

Madeleine Vercheres 9

Alas! for the men and women and little ones
that day,
For the road it was long and weary, and the
fort it was far away.

But the fawn had outstripped the hunters, and
the palisades drew near,
And soon from the inner gateway the war-
bugle rang out clear,
Gallant and clear it sounded, with never a note
of despair—
'T was a soldier of France's challenge, from
the young Madeleine Vercheres!

" And this is my little garrison, my brothers
Louis and Paul ?
With soldiers two, and a cripple ? may the
Virgin pray for us all !
But we 've powder and guns in plenty, and
we 'll fight to the latest breath,
And if need be, for God and country, die a
brave soldier's death.

" Load all the carabines quickly, and when-
ever you sight the foe
Fire from the upper turret and loopholes down
below,