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# CANADIAN POEMS

AND LAYS

SELECTIONS OF NATIVE VERSE  
REFLECTING THE SEASONS, LEGENDS  
AND LIFE OF THE DOMINION

ARRANGED AND EDITED BY  
WILLIAM DOUW LIGHTHALL, M.A.  
OF MONTREAL.



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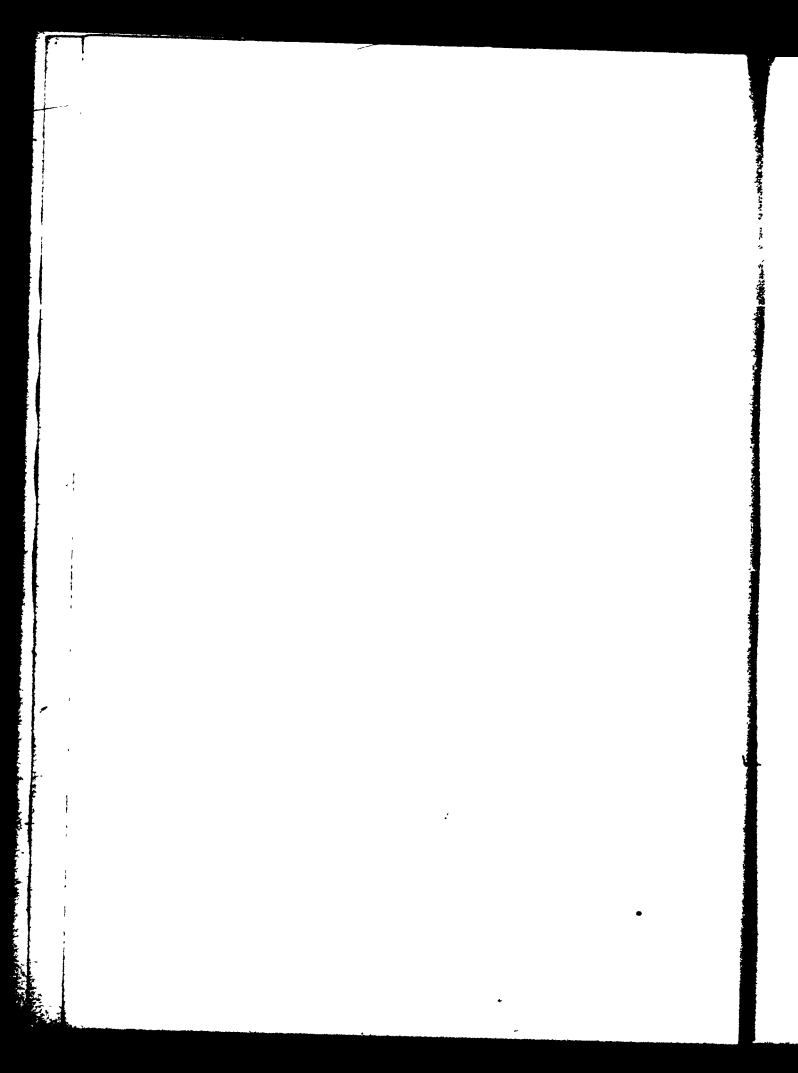
## Dedication.

To history's vastest Brotherhood,—  
Which seas that girdle earth but bind :  
To every man of British blood :—  
To all of the Imperial mind ;  
Or who, of any noble race, have by the Empire stood.

What matter races ! vain the pride  
Who first this brotherhood began ;  
Than Pict or Gael we grow more wide,  
Our final brotherhood is Man :  
Unto all union we will hold, so Man yet onward stride.

And you, great kinsmen scarcely lost,  
Alliance with you still increase :—  
With you the kindest, first, and most  
Union for justice, trade, and peace !  
States are the robes that suit the climes : we move,  
one spirit host.

This March night, gleams the elm-lined street  
With pools beneath a rising moon ;  
In the West's brow bright Venus sweet  
Holds Nature in a lovelorn swoon ;  
Go, songs, glint what these lands shall be in wondrous  
Day complete.



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## ENTRY OF THE MINSTRELS.



FROM "THE MASQUE OF MINSTRELS."

ARTHUR J. LOCKHART.

THEN came a company of wandering minstrels, without singing robes and garlands, up to the gate of the castle, which was opened readily enough to receive them. They were now only in the court-yard; but they went on—their harps in their hands—strengthened by the countenances of one another, and unabashed by the mighty band who had gone in before them. They were late in coming, and the choir of singers was already full; but of this they thought no ill, and when questioned of their act they answered with a proud humility. They were near the door of the high hall, and in answer to their summons it was thrown open, so that a herald stood before them.

HERALD.

And who be ye?

  
FIRST MINSTREL.

We be also of the Minstrely; we be Apprentices of the Muses; Secretaries of Love; Slaves of Beauty; Apostles of Desire; Disciples of Truth; Children of Nature; Followers of Aspiration; Servants of Song. We be uncrowned kings and queens in the realms of Music, coming to claim and win our sceptres. Crowns have been won and worn by others. Admit us.

HERALD.

Nay; ye claim too largely. Whose sons be ye, and whose daughters?

SECOND MINSTREL.

We be sons and daughters of fathers who were never cowards, and of mothers who were never ashamed; who loved valour and virtue even as their children love music.



## INTRODUCTION.

---

THE poets whose songs fill this book are voices cheerful with the consciousness of young might, public wealth, and heroism. Through them, taken all together, you may catch something of great Niagara falling, of brown rivers rushing with foam, of the crack of the rifle in the haunts of the moose and caribou, the lament of vanishing races singing their death-song as they are swept on to the cataract of oblivion, the rural sounds of Arcadias just rescued from surrounding wildernesses by the axe, shrill war-whoops of Iroquois battle, proud traditions of contests with the French and the Americans, stern and sorrowful cries of valour rising to curb rebellion. The tone of them is *courage*;—for to hunt, to fight, to hew out a farm, one must be a man! Through their new hopes, doubts, exultations, questionings, the virility of fighting races is the undertone. Canadians are, for the most part, the descendants of armies, officers and men, and every generation of them has stood up to battle.

The delight of a Clear Atmosphere runs through it too, and the rejoicings of the Winter Carnival; with the glint of that heavenly Palace of illumined pearl, which is the February pilgrimage of North America.

Canada, Eldest Daughter of the Empire, is the Empire's completest type! She is the full-grown of the family,—the one first come of age and gone out into life as a nation; and she has in her young hands the solution of all those questions which must so interest every true Briton, proud and careful of the acquisitions of British discovery and conquest. She is Imperial in herself, we sons of her think, as the number, the extent, and the lavish natural wealth of her Provinces, each not less than some empire of Europe, rises in our minds; as we picture her coasts and gulfs and kingdoms and islands, on the Atlantic on one side, and the Pacific on the other; her four-thousand-mile panorama of noble rivers, wild forests, ocean-like prairies; her towering snow-capped Rockies waking to the tints of sunrise in the West; in the East her hoary Laurentians, oldest of hills. She has by far the richest extent of fisheries, forests, wheat lands, and fur regions in the world; some of the greatest public works; some of the loftiest mountain-ranges, the vastest rivers, the healthiest and most beautifully varied seasons. She has the best ten-elevenths of Niagara Falls, and the best half of the Inland Seas. She stands fifth among the nations in the tonnage of her commercial marine. Her population is about five million souls. Her Valley of the Saskatchewan alone, it has been scientifically computed, will support eight hundred millions. In losing the United States, Britain lost the *smaller* half of her American possessions:—the Colony of the Maple Leaf is about as large as Europe.

But what would material resources be without a corresponding greatness in man? Canada is also Imperial in her traditions. Her French race are still conscious that they are the remnants of a power which once ruled North America from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. Existing English Canada is the result of simply the

noblest epic migration the world has ever seen:—more loftily epic than the retirement of Pius Æneas from Ilion, —the withdrawal, namely, out of the rebel Colonies, of the thirty-five thousand United Empire Loyalists after the War of the Revolution. “Why did you come here?” was asked of one of the first settlers of St. John, New Brunswick, a man whose life was without a stain;— “Why did you come here, when you and your associates were almost certain to endure the sufferings and absolute want of shelter and food which you have narrated?” “*Why did we come here?*” replied he, with emotion which brought tears:—“*For our loyalty.*”

Canada has, of historic right, a voice also in the Empire of to-day, and busies herself not a little in studying its problems. For example, the question whether that Empire will last is being asked. Her history has a reply to that:—IT WILL, IF IT SETS CLEARLY BEFORE IT A DEFINITE IDEAL THAT MEN WILL SUFFER AND DIE FOR; and such an Ideal—worthy of long and patient endeavour—may be found in broad-minded advance towards the voluntary Federation of Mankind. She has a special history, too, which even under the overshadowing greatness of that of the Empire—in which she also owns her part—is one of interest. First explored in 1535, by Jacques-Cartier, of St. Malo, by command of Francis I., and its settlement established in 1608 through the foundation of Quebec by the devoted and energetic Maker of French Canada, Samuel de Champlain, its story down to the Conquest in 1759-63 is full of romance, —Jesuit missionaries, explorers, chevaliers, painted Indian war-parties, the rich fur trade, and finally the great struggle under Montcalm, closing with his expiry and Wolfe's at the hour of the fall of Quebec, passing like a panorama. Then came the entry of the Loyalists, and from that to the present there has been a steady

unfolding to power and culture, broken only by the brave war of 1812, and a French, and two half-breed, rebellions. She is, to-day, next to the United States, the strongest factor in American affairs.

The Literature of this daughter-nation in the West, as distilled by its poets, ought to be interesting to Englishmen. That other Colonial poetic literature presented in the Australian volume, has shown that there can be a signal attractiveness in such a picture of a fresh world. On the part of Canada the semi-tropical Australian surroundings are matched in beauty by a Northern atmosphere of objects which make vivid contrasts with them; her native races were the noblest of savage tribes; while the Imperial and National feelings, developing in two such different hemispheres, are instructive in their divergences and similarities. The romantic life of each Colony also has a special flavour, — Australian rhyme is a poetry of the *horse*; Canadian, of the *canoe*.

Now, who are those who are drinking these inspirations and breathing them into song? In communing with them, we shall try to transport you to the Canadian clime itself. You shall come out with us as a guest of its skies and air, paddling over bright lakes and down savage rivers; singing French *chansons* to the swing of our paddles, till we come into the settlements; and shall be swept along on great rafts of timber by the majestic St. Lawrence, to moor at historic cities whose streets and harbours are thronged with the commerce of all Europe and the world. You shall hear there the chants of a new nationality, weaving in with songs of the Empire, of its heroes, of its Queen.

A word first about the *personnel* of our conductors. The foremost name in Canadian song at the present day is that of Charles George Douglas Roberts, poet, canoeist,

and Professor of Literature, who has struck the supreme note of Canadian nationality in his "Canada" and "Ode for the Canadian Confederacy." His claim to supremacy lies, for the rest, chiefly in the quality of the two volumes, "Orion and other Poems," which he published in 1880 at the age of twenty-one, and "In Divers Tones," which appeared in 1887. The style and taste of Roberts at its best are characterised by two different elements—a striking predilection for the pictorial ideals and nature-poetry of classical Greece; and a noble passion, whose fire and music resemble and approach Tennyson's. "Orion," "Actæon," "Off Pelorus," and "The Pipes of Pan" are purely Greek, drawn direct from "ancient founts of inspiration." On the other hand, his "O Child of Nations, giant-limbed!" which stirs every true Canadian like a trumpet, is, though of different subject and metre, of the stamp and calibre of "Locksley Hall."

Roberts loves his country fervently, as is apparent in all his Canadian themes. His heart dwells with fondness on the scenes of his Maritime Provinces, "the long dikes of Tantramar," and the ebb-tide sighing out, "reluctant for the reed-beds;" and he was one of the first to sing Confederation. His sympathy is also Britain's—

" Let a great wrong cry to heaven,  
 Let a giant necessity come;  
 And now as of old she can strike,  
 She will strike, and strike home!"

In point of time, however, the first important national poet was not Roberts, but nature-loving Charles Sangster, a born son of the Muses, and who was long the people's favourite. Sangster is a kind of Wordsworth, with rather more fire, and of course a great deal less metaphysical and technical skill. He has the unevenness

and frequent flatness of Wordsworth, but is as close a personal friend of the mountains, lakes, and woods.

"I have laid my cheek to Nature's, put my puny hands in hers."

Glowingly he takes us, in "St. Lawrence and the Saguenay," down the grandeurs of that unrivalled tour—the great River, its rapids, cities, mountains, and "Isles of the Blest."

Sangster's nervous system was broken down by the grind of newspaper toil and civil service tread-milling, and he has not written or published for twenty years; yet, though poetry has till lately been given a particularly small share of attention in Canada, his "Brock," his lines on Quebec, and many striking passages from his poems, are treasured in the popular memory.

But the most striking volume next to those of Roberts—indeed more boldly new than his—is that of the late brilliant Isabella Valancey Crawford. This wonderful girl, living in the "Empire" Province of Ontario, early saw the possibilities of the new field around her, and had she lived longer might have made a really matchless name. It was only in 1884 that her modest blue card-covered volume of two hundred and twenty-four pages came out. The sad story of unrecognised genius and death was re-enacted. "Old Spookses' Pass; Malcolm's Katie, and other Poems," as it was doubly entitled (the names at least were against it!), almost dropped from the press. Scarcely anybody noticed it in Canada. It made no stir, and in little more than two years the authoress died. She was a high-spirited, passionate girl, and there is very little doubt that the neglect her book received was the cause of her death. Afterwards, as usual, a good many people began to find they had overlooked work of merit. Miss Crawford's verse was, in fact, seen to be phenomenal. Setting aside her dialect

poems, like "Old Spookses' Pass" (which, though the dialect is a trifle artificial, resulted in hitting off some good pictures of imaginary rustic characters), the style peculiarly her own has seldom been equalled for strength, colour, and originality—

"Low the sun beat on the land,  
Purple slope and olive wood;  
With the wine-cup in his hand,  
Vast the Helot herdsman stood."

