercept,  
'Mong maddened surges rushing high,  
With deafening roar towards the sky.  
Then onward still they wildly rushed  
Until their fragile boat was crushed,

\* The term, "Underground Railway," was given during the slavery period in the United States, to the method adopted by sympathizers with fugitive slaves to aid their escape from the United States to Canada.