10 Madeleine Vercheres

Keep up the fire, brave soldiers, though the fight may be fierce and long,

And they 'll think our little garrison is more than a hundred strong."

So spake the maiden Madeleine, and she roused the Norman blood

That seemed for a moment sleeping, and sent it like a flood

Through every heart around her, and they fought the red Iroquois

As fought in the old-time battles the soldiers of Carignan.

And they say the black clouds gathered, and a tempest swept the sky,

And the roar of the thunder mingled with the forest tiger's cry,

But still the garrison fought on, while the lightning's jagged spear

Tore a hole in the night's dark curtain, and showed them a foeman near.

And the sun rose up in the morning, and the color of blood was he,

Gazing down from the heavens on the little company