"Day was at her high unrest;  
Fevered with the wine of light,  
Loosing all her golden vest,  
Reeled she towards the coming Night."

Miss Crawford's poetry is packed with fine stuff. It is worth a share of attention from the whole Anglo-Saxon world. The splendour of Canadian colour, the wonderful blue skies of that clear climate, the Heaven's-forests of its autumn, the matchless American sunsets and sunrises, imbued her like Roberts. A poetess of such original nature could not but strike boldly into Canadian subjects. "Malcolm's Katie; a Love Story," is an idyl of a true man who goes forth and cuts him a home with his axe, and of a maiden who remains true to him, until he returns for their union. Few finer bits were ever written by any one or anywhere than the passage which we give, from "Shanties grew," down to its glorious climax in the song, "O Love will build his lily walls." It seems to us that this is the most effective known use of a lyric introduced into a long poem. Her works, including a good deal never yet published, were about to be brought before the English public in a new volume. A letter of hers concerning the unpublished material, stated that it contained some of her best work.

The poets best known and most favourite next to Roberts and Sangster are—besides Isabella Crawford—

M'Lachlan, Kirby, and tender-hearted John Reade. Reade is one of the charms of whose style are sweetness and culture. He is best known by his "Merlin, and Other Poems" (1870), composed of short lyrics, led off by "The Prophecy of Merlin," which is a Tennysonian Idyll of the King, foreshadowing the greatness of the British Empire. His style turns everything it touches into grace, but it appeals to the inner circle rather than the folk, and seems to shrink away from touching organ-keys. For examples of this grace of his, I should like to quote his "The Inexpressible," or "Good Night," but cannot do so here.

The claim of first place is awarded by the feelings of no small number to Alexander M'Lachlan, the human-hearted, vigorous Scottish Radical, whose stanzas have such a singing rhythm and direct sympathy. They were a few years ago made a special feature of the great comic paper *Grip*, the *Punch* of Canada, and his popularity is shown by the presentation by his admirers a short time since of a homestead farm, upon which he now lives. His "Idylls of the Dominion," from which the poems quoted in this book are principally drawn, are so characteristic both of himself and of pioneerdom, that he is called "The Burns of Canada."

William Kirby deserves a high position for his beautiful "Canadian Idylls" (based on history, while M'Lachlan's are upon life), from which "Sptna Christi" is drawn. There are also some able descriptions in his long-known "U. E." (Loyalist) poem, from which is taken his passage on Niagara. Steeped in the romance of Canadian history, he wrote many years ago a magnificent novel founded upon the Quebec legend of the Chien d'Or, which has remained the most popular of Canadian stories. Kirby's strong point is his graphic descriptions.

One name I have not yet pronounced, though every



Canadian no doubt has looked for it. A sombre shadow towers in the background of the group,—a man apart from the rest,—Charles Heavysege, author of the drama "Saul." When "Saul" came out in 1857, and a copy fell into the hands of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Heavysege became famous. He was pronounced the greatest dramatist since Shakespeare. The *North British Review* for August 1858 spoke of the book as follows:—

"Of 'Saul, a Drama, in three parts,' published anonymously at Montreal, we have before us perhaps the only copy which has crossed the Atlantic. At all events we have heard of no other, as it is probable we should have done, through some public or private notice, seeing that the work is indubitably one of the most remarkable English poems ever written out of Great Britain."

The *North British* reviewer was later by no means alone in its praise, and it became the fashion among tourists to Montreal to buy a copy of "Saul."

Heavysege had a very strange and original cast of mind. The following brief poem may be read as being characteristic of him:—

"Open, my heart, thy ruddy valves;  
 It is thy master calls;  
 Let me go down, and curious trace  
 Thy labyrinthine halls.  
 Open, O heart, and let me view  
 The secrets of thy den;  
 Myself unto myself now show  
 With introspective ken.  
 Expose thyself, thou covered nest  
 Of passions, and be seen;  
 Stir up thy brood, that in unrest  
 Are ever piping keen.  
 Ah! what a motley multitude,  
 Magnanimous and mean!"

He was originally a drama-composing carpenter, then a journalist in Montreal, and wore out his soul at the

drudgery of the latter occupation and in poverty. To get out the third edition of "Saul" he was forced to borrow the money, which he was never able to repay. In person he was a small, very reticent man, who walked along the streets altogether locked up in himself, so that a literary acquaintance of his says Heavysege's appearance always reminded him of "The Yellow Dwarf,"—

"He walked our streets, and no one knew  
That something of celestial hue  
Had passed along; a toil-worn man  
Was seen,—no more; the fire that ran  
Electric through his veins, and wrought  
Sublimity of soul and thought,  
And kindled into song, no eye  
Beheld."

He died in 1869. A man apart he has remained. His work is in no sense distinctively Canadian. Canadians do not read him; but they claim him as perhaps their greatest, most original writer, if they could weigh him aright and appreciate him.

Sympathy with the prairie and the Indian has produced the best verse of Charles Mair, who has dramatised the story of the immortal British ally Tecumseh, and lately from his North-West home gives us "The Last Bison"; and who has lived a life almost as Indian and North-West as his poems. "The Last Bison," he says, was suggested to him by what happened before his own eyes near the elbow of the North Saskatchewan some eight years ago. "Not a buffalo," so far as he knows, "has been seen on that river since. There are some animals in private collections; a small band perhaps exists in the fastnesses of Montana, and a few wood buffaloes still roam the Mackenzie River region; but the wild bison of the plains may now be looked upon as extinct." We may add, that it was lately reported by

an Indian that he had tracked a herd of seven in the northerly region of the Peace River. He shot four bulls and a calf out of the seven! The North-West has also given happy inspirations to "Barry Dane" as a bird of passage.

John Hunter-Duvar, the author of "De Roberval" and Squire of "Hernewood," in Prince Edward Island, described in "The Emigration of the Fairies," derives his verse largely from the life and legends of the surrounding regions, shaped by his good library.

George Martin, of Montreal, has digged in the goldmine of old French legend, with the result of "Marguerite; or, The Isle of Demons," a weird and sad story of De Roberval's desertion of his niece in one of the early expeditions.

Arthur Wentworth Eaton and George Murray have explored the same mine with signal success—the latter, who is very well known as a *litterateur*, producing the fine ballad, "How Canada was Saved." The same story has been well put in Martin's "Heroes of Ville-Marie."

Bliss Carman has earned special honour for the originality and finish of his lyrics. Arthur John Lockhart, in his "Masque of Minstrels,"—particularly in "Gaspereau,"—sings as a bird of exile warbling towards home, for he lives just over the frontier. William Wilfred Campbell is the poet of the Great Lakes, which he has studied with a perfect love, resulting in those beautiful "Lake Lyrics" of his, which the reader will stop to admire. A bit of work of particular attractiveness has been done by William M'Lennan in his well-known translations of the old French *chansons*. Archibald Lampman has written perfectly exquisite pre-Raphaelite descriptions with the finish and sparkle of jewellers' work.

I should have liked to quote more fully than has been

possible from the "Lyrics on Freedom, Love, and Death" of the late George Frederick Cameron; but his fire and generosity of spirit belong rather to the world than to Canadian inspiration, and we are therefore confined here to a few lesser pieces of his. He died early, like so many other sons of genius.

Among names of special grace or promise are to be added those of "Laclède," John Talon-Lespérance, the well-known *litterateur*, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; Barry Straton, Duncan Campbell Scott, Frederick George Scott, John Henry Brown, Dr. Æneas M'Donald Dawson, F.R.S.C.; Arthur Weir (the author of "Fleurs de Lys"); Dr. Charles Edwin Jakeway; the late Honourables d'Arcy M'Gee and Joseph Howe; Ernest J. Chapman, E. W. Thomson, Carroll Ryan, William Wye Smith, Phillips Stewart, J. J. Proctor, J. A. Richey; the aged but bright G. W. Wicksteed, Q.C.; H. L. Spencer; Messrs. Shanly, Dunn, Haliburton, M'Donell, James M'Carroll, J. H. Bowes, K. L. Jones, S. J. Watson, T. G. Marquis, M'Alpine Taylor, the late Francis Rye, the late John Lowry Stuart, the late Charles Pelham Mulvaney, H. R. A. Pocock (author of spirited North-West pieces), Alexander Rae Garvie, and M'Pherson, the early Nova Scotia singer, whose "I Long for Spring, enchanting Spring," has a bell-like silveriness. Some of these I have been unable to get at. A bright and erratic name, which I am sorry I cannot represent, is that of the journalist, George T. Lanigan ("Allid"), — "the most brilliant journalist who ever lived," says Mr. George Murray. Lanigan wrote with equal felicity in French and English, and his humour was inexhaustible. I regret that space forbids me to add in the body of the book two good things by D. B. Kerr and Emily M'Manus. The latter's subject is the crescent province of the West:—

## "MANITOBA.

"Softly the shadows of prairie-land wheat  
 Ripple and riot adown to her feet;  
 Murmurs all Nature with joyous acclaim,  
 Fragrance of summer and shimmer of flame:  
 Heedless she hears while the centuries slip:—  
 Chalice of poppy is laid on her lip.

"Hark! From the East comes a ravishing note,—  
 Sweeter was never in nightingale's throat,—  
 Silence of centuries thrills to the song,  
 Singing their silence awaited so long;  
 Low, yet it swells to the heaven's blue dome,  
 Child-lips have called the wild meadow-land 'Home!'"

One peculiar feature of this literature, indeed, is its strength in lady singers. The number who have produced true poetry seems to indicate something special in the conditions of a new country. Verily one has not to read far in that noble, patriotic book, "Laura Secord," to acknowledge that Mrs. Sarah Anne Curzon writes with the power and spirit of masculinity. The best war-songs of the late half-breed rebellion were written by Annie Rothwell, of Kingston. "Fidelis" (Agnes Maule Machar), who is frequently given the credit of being the first of our poetesses, shows some of the same spirit, but excels in a graceful subjectivity which unfortunately is unfitted for representative quotation here; a remark which applies, with still more hapless effect to the philosophic thought of Mary Morgan ("Gowan Lea"). Agnes Seymour Maclean, authoress of "The Coming of the Princess," is mistress of a style of singular richness; and some of the brightest writing, both prose and verse, is done by "Seranus," of Toronto (Mrs. S. Frances Harrison), who is working good service to our literature in a number of ways. Her "Old Régime" and "Rose Latulippe"

express what has been called her "half-French heart," and breathe the air of the fertile, scarcely-wrought field of French Canadian life. Then there are "Fleurange," who wrote the best Carnival Poem, "The Italian Boy's Dream"; E. Pauline Johnson, daughter of Head-Chief Johnson, of the Mohawks of Brantford, who gives us poetry of a high stamp, and of great interest on account of her descent; "Espérance" (Alice Maud Ardagh); Mrs. Leprohon; Mary Barry Smith; Helen Fairbairn; M. J. Katzmann Lawson; the late Miss E. M. Nash; Pamela Vining Yule, "Clare Everest"; Janet Carnochan; Mrs. Edgar Jarvis, "Jeanie Gray"; Isabel Macpherson; Louisa Murray, a well-known authoress, who, besides much fine prose, has written "Merlin's Cave," one of the best of Canadian undistinctive poems; and Ethelwyn Wetherald, authoress of many exquisite sonnets. Even from the beginning—fifty years ago, for there was no native poetry to speak of before that—we had Susanna Moodie, one of the famous Strickland sisters, authoress of "Roughing it in the Bush," who gave us the best verses we had during many years, and some of the most patriotic.

Many more writers than those above named, in all to a number which might be roughly placed at three hundred, have at various times produced really good verse.

A curious Indian song, representing a small but unique song-literature which has sprung up among the tribe at Caughnawaga Reservation, near Montreal, *since* barbaric times, "from the sheer necessity of singing when together," was translated specially for me by Mr. John Waniente Jocks, the son of a Six-nation chief of that Reservation.

A few general remarks are now in order. The present is by no means a perfect presentation of Canadian poetry from a purely literary point of view, on account of the

limitation of treatment; for it is obvious that if only what illustrates the country and its life *in a distinctive way* be chosen, the subjective and unlocal literature must be necessarily passed over, entraining the omission of most of the poems whose merit lies in perfection of finish. It is therefore greatly to be desired that a purely literary anthology may soon be brought together by some one. Such a collection was made in 1867, in the Rev. Edward Hartley Dewart's "Selections." Two or three other partial collections have been made, the best being Seranus' "Canadian Birthday Book," which affords a miniature survey of the chief verse-writers, both French and English. The most remarkable point of difference between the selections of Dewart and the poetry which has followed, is the tone of exultation and confidence which the singers have assumed since Confederation, for up to that epoch the verse was apologetic and depressed. Everything now points hopefully. Not only is the poetry more confident, but far better. A good deal of the best verse in American magazines is written in Canada.

