

Which almost sad disaster brought,  
 And Mara's wounded arm could show  
 How nearly fatal was the blow,  
 Yet they had courage still to face  
 All danger to escape disgrace.  
 The boat at once was sent adrift,  
 They could without it further shift,  
 It might mislead if it was found  
 By those in chase, to think all drowned.  
 Ben led the way and soon they came  
 Mong friends whose service he could  
 claim,  
 Here they could rest till night grew dark,  
 Then northward move and none remark.

Ten days and nights had nearly sped  
 Since from their last retreat they fled.  
 They found true friends along the road  
 Who help in many ways bestowed,  
 Most of their lone way they could ride  
 With watchful guardians near their side,  
 And strange to say, no foe came near  
 With their escape to interfere.  
 Mara grew hopeful on the route,  
 While Cleopa oft seemed to doubt,  
 But Ben's reliance was devout.

'Twas morn again, but one of gloom,  
 Freight with destiny or doom,  
 Niagara Falls were now in sight,  
 Which thousands gaze at with delight.  
 While closer to them they drew near,  
 No rainbow o'er them did appear  
 To bid the fugitives good cheer.  
 The cataract with solemn sound  
 Hushed every song of birds around,  
 The lovers now stood hand in hand  
 In fond gaze at the promised land;  
 Beneath the rapid river ran,  
 Which, when crossed, made the slave a  
 man.

Ben cried, "That's Canada you see,  
 Once touch that soil and you are free,  
 And there, behold that grand old flag,  
 Briton's of it may proudly brag,  
 Though now it droops in clouded skies  
 There's no oppression where it flies.  
 Great Britain did a deed of fame  
 When freedom she did loud proclaim,  
 And paid to set free every slave  
 Where'er the red cross flag could wave  
 In its dominions far or near  
 It dried up many a mother's tear.\*

No woman forced with heavy heart  
 With husband or with child to part,  
 Here, though all shout for liberty,  
 What means that shout for you or me?

Our hearts are chilled, we stand in awe  
 Of the vile, fugitive slave law,  
 Though hundreds here would be our  
 friends,

That law the slave owner defends,  
 If Southern planters here can track  
 A runaway; he'll take him back.  
 And Northern laws can't interfere  
 With planters, who are most severe."  
 Cleopa heard what was just said,  
 And of her owner had a dread.  
 She knew he was a dangerous man,  
 Who, in vile plots, would lead the van.  
 She almost thought there was some  
 scheme

To seize them ere they crossed the stream,  
 'Twas plain to see she felt oppressed,  
 And thus her two friends she addressed:

"O Mara, partner of my heart,  
 What would life be were we to part,  
 The brightest sun would not give light  
 If thou wert absent from my sight,  
 All would be gloom by night or day  
 If thou from me wert far away.  
 And this I feel I should avow  
 As strange forebodings press me now.  
 And hear me trusty Noble Ben,  
 Faithful among the sons of men,  
 You have been a true friend in need,  
 In every word and every deed,  
 Your kindness and your constant care  
 Has kept us off from dark despair."

The old man sat as if he mused,  
 His eyes with tears were now suffused,  
 "Fo' God," he said, "I'd rather die  
 Than you should ever hopeless sigh,  
 Be not cast down, our friends will bring  
 A rescue from this suffering.  
 They'll send a boat by close of day  
 To take us from this land away.  
 We'll cross Niagara's whirling stream  
 Ere the moon spreads its early beam."

Now Mara spoke, he sat beside  
 Cleopa, his intended bride:  
 "Soul of my life be of good cheer,  
 Behold the promised land quite near.  
 Speak not of parting, soon we'll be  
 Beyond all danger and be free.

\* No more magnanimous act was ever performed by any nation in ancient or modern times than that of Great Britain when she voluntarily paid ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS to the slave owners in her West India colonies, to have every slave therein made forever free. This grand act of manumission is one of the greatest and most beneficent national deeds ever recorded in history.