

ST. ANNE OF THE MOUNTAINS

murmurings of deep fragrant forests, ring out the untutored, but not unmusical voices of our guides while their lithe figures sway in accompaniment to the song. Even the click of the pole tips, or the soft dipping sounds which tell of journeyings through quiet waters, all having their share in perfecting the melody.

A soloist begins the story of Isabeau's wanderings through the river-bordered garden of her island home. A band of sturdy voices repeat the lines, and thus leader and chorus proceed through the entire song, all uniting in the wailing refrain with which each stanza closes.

Sur le bord de l'eau,
Sur le bord du vaisseau.

After a time Isabeau perceives that a barque equipped with thirty sailors, is approaching the island. The youngest of the sailors is singing. Isabeau tells him that she would like to know his chanson, and, in response to his assurance that he will sing it for her if she will step into the boat, she embarks.

But suddenly she bursts into tears.