The order of this collection is in sections, treating of the Imperial Spirit, the New Nationality, the Indian, the *Voyageur* and *Habitant*, Settlement Life, Sports and Free Life, Historical Incidents, Places, and Seasons. They give merely, it should be understood, a sketch of the range of the subjects. Canadian history, for example, as any one acquainted with Parkman will know, perfectly teems with noble deeds and great events, of which only a small share have been sung, whereof there is only space here for a much smaller share. The North-West and British Columbia, that Pacific clime of charm—the gold-diggings Province, land of salmon rivers, and of the Douglas firs which hide daylight at noonday—have been scarcely sung at

all, owing to their newness. The poetry of the Winter Carnival, splendid scenic spectacle of gay Northern arts and delights, is only rudimentary also. Those who have been present at the thrilling spectacle of the nocturnal storming of the Ice Palace in Montreal, when the whole city, dressing itself in the picturesque snow-shoe costume and arraying its streets in lights and colours, rises as one man in a tumultuous enthusiasm, must feel that something of a future lies before the poetry of these strange and wonderful elements.

To omit a bow to the French would be ungracious. In the larger form of this work in the Windsor Series, we have devoted a special appendix to *ipsis verbis* specimens of Chauveau, Sulte, Fréchette, and Le May, leaders who have been very highly honoured in France.

In concluding, I desire to express my sense of shortcoming in the work, but believe it will be generally admitted that I have spared no necessary trouble.

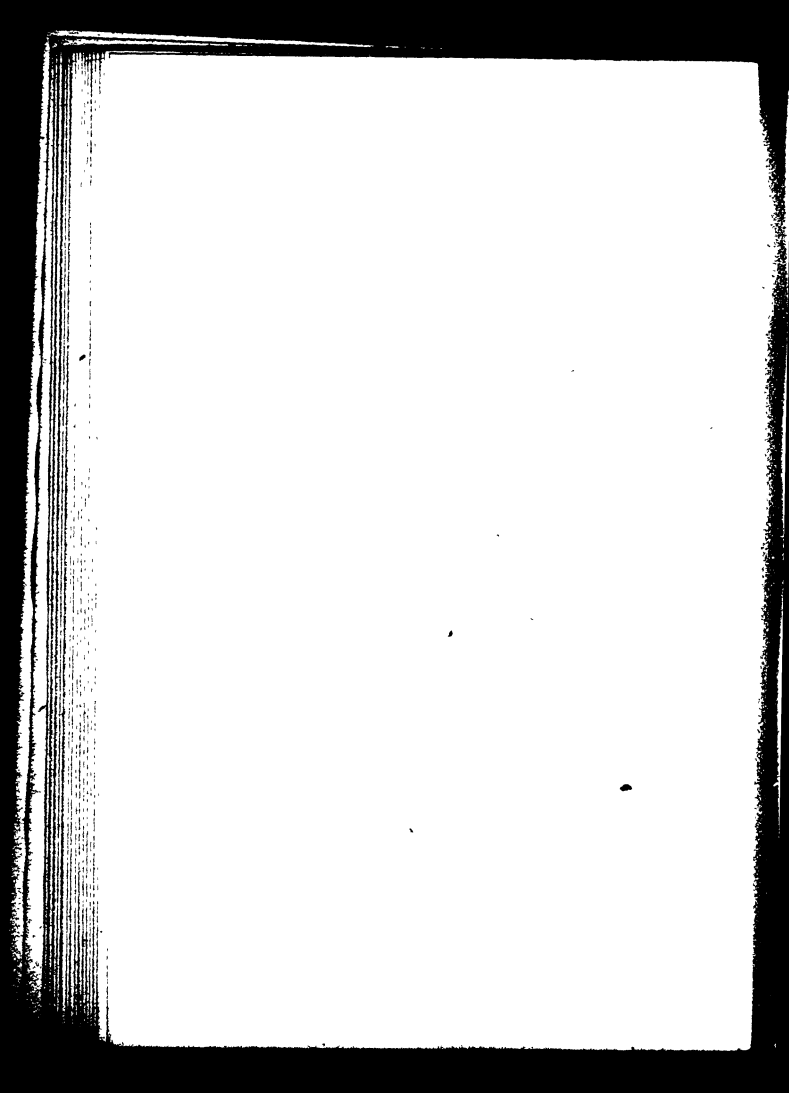
Both Editors regret to say that, through an accidental cause unnecessary to explain, more MSS. were sent to the publishers than the volume required. As no time could be lost, the General Editor had no recourse except to undertake the difficult task of cutting down the matter, which he did in accordance with his best judgment, but guided by the sole criterion of the symmetry of the work. Some good poetry originally included has not found a place, owing to the necessary reduction, and apology is tendered where unintentional injustice has resulted.

And now, the canoes are packed, our *voyageurs* are waiting for us, the paddles are ready, let us start!

W. D. L.



I.—THE IMPERIAL SPIRIT.



# Canadian Poems and Lays,



## *I.—THE IMPERIAL SPIRIT.*



HASTINGS.

JOHN READE.

I.

OCTOBER'S woods are bright and gay, a thousand colours  
vie  
To win the golden smiles the Sun sends gleaming thro'  
the sky ;  
And tho' the flowers are dead and gone, one garden  
seems the earth,  
For, in God's world, as one charm dies, another starts to  
birth.

II.

To every season is its own peculiar beauty given,  
In every age of mortal men we see the Hand of Heaven ;

4     *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

And century to century utters a glorious speech,  
And peace to war, and war to peace, eternal lessons  
teach.

III.

O grand old woods, your forest-sires were thus as bright  
and gay,  
Before the axe's murderous voice had spoiled their sylvan  
play ;  
When other axes smote our sires, and laid them stiff and  
low,  
On Hastings' unforgotten field, *eight hundred years ago.*

IV.

Eight hundred years ago, long years, before Jacques  
Cartier clomb  
The Royal Height, where now no more the red men  
fearless roam !  
Eight hundred years ago, long years, before Columbus  
came  
From stately Spain to find the world that ought to bear  
his name !

V.

The Sussex woods were bright and red on that October  
morn ;  
And Sussex soil was red with blood before the next was  
born ;  
But from that red united clay another race did start  
On the great stage of destiny to act a noble part.

VI.

So God doth mould, as pleaseth Him, the nations of His  
choice ;  
Now, in the battle-cry is heard His purifying voice

And now, with Orphic strains of peace he draws to  
nationhood  
The scattered tribes that dwell apart by mountain, sea,  
and wood.

VII.

He took the lonely poet Celt, and taught him Roman  
lore ;  
Then from the wealds of Saxony He brought the sons of  
Thor ;  
Next from his craggy home the Dane came riding o'er  
the sea ;  
And last, came William with his bands of Norman  
chivalry.

VIII.

And now, as our young nationhood is struggling into  
birth,  
God grant its infant pulse may beat with our forefathers'  
worth !  
And, as we gather into *one*, let us recall with pride  
That we are of the blood of those who fought when  
Harold died.

---

6 CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.

CANADA TO ENGLAND.<sup>1</sup>

ANONYMOUS.

MOTHER of many prosperous lands,  
Thy children in this far-off West,—  
Seeing that vague and undefined  
A cloud comes up to mar our rest ;  
Fearing that busy tongues, whose speech  
Is mischief, may have caused a breach,  
And frayed the delicate links which bind  
Our people each to each,—  
With loving hearts and outstretched hands  
Send greeting leal and kind.

Heed not the teachings of a school  
Of shallow sophists who would part  
The outlying members of thy rule ;  
Who fain would lop, with felon stroke,  
The branches of our English oak,  
And, wronging the great English heart,  
Would deem her honour cheaply sold  
For higher prices on the mart,  
And increased hoard of gold.

What though a many thousand miles  
Of boisterous waters ebb and flow  
Between us and the favoured Isles,—  
The "inviolatè Isles" which boast thy sway !

<sup>1</sup> Appeared in *New Dominion Monthly*, 1869, with a statement that it had had a wide circulation "some years ago." Internal evidence shows it to have been written about 1861.

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 7

No time nor distance can divide  
What gentlest bonds have firmest tied ;  
And this we fain would have thee know,  
The which let none gainsay.  
Nay rather, let the wide world hear  
That we so far are yet so near,  
That, come what may, in weal or woe,  
Our hearts are one this day.

Thus late, when death's cold wings were spread,  
And when the nation's eyes were dim,  
We also bowed the stricken head,  
We too the eloquent teardrops shed  
In heartfelt grief for *him*.

When recent danger threatened near,  
We nerved our hearts to play our part;  
Not making boast, nor feeling fear ;  
But as the news of insult spread  
Were none to dally or to lag ;  
For all the grand old Island spirit  
Which Britain's chivalrous sons inherit  
Was roused, and as one heart, one head,  
We rallied round our flag.

And now as then unchanged, the same  
Though filling each our separate spheres ;  
Thy joys, thy griefs, and thy good name  
Are ours, and or in good or ill ;  
Our pride of race we have not lost,  
And aye it is our loftiest boast  
That we are Britons still !  
And in the gradual lapse of years

We look, that 'neath these distant skies  
 Another England shall arise,—  
 A noble scion of the old,—  
 Still to herself and lineage true,  
 And prizing honour more than gold.  
 This is *our* hope, and as for you,  
 Be just as you are generous, mother,  
 And let not those who rashly speak  
 Things that they know not, render weak  
 The ties that bind us to each other.

---

EMPIRE FIRST.

POPULAR SONG.

JOHN TALON-LESPÉRANCE—"LACLÈDE."

SHALL we break the plight of youth,  
 And pledge us to an alien love?  
 No! We hold our faith and truth,  
 Trusting to the God above.  
 Stand, Canadians, firmly stand,  
 Round the flag of Fatherland.

Britain bore us in our flank,  
 Britain nursed us at our birth,  
 Britain reared us to our rank  
 'Mid the nations of the earth.  
 Stand, Canadians, etc.



In the hour of pain and dread,  
In the gathering of the storm,  
Britain raised above our head  
Her broad shield and sheltering arm.  
Stand, Canadians, etc.

O triune kingdom of the brave,  
O sea-girt Island of the free,  
O empire of the land and wave,  
Our hearts, our hands, are all for thee.  
Stand, Canadians, etc.

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### THE CANADIANS ON THE NILE.

WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

O, THE East is but the West, with the sun a little hotter;  
And the pine becomes a palm, by the dark Egyptian  
water :

And the Nile's like many a stream we know, that fills its  
brimming cup,—

We'll think it is the Ottawa, as we track the batteaux  
up!

Pull, pull, pull! as we track the batteaux up!  
It's easy shooting homeward, when we're at the  
top!

O, the cedar and the spruce line each dark Canadian  
river;

But the thirsty date is here, where the sultry sunbeams  
quiver;

10 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

And the mocking mirage spreads its view, afar on either  
hand;  
But strong we bend the sturdy oar, towards the Southern  
land!

Pull, pull, pull! as we track the batteaux up!  
It's easy shooting homeward, when we're at the  
top!

O, we've tracked the Rapids up, and o'er many a portage  
crossing;  
And it's often such we've seen, though so loud the waves  
are tossing!  
Then, it's homeward when the run is o'er! o'er stream,  
and ocean deep—  
To bring the memory of the Nile, where the maple  
shadows sleep!

Pull, pull, pull! as we track the batteaux up!  
It's easy shooting homeward, when we're at the  
top!

And it yet may come to pass, that the hearts and hands  
so ready  
May be sought again to help, when some poise is off the  
steady!  
And the Maple and the Pine be matched, with British  
Oak the while,  
As once beneath Egyptian suns, the Canadians on the  
Nile!

Pull, pull, pull! as we track the batteaux up!  
It's easy shooting homeward, when we're at the  
top!

II.—THE NEW NATIONALITY.

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## II.—THE NEW NATIONALITY.

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### DOMINION DAY.

#### “FIDELIS.”

WITH *feu-de-joie* and merry bells, and cannon's thunder-  
ing peal,  
And pennons fluttering on the breeze, and serried rows  
of steel,  
We greet, again, the birthday morn of our young giant's  
land,  
From the Atlantic stretching wide to far Pacific strand ;  
With flashing rivers, ocean lakes, and prairies wide and  
free,  
And waterfalls, and forests dim, and mountains by the  
sea ;  
A country on whose birth-hour smiled the genius of  
romance,  
Above whose cradle brave hands waved the lily-cross of  
France ;  
Whose infancy was grimly nursed in peril, pain, and woe ;  
Whose gallant hearts found early graves beneath Canadian  
snow ;

When savage raid and ambushade and famine's sore  
distress,  
Combined their strength, in vain, to crush the dauntless  
French *noblesse* ;  
When her dim, trackless forest lured, again and yet  
again,  
From silken courts of sunny France, her flower, the  
brave Champlain.  
And now, her proud traditions boast four blazoned rolls  
of fame,—  
Crecy's and Flodden's deadly foes our ancestors we  
claim ;  
Past feud and battle buried far behind the peaceful years,  
While Gaul and Celt and Briton turn to pruning-hooks  
their spears ;  
Four nations welded into one,—with long historic past,  
Have found, in these our western wilds, one common  
life, at last ;  
Through the young giant's mighty limbs, that stretch  
from sea to sea,  
There runs a throb of conscious life—of waking energy.  
From Nova Scotia's misty coast to far Columbia's  
shore,  
She wakes,—a band of scattered homes and colonies no  
more,  
But a young nation, with her life full beating in her  
breast,  
A noble future in her eyes—the Britain of the West.  
Hers be the noble task to fill the yet untrodden plains  
With fruitful, many-sided life that courses through her  
veins ;  
The English honour, nerve, and pluck,—the Scotsman's  
love of right,—  
The grace and courtesy of France,—the Irish fancy  
bright,—

The Saxon's faithful love of home, and home's affections  
blest ;  
And, chief of all, our holy faith,—of all our treasures  
best.  
A people poor in pomp and state, but rich in noble  
deeds,  
Holding that righteousness exalts the people that it  
leads ;  
As yet the waxen mould is soft, the opening page is fair ;  
It rests with those who rule us now, to leave their  
impress there,—  
The stamp of true nobility, high honour, stainless truth ;  
The earnest quest of noble ends ; the generous heart of  
youth ;  
The love of country, soaring far above dull party strife ;  
The love of learning, art, and song—the crowning grace  
of life ;  
The love of science, soaring far through Nature's hidden  
ways ;  
The love and fear of Nature's God—a nation's highest  
praise.  
So, in the long hereafter, this Canada shall be  
The worthy heir of British power and British liberty ;  
Spreading the blessings of her sway to her remotest  
bounds,  
While, with the fame of her fair name, a continent  
resounds.  
True to her high traditions, to Britain's ancient glory  
Of patient saint and martyr, alive in deathless story ;  
Strong, in their liberty and truth, to shed from shore to  
shore  
A light among the nations, till nations are no more.

