

"Missus, you be lonely?
Joe has come to stay
Wid you, missus, always,
When de man's away;"
And a bunch of roses,
Sweet, and fresh, and wild,
He held out towards me—
Just a halfbreed child.

For hours he would stay there,
No matter where I'd go,
Always close beside me
Was faithful little Joe.
And his eyes would sparkle
With such childish glee,
When we'd play together,
The dog, the kid and me.

All that summer Joe stayed,
Faithful, patient, true;
And still I hear his voice say,
"Missus, I love you."
Just a little halfbreed kid,
Clean, though dark and wild,
And for days I'd see no other
But the halfbreed chiid.