

The fame so long denied is yours at last  
 Broad as the sky and liberal as the blast—  
 Without exception, graphic, terse, and true,  
 Nor first submitted to its subject's view.

'Tis said advice is folly, still ye bards  
 Reform your verse if you would win rewards\*  
 Fame is not bought, nor is the critic's pen  
 An open sesame to the hearts of men—  
 Assumption is not genius, nor is rhyme  
 From known necessities perform sublime,  
 Simplicity and truth need not be great,  
 'Tis simply true that four and four make eight,  
 'Tis oft indeed the versifiers' curse,  
 That they mistake impression for their verse,  
 But oftener far they force th' unwilling muse  
 Who yields no rapture when she would refuse;  
 Reform ye scribblers, leave your mists and frogs,  
 Lakes, Loons and *Injuns* and Acadian bogs—  
 And hang the eternal paddle up to dry;  
 Canoes good sooth; when Pegasus can fly,  
 To read our bards the world might well mistake  
 Our wide Dominion for an endless lake,  
 Dotted with isles where birch expressly grows  
 The raw material for bark canoes.

Ye trifling bards, leave these and kindred themes,  
 Your crude philosophy and petty dreams:  
 Leave Southern critics to their native songs  
 And homage yield where loyalty belongs—  
 Content to win your native land's applause,  
 Toil for her glory† and support her laws.

\* One of the most ancient prerogatives of poetry was to correct, or at least punish, the vices to which it is traditionally opposed; but our gentlemen prefer to paddle a canoe, address pumpkins, frogs, or some similar subject to striking those degraded, vicious, and mercenary boodlers who are a blot upon this age and country.

† Nearly all our bards occupy positions where Government salaries prevent them speaking; but the author of this poem congratulates himself upon the fact that he is free and will so remain; at the same time he considers it but just to himself to state that truth and integrity are to him of much greater importance than the frown or condemnation of the basest slave or the most illustrious criminal.