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CANADA.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

O CHILD of Nations, giant-limbed,  
Who stand'st among the nations now  
Unheeded, unadorned, unhymned,  
With unanointed brow,—

How long the ignoble sloth, how long  
The trust in greatness not thine own?  
Surely the lion's brood is strong  
To front the world alone!

How long the indolence, ere thou dare  
Achieve thy destiny, seize thy fame,—  
Ere our proud eyes behold thee bear  
A nation's franchise, nation's name?

The Saxon force, the Celtic fire,  
These are thy manhood's heritage!  
Why rest with babes and slaves? Seek higher  
The place of race and age.

I see to every wind unfurled  
The flag that bears the Maple-Wreath;  
Thy swift keels furrow round the world  
Its blood-red folds beneath;

Thy swift keels cleave the furthest seas;  
Thy white sails swell with alien gales;  
To stream on each remotest breeze  
The black smoke of thy pipes exhales.



O Falterer, let thy past convince  
Thy future,—all the growth, the gain,  
The fame since Cartier knew thee, since  
Thy shores beheld Champlain.

Montcalm and Wolfe ! Wolfe and Montcalm !  
Quebec, thy storied citadel  
Attest in burning song and psalm  
How here thy heroes fell !

O Thou that bor'st the battle's brunt  
At Queenston, and at Lundy's Lane,—  
On whose scant ranks but iron front  
The battle broke in vain !—

Whose was the danger, whose the day,  
From whose triumphant throats the cheers,  
At Chrysler's Farm, at Chateauguay,  
Storming like clarion-bursts our ears ?

On soft Pacific slopes,—beside  
Strange floods that northward rave and fall,—  
Where chafes Acadia's chainless tide—  
Thy sons await thy call.

They await ; but some in exile, some  
With strangers housed, in stranger lands ;—  
And some Canadian lips are dumb  
Beneath Egyptian sands.

O mystic Nile ! Thy secret yields  
Before us ; thy most ancient dreams  
Are mixed with far Canadian fields  
And murmur of Canadian streams.

But thou, my Country, dream not thou !  
 Wake, and behold how night is done,—  
 How on thy breast, and o'er thy brow,  
 Bursts the uprising sun !

---

THE CONFUSED DAWN.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

YOUNG MAN.

WHAT are the Vision and the Cry  
 That haunt the new Canadian soul ?  
 Dim grandeur spreads we know not why  
 O'er mountain, forest, tree, and knoll,  
 And murmurs indistinctly fly.—  
 Some magic moment sure is nigh.  
 O Seer, the curtain roll !

SEER.

The Vision, mortal, it is this—  
 Dead mountain, forest, knoll, and tree  
 Awaken all endued with bliss,  
 A native land—O think !—to be—  
*Thy* native land—and ne'er amiss,  
 Its smile shall like a lover's kiss  
 From henceforth seem to thee.

The Cry thou couldst not understand,  
 Which runs through that new realm of light,

From Breton's to Vancouver's strand  
O'er many a lovely landscape bright,  
It is their waking utterance grand,  
The great refrain, "A NATIVE LAND!"  
Thine be the ear, the sight.

---

FROM "'85."

BARRY STRATON.

SHALL we not all be one race, shaping and welding the  
nation?

Is not our country too broad for the schisms which  
shake petty lands?

Yea, we shall join in our might, and keep sacred our firm  
Federation,

Shoulder to shoulder arrayed, hearts open to hearts,  
hands to hands!

---

CANADA NOT LAST.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

AT VENICE.

Lo! Venice, gay with colour, lights, and song,

Calls from St. Mark's with ancient voice and strange:

I am the Witch of Cities! glide along

My silver streets that never wear, by change

20 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

Of years ; forget the years, and pain, and wrong,  
And every sorrow reigning men among ;  
Know I can soothe thee, please and marry thee  
To my illusions. Old, and siren-strong,  
I smile immortal, while the mortals flee  
Who whiten on to death in wooing me !

AT FLORENCE.

Say, what more fair, by Arno's bridgèd gleam,<sup>1</sup>  
Than Florence, viewed from San Miniato's slope  
At eventide, when west along the stream  
The last of day reflects a silver hope !—  
Lo ! all else softened in the twilight beam :—  
The city's mass blent in one hazy cream ;  
The brown Dome 'midst it, and the Lily Tower,  
And stern Old Tower more near, and hills that seem  
Afar, like clouds to fade, and hills of power  
On this side, greenly dark with cypress, vine, and  
bower !

AT ROME.

End of desire to stray I feel would come,  
Though Italy were all fair skies to me,  
Though France's fields went mad with flowery foam,  
And Blanc put on a special majesty.  
Not all could match the growing thought of home,  
Nor tempt to exile. Look I not on ROME,—  
This ancient, modern, mediæval queen,—  
Yet still sigh westward over hill and dome,  
Imperial ruin, and villa's princely scene,  
Lovely with pictured saints and marble gods serene !

<sup>1</sup> "Sovra'l bel fiume d'Arno la gran villa."—DANTE.

REFLECTION.

Rome, Florence, Venice,—noble, fair, and quaint,  
They reign in robes of magic round me here ;  
But fading blotted, dim, a picture faint,  
With spell more silent, only pleads a tear.  
Plead not ! Thou hast my heart, O picture dim !  
I see the fields, I see the autumn hand  
Of God upon the maples ! Answer Him  
With weird, translucent glories, ye that stand  
Like spirits in scarlet and in amethyst !  
I see the sun break over you ; the mist  
On hills that lift from iron bases grand  
Their heads superb !—the dream, it is my native land !

---

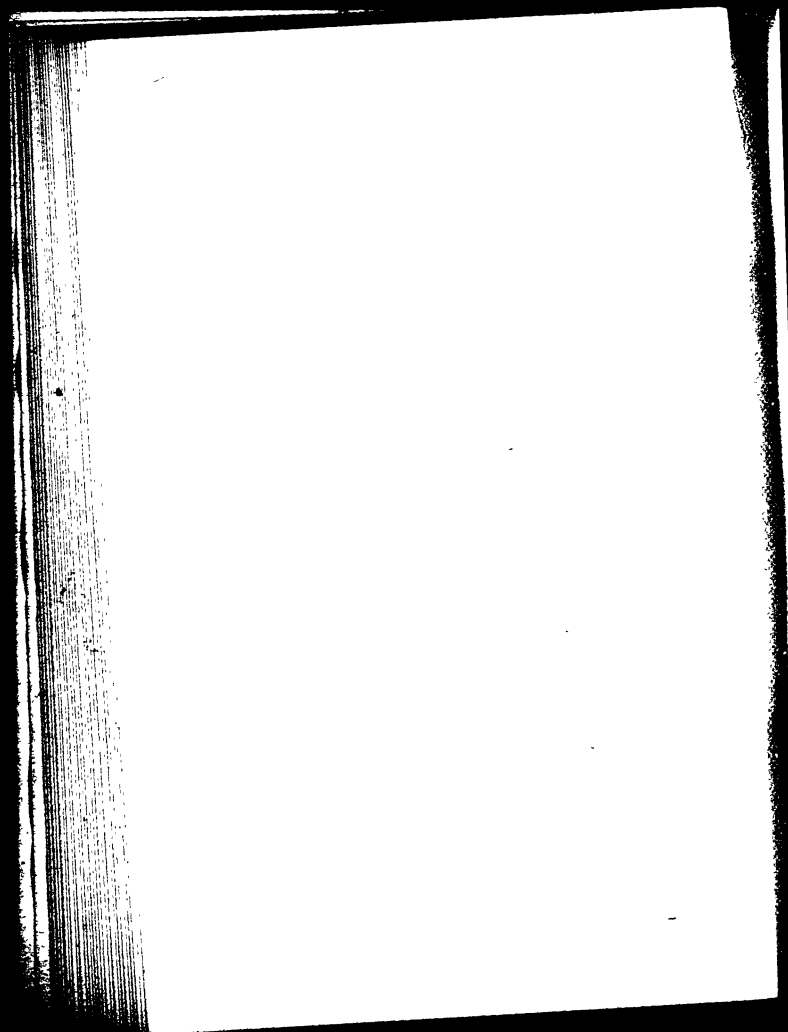
COLLECT FOR DOMINION DAY.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

FATHER of Nations ! Help of the feeble hand,  
Strength of the strong ! to whom the nations kneel !  
Stay and destroyer, at whose just command  
Earth's kingdoms tremble and her empires reel !  
Who dost the low uplift, the small make great,  
And dost abase the ignorantly proud ;  
Of our scant people mould a mighty state,  
To the strong stern, to Thee in meekness bowed !  
Father of unity, make this people one !  
Weld, interfuse them in the patriot's flame,—  
Whose forging on Thine anvil was begun  
In blood late shed to purge the common shame ;  
That so our hearts, the fever of faction done,  
Banish old feud in our young nation's name.



III.—THE INDIAN.





### III.—THE INDIAN.

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#### A BLOOD-RED RING HUNG ROUND THE MOON.

“BARRY DANE”—JOHN E. LOGAN.

A BLOOD-RED ring hung round the moon,  
Hung round the moon. Ah me ! Ah me !  
I heard the piping of the Loon,  
A wounded Loon. Ah me !  
And yet the eagle feathers rare,  
I, trembling, wove in my brave's hair.

He left me in the early morn,  
The early morn. Ah me ! Ah me !  
The feathers swayed like stately corn,<sup>1</sup>  
So like the corn. Ah me !  
A fierce wind swept across the plain,  
The stately corn was snapt in twain.

<sup>1</sup> “Indian corn” is maize.

They crushed in blood the hated race,  
The hated race. Ah me! Ah me!  
I only clasped a cold, blind face,  
His cold, dead face. Ah me!  
A blood-red ring hangs in my sight,  
I hear the Loon cry every night.

---

THE DEPARTING OF CLOTE SCARP.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

It is so long ago; and men well-nigh  
Forget what gladness was, and how the earth  
Gave corn in plenty, and the rivers fish,  
And the woods meat, before he went away.  
His going was on this wise.

All the works  
And words and ways of men and beasts became  
Evil, and all their thoughts continually  
Were but of evil. Then he made a feast.  
Upon the shore that is beside the sea  
That takes the setting sun, he ordered it,  
And called the beasts thereto. Only the men  
He called not, seeing them evil utterly.  
He fed the panther's crafty brood, and filled  
The lean wolf's hunger; from the hollow tree  
His honey stayed the bear's terrific jaws;  
And the brown rabbit couched at peace, within  
The circling shadow of the eagle's wings.

And when the feast was done, he told them all  
That now, because their ways were evil grown,  
On that same day he must depart from them,  
And they should look upon his face no more.  
Then all the beasts were very sorrowful.  
It was near sunset, and the wind was still,  
And down the yellow shore a thin wave washed  
Slowly ; and Clote Scarp launched his birch canoe,  
And spread his yellow sail, and moved from shore,  
Though no wind followed, streaming in the sail,  
Or roughening the clear waters after him.  
And all the beasts stood by the shore, and watched.  
Then to the west appeared a long red trail  
Over the wave ; and Clote Scarp sailed and sang  
Till the canoe grew little like a bird,  
And black, and vanished in the shining trail.  
And when the beasts could see his form no more,  
They still could hear him, singing as he sailed,  
And still they listened, hanging down their heads  
In long row, where the thin wave washed and fled.  
But when the sound of singing died, and when  
They lifted up their voices in their grief,  
Lo ! on the mouth of every beast a strange  
New tongue ! Then rose they all and fled apart,  
Nor met again in council from that day.

---

FROM "TECUMSEH."—ACT I., SCENE 2.

CHARLES MAIR.

LEFROY.

THIS region is as lavish of its flowers  
As Heaven of its primrose blooms by night.

This is the Arum, which within its root  
Folds life and death; and this the Prince's Pine,  
Fadeless as love and truth—the fairest form  
That ever sun-shower washed with sudden rain.  
This golden cradle is the Moccasin Flower,  
Wherein the Indian hunter sees his hound;  
And this dark chalice is the Pitcher-Plant,  
Stored with the water of forgetfulness.  
Whoever drinks of it, whose heart is pure,  
Will sleep for aye 'neath foodful asphodel,  
And dream of endless love.

There was a time on this fair continent  
When all things throve in spacious peacefulness.  
The prosperous forests unmolested stood,  
For where the stalwart oak grew there it lived  
Long ages, and then died among its kind.  
The hoary pines—those ancients of the earth—  
Brimful of legends of the early world,  
Stood thick on their own mountains unsubdued.  
And all things else illumined by the sun,  
Inland or by the lifted wave, had rest.  
The passionate or calm pageants of the skies  
No artist drew; but in the auburn west

Innumerable faces of fair cloud  
Vanished in silent darkness with the day.  
The prairie realm—vast ocean's paraphrase—  
Rich in wild grasses numberless, and flowers  
Unnamed save in mute Nature's inventory,  
No civilised barbarian trenched for gain.  
And all that flowed was sweet and uncorrupt.  
The rivers and their tributary streams,  
Undammed, wound on for ever, and gave up  
Their lonely torrents to weird gulfs of sea,  
And ocean wastes unshadowed by a sail.  
And all the wild life of this western world  
Knew not the fear of man; yet in those woods,  
And by those plenteous streams and mighty lakes,  
And on stupendous steppes of peerless plain,  
And in the rocky gloom of canyons deep,  
Screened by the stony ribs of mountains hoar  
Which steeped their snowy peaks in purging cloud,  
And down the continent where tropic suns  
Warmed to her very heart the mother earth,  
And in the congeal'd north where silence self  
Ached with intensity of stubborn frost,  
There lived a soul more wild than barbarous;  
A tameless soul—the sunburnt savage free—  
Free and untainted by the greed of gain,  
Great Nature's man, content with Nature's food.

