
 THE TRAGEDY OF ACADIA

THE LAND OF EVANGELINE.

This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlock

Bearded with moss, and in garments green indistinct in the twin light

And like druids of elds with voices sad and prophetic

Stand like harpers hoar with beards that rest on their bosoms

Loud from its rocky cavern the deep voiced neighbouring ocean

Speaks and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest

This is the primeval forest but where are the hearts that beneath it

Leaped like the roe when he hears in the woodland the voice of the huntsman?

Where is the thatched roofed village, the home of Acadian farmers

Men whose lives glided on like rivers that water the woodlands

Darkened by shades of earth but reflecting an image of heaven?

Waste are those pleasant farms and the farmers for ever departed!

Scattered like dust and leaves when the mighty blast of October

Seize them, and whirl them a loft and sprinkle them far over the ocean

Naught but tradition remains of the beautiful village of Grand Pré

Ye who believe in affection that hopes and endures and is patient

Ye who believe in the beauty and strength of woman's devotion

List to the mournful tradition still sung by the pines of the forest

List to a tale of love in Acadia the home of the happy.

Henry Wardsworth LONGFELLOW.

*"If you make yourself a sheep the
wolves will eat you."*

Ben FRANKLIN.

The history of the human race is mostly made up of tragedies. All nations and races had their tragedies. Will they ever cease? At the time of writing (Nov. 1919) French Canada, the pioneers of the British Dominions in North America is being in a sense isolated and abused by domineering elements of other races, lately arrived and treated practically as outlanders in a country they were the first to plow and cultivate. I am writing the history of these Celtic Tragedies in the Old Land and Canada in the hope that some of our wild neighbours may stop and think and adopt a more chivalrous attitude to the modern descendents of the Old Pioneers.