



From Saratoga to the River St. Lawrence, ON HER WAY TO QUEBEC.

*The wise and active conquer difficulties,
By daring to attempt, sloth and folly
Shrink and shrink at sight of toil and hazard,
And make the impossibility they fear.—Rowe.*

SHE left Saratoga, at dawn of the day,
And passed bloody pond without fear,*
(Where the troops of Vaudreuil, with
dread Indian allies,
Scalped hundreds of Britons, ta'en there by sur-
prise),
And dropt, as she passed it, a tear.

Encamped at Lake George, as the sun disap-
peared,
The bull-frogs in thorough bass croaking,
Soon brought on a tenor from perched whip-
her-will,†
The screams of the wood-frogs,‡ in trebles so
shrill,
And buzz of musketoes provoking.

On a wind-fallen tree, where I sat by her side,
To guard my best treasure from harm,
She heard the screech owl, from an old blasted
oak,
Set up a dead cry, at the wood-pecker's stroke,
Which caused in her some small alarm.

The elk's whistling pipe, too, distinctly she
heard;
And what every traveller's blood chills,—

The war-whoop of Indians, returning from
war!
While the lone evening gun, discharged from
afar,
Re-echoed twelve times from the hills.

When all else was still, at the dead of the
night,
A boat, in the moon's wake, she spied;
In time went the oars, to the strokes-man's
boat-song,
When all joined in chorus, and pulled all so
strong,
She swift through the water did glide.
"Papillon vol, il vol,
Papillon vol, sur L'aviron."§
Chorus—"Houïre galere au fond,
Ho tierre galere."||

They landed, and dragged their batteau up the
beach;
A fire was soon made for the pot;
Each stuck up a forked stick, with bear's meat
to roast,
And then pitched their tents on the musical
coast,
As if to sojourn on the spot.

* The Indians who surprised the British, being in Canada.

† Called quack-quack by the Indians.

‡ Their noise almost deafens.

§ There are two lines of a song set by the strokesman of the boat, to which every rower in
turn composes as much.

|| A chorus the Canadian boatmen attach to most of their aquatic songs.