---

THE ARCTIC INDIAN'S FAITH.

THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE.

WE worship the Spirit that walks unseen  
Through our land of ice and snow ;  
We know not His face, we know not His place,  
But His presence and power we know.

Does the Buffalo need the Pale-face word  
To find his pathway far?  
What guide has he to the hidden ford,  
Or where the green pastures are?  
Who teacheth the Moose that the hunter's gun  
Is peering out of the shade?  
Who teacheth the doe and the fawn to run  
In the track the Moose has made?

Him do we follow, Him do we fear,  
The Spirit of earth and sky ;  
Who hears with the *Wapiti's* eager ear  
His poor red children's cry ;  
Whose whisper we note in every breeze  
That stirs the birch canoe ;  
Who hangs the reindeer-moss on the trees  
For the food of the Caribou.

The Spirit we worship, who walks unseen  
Through our land of ice and snow ;  
We know not His face, we know not His place,  
But His presence and power we know.

THE CAUGHNAWAGA BEADWORK-SELLER.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

KANAWAKI,—“By the Rapid,”—  
Low the sunset 'midst thee lies;  
And from the wild Reservation  
Evening's breeze begins to rise.  
Faint the Konoronkwa chorus  
Drifts across the currents strong;  
Spirit-like the parish steeple  
Stands thine ancient walls among.

Kanawaki,—“By the Rapid,”—  
How the sun amidst thee burns!  
Village of the Praying Nation,  
Thy dark child to thee returns.  
All day through the pale-faced city,  
Silent, selling beaded wares,  
I have wandered with my basket,  
Lone, excepting for their stares.

They are white men; we are Indians;  
What a gulf their stares proclaim!  
They are mounting; we are dying:  
All our heritage they claim.  
We are dying, dwindling, dying!  
Strait and smaller grows our bound:  
They are mounting up to heaven,  
And are pressing all around.

*Thou* art ours,—little remnant,  
Ours from countless thousand years,—  
Part of the old Indian world:  
Thy breath from far the Indian cheers.

Back to thee, O Kanawâki !  
 Let the rapids dash between  
 Indian homes and white men's manners,—  
 Kanawâki and Lachine !

O, my dear ! O Knife-and-Arrows !  
 Thou art bronzed, thy limbs are lithe ;  
 How I laugh when through the crosse-game  
 Slipst thou like red elder-withe !  
 Thou art none of these pale-faces !  
 When with thee I'll happy feel ;  
 For thou art the Indian warrior  
 From thy head unto thy heel !

Sweet the Kōnoronkwa chorus  
 Floats across the currents strong ;  
 Clear behold the parish steeple  
 Rise the ancient walls among !  
 Skim us deftly, noiseless paddle :  
 In my shawl my bosom burns !  
 Kanawâki,—“ By the Rapid,”—  
 Thy own child to thee returns.

---

WAHONOMIN.<sup>1</sup> (INDIAN HYMN TO THE QUEEN.)

FREDERICK GEORGE SCOTT.

GREAT mother ! we have wondered that thy sons,  
 Thy pale sons, should have left thy side and come  
 To these wild plains, and sought the haunts of bears  
 And red men. Why their battle with the woods ?

<sup>1</sup> “Wahonomin” is an Indian cry of lamentation.



Whither go they upon the gods of iron,  
 Out of the golden sunrise to the mists  
 Of purple evening in the setting west?  
 Their lives have scarce as many moons as ours,  
 Nor happier are. We know not what they seek;  
 For death's cold finger chills their fevered life,  
 As in the wilds he stills the meanest worm,  
 And death flies with them over all their paths,  
 And waits them in the heart of wildest waste;  
 They cannot break his power. Forgive these thoughts  
 If, as they rise like mists, they dim the gold  
 That zones thy brow. They came to us at night,  
 As we have sat in council round the fire;  
 They seemed the echo of the sighing pines  
 Far in our soul. One evening rose a chief,  
 White-headed, bowed with years, one hand on staff,  
 One on death's arm, preparing for the way.  
 "My sons," he said, "these people are not wise,  
 We bide our time, and they will pass away;  
 Then shall the red man come like a bird in spring,  
 And build the broken camp, and hunt and fish  
 In his old woods. These people pass away;  
 For I have thought through many nights and days,  
 And wondered what they seek; and now I know,  
 And knowing, say these people are not wise.  
 They found these plains beneath the burning west,  
 And westward, ever westward, still they press,  
 Seeking the shining meadows of the land  
 Where the sun sleeps, and, folded 'neath his wings,  
 The happy spirits breathe eternal day.  
 But I have lived thro' fivescore changing years,  
 And I have talked with wintry-headed chiefs,  
 And I have heard that kingdom is not reached  
 Thro' woods and plains, but by the bridge of death.  
 This people is not wise; we bide our time."

CAUGHINAWAGA SONG.

(*Rinonwes, rinonwes, Rakeni.*)

Tr. JOHN WANIENTE JOCKS.

CHORUS.

I LOVE him, I love him, father,—  
That young man!

MAIDEN.

Well, father, what is thy word?  
My spirit is now to marry.

FATHER.

Ashamed be thou, my child,—  
Thou whom I hold my little one,—  
Thou are yet too young;  
Thou can'st not get thee thy food.

MAIDEN (*in the words of the Chorus*).

I love him, I love him, father,—  
That young man.

FATHER.

Hard drinks he, he thou lovest;  
Great tears this would later make thee shed.

CHORUS (*passionately*).

I love him, I love him, father,—  
That young man.

FATHER.

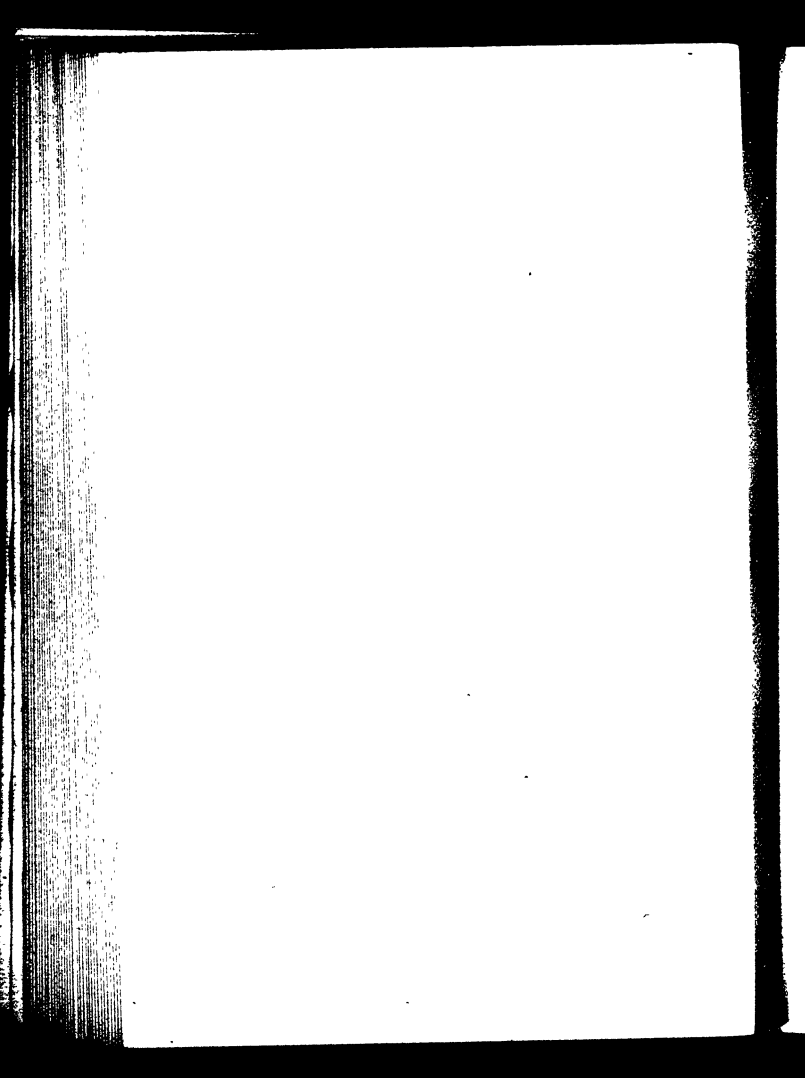
Thou askest for food; he will show thee a  
bottle.

CHORUS (*softly*).

Yet I love him, I love him, father,—  
That young man.



IV.—THE VOYAGEUR AND  
HABITANT.



IV.—THE VOYAGEUR AND  
HABITANT.

---

THE OLD RÉGIME.

(From "Song of Welcome.")

"SERANUS."

. . . . .

YET survives a strain,  
One of saddest singing,  
Chant of Habitant,  
On the river ringing ;  
Born in olden France,  
All of dame and dance,  
Brought with golden lily.  
From the distant pines,  
From the northern waters,  
From hardy sons and toiling daughters,  
Salutation ; Salutation !

## RECIT.

Strange visions of a land beyond the sea,  
The quaint old towns and farms of Normandy,—  
The land he never saw and ne'er will see !

Strange visions of a life as bright and gay  
As his own now is quiet, dull and gray,—  
The many-coloured life of Yesterday !

Strange visions of a past still dimly dear,  
Since he, the toiler, cannot but revere  
The past he may not see, nor feel, nor hear !

And strange for us the other sudden thought,  
How without dreams that float across the foam  
Of gray Atlantic, float, and float, and flash  
At length on shores of Gallic name and fame  
Into the actual glitter of old time—  
We hold among our best possessions still,  
E'en here in new and northern land—a past,  
We have not many ruins, it is true ;  
And those we have, pray daily, but in vain,  
For friendly green that grows not *gratis* here.  
Not more than scraps of history, they have said !  
They are enough to interest, kindle too,  
If wisely we have learned to love our land,  
But not enough to bore—no pedants here.  
Here—tower and trophy, mound and monument,  
The cairn and cuneiform of an Old World  
Give place to Nature in her purity.  
But what we have, we cling to. We would keep  
All dear tradition ; be it picturesque  
In the old *voyageur* with gay festoons



Of floating ribbons, happy, noisy, free ;  
Or polished, in the careful cavalier,  
Fresh-furbelowed from out his sunny France,—  
Heroic, in the story of Verchères ;  
Or dark, in that of dismal Beaumanoir.  
Through the long years we see as in a dream,—  
And will not part with it—the Old Régime.

Powdered tresses and rich brocade,  
Stately matron and charming maid ;

Flashing steel and stubborn rust,  
Blood for blood and thrust for thrust ;

Hand on heart in the good old style,  
Courtly lips on lips without guile ;

The young sweet land of *La Nouvelle France*,  
Knew it all by a strange sweet chance ;

All the charm of the dainty dressing,  
All the force of a gay professing.

CHORUS.—And still we seem  
As in a dream,  
To watch the Old Régime,  
The Old Régime !

Crowned Quebec on her Citadel  
Fierce wild tales of her youth can tell ;

Tales of ghosts that still pursue  
Scenes of riot and bloodshed too ;

Tales of dark stains on the flooring,  
Tales of woman's wild imploring ;

The young sweet land of *La Nouvelle France*,  
Had its share of Old World romance ;

But sobered by Time are sword and gown,  
And quiet reigns in the grey old town.

CHORUS.— Yet still we seem  
As in a dream,  
To watch the Old Régime,  
The Old Régime !

---

MALBROUCK.

(*Old Chanson.*)

Tr. WILLIAM M'LENNAN.

MALBROUCK has gone a-fighting,  
*Mironton, mironton, mirontaine,*  
Malbrouck has gone a-fighting  
But when will he return ?

Perchance he'll come at Easter  
Or else at Trinity Term.

But Trinity Term is over  
And Malbrouck comes not yet.

My Lady climbs her watch tower  
As high as she can get.

She sees her page approaching  
All clad in sable hue :

“ Ah page, brave page, what tidings  
From my true lord bring you ? ”

“ The news I bring, fair Lady,  
Will make your tears run down ;

“ Put off your rose-red dress so fine  
And doff your satin gown ;

“ Monsieur Malbrouck is dead, alas !  
And buried too, for aye ;

“ I saw four officers who bore  
His mighty corse away.

“ One bore his cuirass, and his friend  
His shield of iron wrought ;

“ The third his mighty sabre bore,  
And the fourth—he carried nought.

“ And at the corners of his tomb  
They planted rose-marie ;

“ And from their tops the nightingale  
Rings out her carol free.

“ We saw, above the laurels,  
His soul fly forth amain ;

“ And each one fell upon his face  
And then rose up again.

“ And so we sang the glories  
For which great Malbrouck bled ;

“ And when the whole was ended  
Each one went off to bed.

“ I say no more my Lady,  
*Mironton, mironton, mirontainz,*  
I say no more, my Lady,  
As nought more can be said.”

---

À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE.

(*Old Chanson.*)

Tr. W. D. LIGHTHALL.

I.

UNTO the crystal fountain  
For pleasure did I stray ;  
So fair I found the waters  
My limbs in them I lay.



VI.

For I have lost my mistress,  
Whom I did true obey,  
All for a bunch of roses,  
Whereof I said her nay.  
Long is it, etc.

VII.

I would those luckless roses  
Were on their bush to-day,  
And that itself the rosebush  
Were plunged in ocean's spray.

Long is it I have loved thee,  
Thee shall I love alway,  
My dearest ;  
Long is it I have loved thee,  
Thee shall I love alway.

---

EN ROULANT MA BOULÉ.

(*Old Chanson.*)

Tr. WILLIAM M'LENNAN.

BEHIND the Manor lies the mere,  
*En roulant ma boulé ;*  
Three ducks bathe in its waters clear,  
*En roulant ma boulé.*

*Rouli, roukant, ma boulé roulant,  
En roulant ma boulé roulant,  
En roulant ma boulé.*

Three fairy ducks swim without fear :  
The Prince goes hunting far and near.

The Prince at last draws near the lake ;  
He bears his gun of magic make.

With magic gun of silver bright,  
He sights the Black but kills the White.

He sights the Black but kills the White :  
Ah ! cruel Prince, my heart you smite.

Ah ! cruel Prince, my heart you break,  
In killing thus my snow-white Drake.

My snow-white Drake, my Love, my King ;  
The crimson life-blood stains his wing.

His life-blood falls in rubies bright,  
His diamond eyes have lost their light.

The cruel ball has found its quest,  
His golden bill sinks on his breast.

His golden bill sinks on his breast,  
His plumes go floating East and West.

Far, far they're borne to distant lands,  
Till gathered by fair maidens' hands ;

Till gathered by fair maidens' hands ;  
And form at last a soldier's bed.

And form at last a soldier's bed,  
*En roulant ma boulé ;*  
Sweet refuge for the wanderer's head,  
*En roulant ma boulé.*

*Rouli, roulant, ma boulé roulant,  
En roulant ma boulé roulant,  
En roulant ma boulé.*

---

ENTRE PARIS ET SAINT-DENIS.

(*Old Chanson.*)

Tr. WILLIAM M'LENNAN.

TWIXT Paris fair and St. Denis  
The dance was up one day,  
And all the ladies of the town  
Looked on in brave array.

*Sur la feuille ron, . . . don don don,  
Sur la joli, joli' feuille ronde.*



And all the ladies of the town  
Looked on in brave array,  
All save the Princess fair, who glanced  
Adown the dusty way.

The Princess fair cast wistful looks  
Adown the dusty way,  
And soon she saw her messenger  
Ride from where Nantés lay.

She saw her faithful messenger  
His way from Nantés wing ;  
“ Now, messenger, from Nantés town  
What tidings do you bring ? ”

“ Now, Messenger, bold Messenger,  
What news from Nantés fair ? ”  
“ The only news I bring, fair Dame,  
Your lover bade me bear.

“ The only news I bring is this :  
Your lover bade me say,  
That he has found a sweetheart new,  
Choose you a gallant gay.

“ Choose you another gallant gay,  
For I've a sweetheart rare, ”  
“ Now is she wiser far than I,  
Or is her face more fair ? ”

“Now is she wiser far than I,  
Or is her face more fair?”  
“Although not near so fair as you,  
Her wisdom’s past compare.

“Her beauty is not like to yours,  
But secret lore she knows ;  
She makes the snow, she makes the hail,  
She makes the wind that blows.

“She makes the wind that blows so free,  
She makes the snow so fine ;  
At midnight hour, within her bower,  
She makes the sun to shine.

“She makes the sun to shine again  
At midnight in her bower ;  
And on the borders of the sea  
Makes rosemary to flower.”

*Sur la feuille rou, . . . don don dor,  
Sur la jolî, jolî feuille ronde.*

---

MARIANSON.

*(Old Chanson.)*

Tr. WILLIAM M'LENNAN.

“AH ! Marianson, my beauteous dame,  
Where is your lord and master gone ?”

"My lord rides to the battle-plain,  
I know not if he'll come again."

"Ah! Marianson, my lady fair,  
Lend me your rings of gold so rare."

"In the iron chest beside my bed,  
You'll find the rings," she sweetly said.

"Now, Goldsmith, fashion me with care  
Three golden rings of metal rare.

Three golden rings of fashion rare,  
Like those that Marianson doth wear."

When he receives his golden rings  
Upon his steed he lightly springs.

The first he meets upon the road  
Is Marianson's haughty lord.

"Fair greeting now, bold cavalier,  
What tidings do you bring me here?"

"Of tidings new I bring you none,  
Save of the Lady Marianson."

"Ah! Marianson, my lady fair!  
She's faithful aye, I'll boldly swear."

“ I say not ‘ yes,’—I say not ‘ no,’  
But see—the rings from her hands of snow.”

“ You lie ! you lie ! bold cavalier ;  
My wife is faithful, far or near.”

His wife stood on the ramparts high ;  
She saw her lord ride wildly by.

Her heart stood still with a sudden fear  
When she marked his face as he drew anear.

“ Now, mother, show our new-born child,  
Its grace will calm his anger wild.”

“ My son, behold your son and heir ;  
What name wilt thou give the babe to bear ?”

He cried, “ I’ll give the child a name  
That will fill its mother’s life with shame.”

He has seized the infant in its mirth,  
And thrice has dashed it to the earth.

And Marianson, that lady fair,  
He has tied to his horse by her golden hair.

Three days, three nights, he rode like wind,  
And never cast a look behind.

Till, at close of the third long night,  
He turned and looked on that awful sight.

“ Ah ! Marianson, my lady fair,  
Where are your golden rings so rare ? ”

“ In the iron chest, beside my bed,  
You'll find the rings, ” she sadly said.

He has ta'en the keys with an evil grace,  
And has found the rings in their hiding-place.

“ Ah ! Marianson, my lady fair,  
You shall have the best chirurgeon's care. ”

“ The best chirurgeon I would crave  
Is a fine white sheet for my quiet grave. ”

“ Ah ! Marianson, my beauteous dame,  
Will God e'er pardon all my shame ? ”

“ My death is pardoned now, ” she smiled,  
“ But never that of our helpless child. ”

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THE RE-SETTLEMENT OF ACADIA.

ARTHUR WENTWORTH EATON.

THE rocky slopes for emerald had changed their garb of  
gray,  
When the vessels from Connecticut came sailing up the  
bay,  
There were flashing lights on every wave that drew the  
strangers on,  
And wreaths of wild arbutus round the brows of  
Blomidon.

Five years in desolation the Acadian land had lain,  
Five golden harvest moons had wooed the fallow fields  
in vain;  
Five times the winter snows caressed, and summer sun-  
sets smiled,  
On lonely clumps of willows, and fruit trees growing wild.

There was silence in the forest, and along the Uniac shore,  
And not a habitation from Canard to Beauséjour,  
But many a ruined cellar and many a broken wall  
Told the story of Acadia's prosperity, and fall!

And even in the sunshine of that peaceful day in June,  
When Nature swept her harp, and found the strings in  
perfect tune,  
The land seemed calling wildly for its owners, far away,  
The exiles scattered on the coast from Maine to  
Charleston Bay.

Where, with many bitter longings for their fair homes and  
their dead,  
They bowed their heads in anguish, and would not be  
comforted ;  
And like the Jewish exiles, long ago, beyond the sea,  
They could not sing the songs of home in their captivity !

But the simple Norman peasant-folk shall till the land no  
more,  
For the vessels from Connecticut have anchored by the  
shore,  
And many a sturdy Puritan, his mind with Scripture  
stored,  
Rejoices he has found at last his "garden of the Lord."

There are families from Jolland, from Killingworth and  
Lyme ;  
Gentle mothers, tender maidens, and strong men in their  
prime ;  
There are lovers who have plighted their vows in  
Coventry,  
And merry children, dancing o'er the vessels' decks in  
glee.

They come as came the Hebrews into their promised  
land,  
Not as to wild New England's shores came first the  
Pilgrim band,  
The Minas fields were fruitful, and the Gaspereau had  
borne  
To seaward many a vessel with its freight of yellow corn.

They come with hearts as true as their manners blunt and  
 cold,  
 To found a race of noble men of stern New England  
 mould,  
 A race of earnest people, whom the coming years shall  
 teach  
 The broader ways of knowledge and the gentler forms of  
 speech.

They come as Puritans, but who shall say their hearts are  
 blind  
 To the subtle charms of Nature and the love of human-  
 kind !  
 The Blue Laws of Connecticut have shaped their thought,  
 'tis true,  
 But human laws can never wholly Heaven's work undo.

And tears fall fast from many an eye long time unused to  
 weep,  
 For o'er the fields lay whitening the bones of cows and  
 sheep—  
 The faithful cows that used to feed upon the broad Grand  
 Pré,  
 And with their tinkling bells come slowly home at close  
 of day.

And where the Acadian village stood, its roofs o'ergrown  
 with moss,  
 And the simple wooden chapel with its altar and its cross  
 And where the forge of Basil sent its sparks towards the  
 sky,  
 The lonely thistle blossomed and the fire-weed grew high

. . . . .



CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 57

The broken dykes have been rebuilt a century and more,  
The cornfields stretch their furrows from Canard to Beau-  
séjour,  
Five generations have been reared beside the fair Grand  
Pré  
Since the vessels from Connecticut came sailing up the  
Bay.

And now across the meadows, while the farmers reap  
and sow,  
The engine shrieks its discords to the hills of Gaspereau ;  
And ever onward to the sea, the restless Fundy tide  
Bears playful pleasure-yachts and busy trade ships side  
by side.

And the Puritan has yielded to the softening touch of  
time,  
Like him who still content remained in Killingworth and  
Lyme ;  
And graceful homes of prosperous men make all the land-  
scape fair,  
And mellow creeds and ways of life are rooted every-  
where.

And churches nestle lovingly on many a glad hillside,  
And holy bells ring out their music in the eventide ;  
But here and there, on untilled ground, apart from glebe  
or town,  
Some lone surviving apple tree stands leafless, bare and  
brown.

And many a traveller has found, as thoughtlessly he  
strayed,  
Some long-forgotten cellar in the deepest thicket's shade,  
And clumps of willows by the dykes, sweet-scented, fair  
and green,  
That seemed to tell again the story of Evangeline.

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AT THE CEDARS.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT.

You had two girls, Baptiste,  
One is Virginie —  
Hold hard, Baptiste,  
Listen to me.

The whole drive was jammed,  
In that bend at the Cedars ;  
The rapids were dammed,  
With the logs tight rammed  
And crammed ; you might know  
The devil had clinched them below.

We worked three days—not a budge !  
“ She's as tight as a wedge,  
On the ledge.”  
Says our foreman,  
“ Mon Dieu ! boys, look here,  
We must get this thing clear.”  
He cursed at the men,  
And we went for it then,

With our cant-dogs arow ;  
We just gave "he yo ho,"  
When she gave a big shove  
From above.

The gang yelled, and tore  
For the shore ;  
The logs gave a grind,  
Like a wolf's jaws behind,  
And as quick as a flash,  
With a shove and a crash,  
They were down in a mash.  
But I, and ten more,  
All, but Isaac Dufour,  
Were ashore.

He leaped on a log in front of the rush,  
And shot out from the bind,  
While the jam roared behind ;  
As he floated along,  
He balanced his pole,  
And tossed us a song.

But, just as we cheered,  
Up darted a log from the bottom,  
Leaped thirty feet, fair and square,  
And came down on his own.

He went up like a block,  
With the shock ;  
And when he was there,  
In the air,

Kissed his hand  
To the land.  
When he dropped,  
My heart stopped,  
For the first logs had caught him,  
And crushed him ;  
When he rose in his place  
There was blood on his face.

There were some girls, Baptiste,  
Picking berries on the hillside,  
Where the river curls, Baptiste,  
You know,—on the still side ;  
One was down by the water,  
She saw Isaac  
Fall back.

She didn't scream, Baptiste ;  
She launched her canoe,—  
It did seem, Baptiste,  
That she wanted to die too,  
For before you could think,  
The birch cracked like a shell  
In that rush of hell,  
And I saw them both sink——

Baptiste !!——

He had two girls,  
One is Virginie ;  
What God calls the other,  
Is not known to me.

ROSE LATULIPPE.

(*A French-Canadian Legend.*)

“SERANUS.”

THE story or ballad of Ma'amselle Rose,  
Surnamed Latulippe, as the story goes.

Seventeen hundred and forty, I'm told,  
The winter was long and dark and cold.

The frosts were hard, and the snows were deep,  
Lake and river were wrapped in sleep.

The days so short, and the food so dear,  
At Christmas-time made sorry cheer.

The drifts piled high, and the roads left bare,  
Made New Year's Day a slow affair.

Yet Noël and New Year's as Paradise were  
To Lent with its vision of fasting and prayer.

And lively girls like Ma'amselle Rose,  
In her dark-blue skirt and her scarlet hose,

All over the country felt the same,  
With their restless feet and their eyes of flame,

62 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

Striving to make the most of their fun  
Ere Mardi-Gras should behold it done.

The day before has Ma'amselle Rose,  
Standing on tip of her little toes,

Petitioned her father with modest glance  
To let her give—a little dance.

And here we know just what came about,  
For Rose, too cunning to beg or pout,

At once is accorded—so frank, so sweet,  
Who could refuse her?—the wished-for treat.

Great were the preparations then,  
The asking of girls, the finding of men ;

For partners are rare in this wild new land,  
Where girls grow as ripe and ready to hand

As in any tropical island or town  
(Lying becalmed 'neath a starry crown,

Rich with clustering fruit and flower,  
With gaudy creeper and glowing bower),

Though few are as fair as Ma'amselle Rose,  
In her dark-blue skirt and her scarlet hose.

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 63

As for Mardi-Gras—*ciel!* What a day,  
The wind it blew this way, that way,—

All ways at once, you would have said,  
Till the snow was whirled far over the head,

And towards the evening a storm uprose  
Which frightened all save Ma'amselle Rose.

The windows rattled—what did she care?  
She was upstairs plaiting her long brown hair.

The watch-dog howled, but she did not hear,  
She was hanging an earring in either ear;

And, thinking of onyx and filigree,  
And musing, of these, which shall it be,

She hardly observes old Mère Marmette,  
Who has come in a tremble to look for her pet.

Old Mère Marmette, with her withered face,  
Under the cap with its starched white lace,

Just as one sees, in a cold March wood,  
An old brown leaf with its snowy hood

Pushed back a little, that one may know  
Will melt full soon the frost and the snow.

64 CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.

"O Rose, *chérie*, did you not hear me call?  
I fear for you, child, and I fear for us all!

'Tis the wildest night the Curé has known,  
And to hear that good dog howl and moan

Is enough to drive one on to one's knees,  
Though there, to be sure, we all might freeze

Such a night as this!" "Why, how you talk!"  
Says Ma'amselle Rose, as she stops in her walk

To drape her flowered Indian shawl,  
Thinking it makes her look quite tall.

"*Mon Dieu!* you talk," says Ma'amselle Rose,  
With her laughing eye and her petulant pose,

"As if we had not seen nights as dark,  
Or had never heard old Pierrot bark!"

Then to the window quick she flies—  
"Look, Mère Marmette, look, look, what eyes!

What a figure! what grace! what a noble steed!  
Now, who can it be? Now who, indeed?"

"*Ciel!* I know not! Some stranger bold—  
The town is full of such, I'm told;



CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 65

And Rose Latulippe, look you, do not forget  
The last advice of your old Marmette,

Dance, dance, little Rose, dance all you like  
Till the midnight hour from the clock shall strike ;

But to dance after twelve to-night is a *sin*,  
Whether with stranger or kith or kin.

And the Curé says——” “ I know, I know,  
Good mother Marmette, you tease one so !”

And with in the mirror a flying peep,  
Away to the dance flies Rose Latulippe.

Already the guests are gathering all  
In the long low room and the narrow hall,

Where hang the rude sticks and the stout raquettes,  
And the great fur coats in patches wet

With the falling snow, that still outside  
Is whirled aloft in an eddying tide !

There are the tenants from west and east,  
From north to south, all bidden to feast

On pâtés, and fowls, and ragoûts immense,  
All at their generous Seigneur's expense.

66 CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.

And here is old Jacques, the blind habitant,  
Who can sing you the whole of *Le Juif Errant*,

And play on his fiddle such tunes so gay,  
As *Le vent frivoltant*, and *J'ai tant dansé*.

And now all the Seigneury forms in a line,  
Then the *Grande Promenade* with an air so fine,

One can hardly believe it is "homespun grey"  
And "*bottes sauvages*" who are leading the way.

And next they engage in a merry round dance,  
Imported, of course, direct from France,

Which must surely gladden our gay little Rose,  
In her dark-blue skirt and her scarlet hose.

But where is Rose? In the window seat  
She seems to have found a cosy retreat,

And with her the stranger, tall and bold,  
From her window she saw alight in the cold.

His eyes flash fire, and his brow is stern,  
Yet his words with a thrilling music burn.

He knows her name, he has called her Rose,  
Till her cheek with a brighter crimson glows:

He takes her hand, he holds it fast,  
And into the circle they slip at last.

Then who so happy as little Rose,  
While her red cheek redder and redder grows !

Again and again they dance like this,  
And once has the stranger stolen a kiss,

That has almost frightened our brave little Rose—  
Like a shudder of fire through her frame it goes—

Till the girls all stand in a whispering ring,  
And deem it the very strangest thing,

That Rose should have known this cavalier,  
And finish by deeming it *very queer*,—

As girls in all ages somehow do  
When they have not been courted too.

But Mère Marmette is troubled still,  
She follows her pet about until

The stranger has thrown her a wicked glance  
That might have sent her into a trance,

Had she not quickly crossed herself,  
And gone on washing and drying the delf ;

68 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

For now, the feasting and supper all done,  
Is the very height of Mardi-Gras fun.

Soon it will be the midnight hour  
When to dance or play will be out of the power

Of all good Catholics, young and old,  
Who wish to remain in the Church's fold.

But so proud and happy is Ma'amselle Rose,  
In her dark-blue skirt and her scarlet hose,

With the stranger's arm around her waist,  
And her hand on his shoulder lightly placed,

That when he beseeches for one turn more,  
She slips on his arm out through the door

Into the dim and narrow hall,  
Where creep the long shadows up the wall.

And lo, in a minute or less, that same Rose,  
Surnamed Latulippe, as the story goes,

In the stranger's arms is spinning around  
To a strange and diabolical sound,

Which cometh from no known instrument,  
As old blind Jacques, in his corner intent

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 69

On a big pork pâté, very well knows :  
Alas for poor little Ma'amselle Rose !

For presently, louder than Rose quite likes,  
The tall old clock on the staircase strikes.

"*Mon Dieu !*" she cries, "you must let me go ;  
'Tis twelve and after !" "Nay, nay, not so !

I have you, and hold you, and fold you tight,  
You are mine," says the stranger, "from to-night.

Dance, dance, little Rose, a word in your ear,  
You are dancing with Lucifer, what dost thou fear?"

. . . . .  
The Curé ! the Curé ! He takes it all in,  
From Rose, in her peril of horrible sin,

To Mother Marmette and the aged Seigneur,  
The whispering girls and the dazed voyageur.

And breathing a hurried and silent prayer,  
And making the sign of the cross in the air,

And saying aloud, "The Church hath power  
To save her children in such an hour,"

He taketh the maiden by both her hands,  
Whilst Lucifer dark and discomfited stands ;

Snorting and stamping in fiendish ire,  
He gains his steed with the eyes of fire,

Who gives one loud and terrible neigh,  
And then in the darkness thunders away.

. . . . .

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ADIEU TO FRANCE.

(From "*De Roberval.*")

JOHN HUNTER-DUVAR.

ADIEU to France ! my latest glance  
Falls on thy port and bay, Rochelle ;  
The sunrays on the surf-curls dance,  
And springtime, like a pleasing spell,  
Harmonious holds the land and sea.  
How long, alas, I cannot tell,  
Ere this scene will come back to me !

The hours fleet fast, and on the mast  
Soon shall I hoist the parting sail ;  
Soon will the outer bay 'be passed,  
And on the skyline eyes will fail  
To see a streak that means the land.  
On, then ! before the tides and gale,  
Hope at the helm, and in God's hand.

What doom I meet, my heart will beat  
For France, the débonnaire and gay ;  
She ever will in memory's seat  
Be present to my mind alway.  
Hope whispers my return to you,  
Dear land, but should Fate say me nay,  
And this should be my latest view,  
Fair France, loved France, *my* France, adieu !  
*Salut à la France, salut !*





V.—SETTLEMENT LIFE.



V.—*SETTLEMENT LIFE.*

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SONG OF THE AXE.

ISABELLA VALANCEY CRAWFORD.

HIGH grew the snow beneath the low-hung sky,  
And all was silent in the wilderness ;  
In trance of stillness Nature heard her God  
Rebuilding her spent fires, and veil'd her face  
While the Great Worker brooded o'er His work.

“ Bite deep and wide, O Axe, the tree,  
What doth thy bold voice promise me ? ”

“ I promise thee all joyous things,  
That furnish forth the lives of kings ! ”

“ For ev'ry silver ringing blow,  
Cities and palaces shall grow ! ”

“ Bite deep and wide, O Axe, the tree,  
Tell wider prophecies to me. ”

“When rust hath gnaw’d me deep and red,  
A nation strong shall lift his head!

“His crown the very Heav’ns shall smite,  
Æons shall build him in his might!”

“Bite deep and wide, O Axe, the tree;  
Bright Seer, help on thy prophecy!”

Max smote the snow-weigh’d tree, and lightly laugh’d.  
“See, friend,” he cried to one that look’d and smil’d,  
“My axe and I—we do immortal tasks—  
We build up nations—this my axe and I!”

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FIRE IN THE WOODS; OR, THE OLD  
SETTLER’S STORY.

ALEXANDER M’LACHLAN.

WHEN first I settled in the woods,  
There were no neighbours nigh,  
And scarce a living thing, save wolves  
And Molly dear, and I.  
We had our troubles, ne’er a doubt,  
In those wild woods alone;  
But then, sir, I was bound to have  
A homestead of my own.

This was my field of battle, and  
The forest was my foe,  
And here I fought with ne'er a thought,  
Save "lay the giants low."  
I toiled in hope—got in a crop,  
And Molly watched the cattle ;  
To keep those "breachy" steers away,  
She had a weary battle.

The devil's dears were those two steers,—  
Ah, they were born fence-breakers !  
And sneaked all day, and watched their prey,  
Like any salt-sea wreckers.  
And gradually, as day by day,  
My crop grew golden yellow,  
My heart and hope grew with that crop,—  
I was a happy fellow.

That crop would set me on my feet,  
And I'd have done with care ;  
I built away, the live-long day,  
Such "castles in the air !"  
I'd beaten poverty at last,  
And, like a little boy  
When he has got his first new coat,  
I fairly leapt for joy.

I blush to think upon it yet  
That I was such a fool ;  
But young folks must learn wisdom, sir,  
In old Misfortune's school.

78 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

One fatal night, I thought the wind  
Gave some unwonted sighs,  
Down through the swamp I heard a tramp  
Which took me by surprise.

Is this an earthquake drawing near?  
The forest moans and shivers;  
And then I thought that I could hear  
The rushing of great rivers;  
And while I looked and listened there,  
A herd of deer swept by,  
As from a close pursuing foe  
They madly seem'd to fly.

But still those sounds, in long deep bounds,  
Like warning heralds came,  
And then I saw, with fear and awe,  
The heavens were all aflame.  
I knew the woods must be on fire,  
I trembled for my crop;  
As I stood there, in mute despair,  
It seem'd the death of hope.

On, on it came, a sea of flame,  
In long deep rolls of thunder,  
And drawing near, it seem'd to tear  
The heavens and earth asunder!  
How those waves snored, and raged, and roared,  
And reared in wild commotion!  
On, on they came, like steeds of flame  
Upon a burning ocean.

How they did snort, in fiendish sport,  
As at the great elms dashing;  
And how they tore 'mong hemlocks hoar,  
And through the pines went crashing;  
While serpents wound the trunks around,  
Their eyes like demons gleaming.  
And wrapped like thongs around the prongs,  
And to the crests went screaming!

Ah! how they swept, and madly leapt,  
From shrinking spire to spire,  
'Mid hissing hail, and in their trail  
A waving lake of fire!  
Anon some whirlwind, all aflame,  
Growled in the ocean under;  
Then up would reel a fiery wheel  
And belch forth smoke and thunder!

And it was all that we could do  
To save ourselves by flight,  
As from its track we madly flew,—  
Oh! 'twas an awful night!  
When all was past, I stood aghast,  
My crop and shanty gone,  
And blackened trunks 'mid smouldering chunks  
Like spectres looking on!

A host of skeletons they seemed,  
Amid the twilight dim,  
All standing there in their despair,  
With faces gaunt and grim;

And I stood like a spectre too,  
A ruined man was I,  
And nothing left,—what could I do  
But sit me down and cry?

A heavy heart indeed was mine,  
For I was ruined wholly,  
And I gave way that awful day  
To moping melancholy ;  
I lost my all, in field and stall,  
And nevermore would thrive,  
All save those steers,—the devil's dears  
Had saved themselves alive.

Nor would I have a farm to-day,  
Had it not been for Molly,  
She cheered me up, and charmed away  
My moping melancholy ;  
She schemed and planned to keep the land,  
And cultivate it too,  
And how I moiled, and strained, and toiled,  
And fought the battle through.

Yes, Molly played her part full well ;  
She's plucky, every inch, sir !  
It seemed to me the "deil himsel'"  
Could not make Molly flinch, sir ;  
We wrought and fought, until our star  
Got into the ascendant ;  
At troubles past we smile at last,  
And now we're independent !



BURNT LANDS.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

ON other fields and other scenes the morn  
Laughs from her blue,—but not such scenes are these,  
Where comes no summer cheer of leaves and bees,  
And no shade mitigates the day's white scorn.  
These serious acres vast no groves adorn ;  
But giant trunks, bleak shapes that once were trees,  
Tower naked, unassuaged of rain or breeze,  
Their stern grey isolation grimly borne.

The months roll over them, and mark no change ;  
But when spring stirs, or autumn stills, the years,  
Surely some phantom leafage rustles faint  
Thro' their parched dreams,—some old-time notes ring  
strange,  
When in his slender treble, far and clear,  
Reiterates the rain-bird his complaint.

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FROM "MALCOLM'S KATIE."

ISABELLA VALANCEY CRAWFORD.

THE South Wind laid his moccasins aside,  
Broke his gay calumet of flow'rs, and cast  
His useless wampun, beaded with cool dews,  
Far from him, northward ; his long ruddy spear

Flung sunward, whence it came ; and his soft locks  
Of warm fine haze grew silver as the birch.  
His wigwam of green leaves began to shake ;  
The crackling rice-beds scolded harsh like squaws ;  
The small ponds pouted up their silver lips ;  
The great lakes ey'd the mountains,—whisper'd " Ugh !  
Are ye so tall, O chiefs ? " " Not taller than  
Our plumes can reach, "—and rose a little way,  
As panthers stretch to try their velvet limbs,  
And then retreat to purr and bide their time.  
At morn the sharp breath of the night arose  
From the wide prairies, in deep-struggling seas,  
In rolling breakers, bursting to the sky ;  
In tumbling surfs, all yellow'd faintly thro'  
With the low sun ; in mad, conflicting crests,  
Voic'd with low thunder from the hairy throats  
Of the mist-buried herds ; and for a man  
To stand amid the cloudy roll and moil,  
The phantom waters breaking overhead,  
Shades of vex'd billows bursting on his breast,  
Torn caves of mist wall'd with a sudden gold,  
Reseal'd as swift as seen,—broad, shaggy fronts,  
Fire-ey'd and tossing on impatient horns  
The wave impalpable,—was but to think  
A dream of phantoms held him as he stood !  
The late, last thunders of the summer crash'd  
Where shriek'd great eagles, lords of naked cliffs ;  
The pulseless Forest, lock'd and interlock'd  
So closely, bough with bough, and leaf with leaf,  
So serf'd by its own wealth, that while from high  
The moons of summer kiss'd its green-gloss'd locks,  
And round its knees the merry West Wind danc'd,  
And round its ring-compacted emerald,  
The South Wind crept on moccasins of flame,  
And the red fingers of th' impatient Sun

Pluck'd at its outmost fringes,—its dim veins  
 Beat with no life ; its deep and dusky heart,  
 In a deep trance of shadow, felt no throb  
 To such soft wooing answer ! Thro' its dream  
 Brown rivers of deep waters sunless stole ;  
 Small creeks sprang from its mosses, and amaz'd,  
 Like children in a wigwam curtain'd close  
 Above the great dead heart of some red chief,  
 Slipp'd on soft feet, swift stealing through the gloom,  
 Eager for light and for the frolic winds.  
 In this shrill Moon the scouts of winter ran  
 From the ice-belted north, and whistling shafts  
 Struck maple and struck sumach, and a blaze  
 Ran swift from leaf to leaf, from bough to bough ;  
 Till round the forest flash'd a belt of flame,  
 And inward lick'd its tongues of red and gold  
 To the deep tranced inmost heart of all.  
 Rous'd the still heart,—but all too late, too late !  
 Too late the branches, welded fast with leaves,  
 Toss'd, loosen'd to the winds ; too late the Sun  
 Pour'd his last vigour to the deep dark cells  
 Of the dim wood ! The keen two-bladed Moon  
 Of Falling Leaves roll'd up on crested mists ;  
 And where the lush rank boughs had foiled the Sun  
 In his red prime, her pale sharp fingers crept  
 After the wind, and felt about the moss,  
 And seem'd to pluck from shrinking twig and stem  
 The burning leaves,—while groaned the shudd'ring  
 wood !

. . . . .  
 The mighty morn strode laughing up the land,  
 And Max, the labourer and the lover, stood  
 Within the forest's edge, beside a tree,—  
 The mossy king of all the woody tribes,—

Whose clatt'ring branches rattl'd, shuddering,  
 As the bright axe cleav'd moon-like thro' the air,  
 Waking strange thunders, rousing echoes link'd  
 From the full lion-throated roar to sighs  
 Stealing on dove-wings thro' the distant aisles.  
 Swift fell the axe, swift follow'd roar on roar,  
 Till the bare woodland bellow'd in its rage  
 As the first-slain slow topp'd to his fall.  
 "O King of Desolation, art thou dead?"  
 Thought Max, and laughing, heart and lips, leap'd on  
 The vast prone trunk. "And have I slain a King?  
 Above his ashes will I build my house;—  
 No slave beneath its pillars, but—a King!"

It was not all his own, the axe-stirr'd waste.  
 In these new days men spread about the earth,  
 With wings at heel,—and now the settler hears,  
 While yet his axe rings on the primal woods,  
 The shrieks of engines rushing o'er the wastes,  
 Nor parts his kind to hew his fortunes out.  
 And as one drop glides down the unknown rock,  
 And the bright-threaded stream leaps after it  
 With welded billions, so the settler finds  
 His solitary footsteps beaten out  
 With the quick rush of panting human waves,  
 Upheav'd by throbs of angry poverty,  
 And driven by keen blasts of hunger, from  
 Their native strands,—so stern, so dark, so drear.  
 O, then, to see the troubl'd, groaning waves,  
 Throb down to peace in kindly valley beds,  
 Their turbid bosoms clearing in the calm  
 Of sun-ey'd Plenty,—till the stars and moon,  
 The blessed sun himself, has leave to shine  
 And laugh in their dark hearts! So shanties grew

Other than his amid the blacken'd stumps ;  
 And children ran with little twigs and leaves,  
 And flung them, shouting, on the forest pyres,  
 Where burn'd the forest kings,—and in the glow  
 Paus'd men and women when the day was done.  
 There the lean weaver ground anew his axe,  
 Nor backward look'd upon the vanish'd loom,  
 But forward, to the ploughing of his fields,  
 And to the rose of Plenty in the cheeks  
 Of wife and children, nor heeded much the pangs  
 Of the rous'd muscles tuning to new work ;  
 The pallid clerk look'd on his blister'd palms,  
 And sigh'd and smil'd, but girded up his axe,  
 And found new vigour as he felt new hope ;  
 The lab'rer, with train'd muscles, grim and grave,  
 Look'd at the ground, and wonder'd in his soul  
 What joyous anguish stirr'd his darken'd heart  
 At the mere look of the familiar soil,  
 And found his answer in the words—“*Mine own!*”  
 Then came smooth-coated men, with eager eyes,  
 And talk'd of steamers on the cliff-bound lakes,  
 And iron tracks across the prairie lands,  
 And mills to crush the quartz of wealthy hills,  
 And mills to saw the great wide-armed trees,  
 And mills to grind the singing stream of grain ;  
 And with such busy clamour mingled still  
 The throbbing music of the bold, bright Axe,—  
 The steel tongue of the Present, and the wail  
 Of falling forest,—voices of the Past.

Max, social-soul'd, and with his practised thews,  
 Was happy, boy-like, thinking much of Kate,  
 And speaking of her to the women-folk ;  
 Who, mostly, happy in new honeymoons  
 Of hope themselves, were ready still to hear  
 The thrice-told tale of Katie's sunny eyes,

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And Katie's yellow hair, and household ways ;  
And heard so often, " There shall stand our home,  
On yonder slope, with vines about the door !"  
That the good wives were almost made to see  
The snowy walls, deep porches, and the gleam  
Of Katie's garments fitting through the rooms.—  
And the black slope, all bristling with burn'd stumps,  
Was known amongst them all as " Max's House."

O Love builds on the azure sea,  
And Love builds on the golden sand ;  
And Love builds on the rose-wing'd cloud,  
And sometimes Love builds on the land.

Or if Love builds on sparkling sea,  
And if Love builds on golden strand,  
And if Love builds on rosy cloud,—  
To Love, these are the solid land.

O Love will build his lily walls,  
And Love his pearly roof will rear,  
On cloud or land, or mist or sea,—  
Love's solid land is everywhere !

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THE SECOND CONCESSION OF DEER.

WILLIAM WYB SMITH.

JOHN TOMPKINS lived in a house of logs,  
On the second concession of Deer ;  
The front was logs, all straight and sound—  
The gable was logs, all tight and round—  
The roof was logs, so firmly bound—  
And the floor was logs, all down to the ground—  
The warmest house in Deer.

And John, to my mind, was a log himself,  
On the second concession of Deer ;—  
None of your birch, with bark of buff—  
Nor basswood, weak and watery stuff—  
But he was hickory, true and tough,  
And only his outside bark was rough ;—  
The grandest old man in Deer !

But John had lived too long, it seemed,  
On the second concession of Deer !  
For his daughters up the governing rein,  
With a fine brick house on the old domain,  
All papered, and painted with satinwood stain,  
Carpeted stairs, and best ingrain—  
The finest house in Deer !

Poor John, it was sad to see him now,  
On the second concession of Deer !  
When he came in from his weary work,

To strip off his shoes like a heathen Turk,—  
 Or out of the *company's* way to lurk,  
 And ply in the *shanty* his knife and fork—  
     The times were turned in Deer !

But John was hickory to the last,  
     On the second concession of Deer !  
 And out on the river-end of his lot,  
 He laid up the logs in a cosy spot,  
 And self and wife took up with a cot,  
 And the great brick house might swim or not—  
     He was done with the pride of Deer !

But the great house could not go at all,  
     On the second concession of Deer ;  
 'Twas *mother* no more, to wash or bake,  
 Nor *father* the gallants' steeds to take—  
 From the kitchen no more came pie nor cake—  
 And even their butter they'd first to make !—  
     There were lessons to learn in Deer !

And the lesson they learned a year or more,  
     On the second concession of Deer !  
 Then the girls got back the brave old pair—  
 And gave the mother her easy-chair—  
 She told them how, and they did their share—  
 And John the honours once more did wear  
     Of his own domain in Deer !

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A CANADIAN FOLK-SONG.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

THE doors are shut, the windows fast,  
Outside the gust is driving past,  
Outside the shivering ivy clings,  
While on the hob the kettle sings,—  
Margery, Margery, make the tea,  
Singeth the kettle merrily.

The streams are hushed up where they flowed,  
The ponds are frozen along the road,  
The cattle are housed in shed and byre,  
While singeth the kettle on the fire ;  
Margery, Margery, make the tea,  
Singeth the kettle merrily.

The fisherman on the bay in his boat  
Shivers and buttons up his coat ;  
The traveller stops at the tavern door,  
And the kettle answers the chimney's roar,—  
Margery, Margery, make the tea,  
Singeth the kettle merrily.

The firelight dances upon the wall,  
Footsteps are heard in the outer hall,  
And a kiss and a welcome that fill the room,  
And the kettle sings in the glimmer and gloom,—  
Margery, Margery, make the tea,  
Singeth the kettle merrily.

“THE INJUN.”

*(An Incident in the Minnesota Massacre of 1862.)*

JOHN E. LOGAN—“BARRY DANE.”

YE say the Injuns all alike,  
A bad an' sneakin' lot ;  
An' a'int no use for nuthin',  
So the cusses should be shot ?

Well, p'raps they is, an' p'raps they a'int,  
A lazy, wuthless crowd ;  
Yet durn my skin ef I kin see  
Why white men chin so loud.

Ef some o' them poor devils kicks  
'Cause things a'int run quite squar',  
An' jumps an Indian agent's ranch,  
An' yanks his bloomin' har,

Thar' a'int no thought uv causes,  
An' no one cares a cuss,  
It's jes' call out the Blue Coats  
An' give 'em somethin' wuss.

Thar's good an' bad in Injun,  
An' thar's good an' bad in White ;  
But, somehow, they is allus wrong,  
An' we is allus right.

But I'm an old, old timer,  
I've jes' bin here so long,  
That I kin mostly allus tell  
The ones that's right an' wrong.

An' ye can bet yer sainted life,  
When things get steamin' hot,  
That some white fool or knave has lit  
The fire that biles the pot.

Ye think the Injun isn't squar' ?  
That's jes' whar' ye mistake ;  
Fer bein' true to them that's true  
The Injun scoops the cake.

Fer I kin tell ye what occur'd  
Way back in 'sixty-two,  
When things in Minnesota State  
Wuz lookin' kinder blue.

The Sioux wuz up an' on the shoot,  
A-slingin' round their lead,  
An' scalpin' every mother's son  
That wuzn't bald or dead.

Thar' warn't a livin' Yankee—  
An' lots wuz brave an' bold—  
That would have crossed them plains alone  
For a waggon load uv gold.

'Cause why? We know'd the Guv'ment  
Wuzn't treatin' Injuns fair;  
That's why they riz an' painted things,  
An' raised the settlers' hair.

That summer a fur-trader  
Come up from Montreal,  
An' on his way to Garry  
He landed at Saint Paul.

An' all the guides an' hunters said  
He couldn't cross the plains,  
Fer them thar' painted devils  
Wuz layin' low fer trains.

He only laffed, and said, he know'd  
The Injuns all his life,  
An' he wuz goin' to mosey through  
An' take along his wife.

An' she, you bet, wuz plucky,  
An' said she'd go along,  
Fer Injuns only went fer them  
As allus done 'em wrong.

Now I should smile, 'twuz riskey—  
An' all the fellers sed  
The chances of their gettin' through,  
Warn't wuth an ounce uv lead.

But sure's yer born they started,  
Right out the northern trail,  
Aboard a praree schooner,  
With a Texan steer fer sail.

An' right a-top that creekin' cart,  
Upon the highest rack,  
That trader nailed a bloomin' rag—  
An English Union Jack.

So thar' he'd gone an' done it,  
Es stubborn as a mule ;  
An' knowin' fellers said we'd seen  
The last of that damn fool.

They wuzn't long upon the trail,  
Before a band of Reds  
Got on their tracks, an' foller'd up,  
A-goin' to shave their heads.

But when they seen that little flag  
A-stickin' on that cart,  
They jes' said, "Hudson Bay. Go on.  
Good trader with good heart !"

An' when they struck the river,  
An' took to their canoe,  
Twuz that thar' bit uv culler  
That seen 'em safely through.

Fer thar' that cussed little rag  
Went floatin' through the State—  
A-flappin' in the face uv death,  
An' smilin' right at fate.

That wuz the way them 'tarnal fools  
Crossed them thar' blazin' plains,  
An' floated down the windin' Red  
Through waves with bloody stains.

What give that flag its virtoo?  
What's thar' in red an' blue,  
To make a man an' woman dar'  
What others deasn't do?

Jes' this—an' Injuns know'd it—  
That whar' them cullers flew,  
The men that lived beneath them  
Wuz mostly straight an' true.

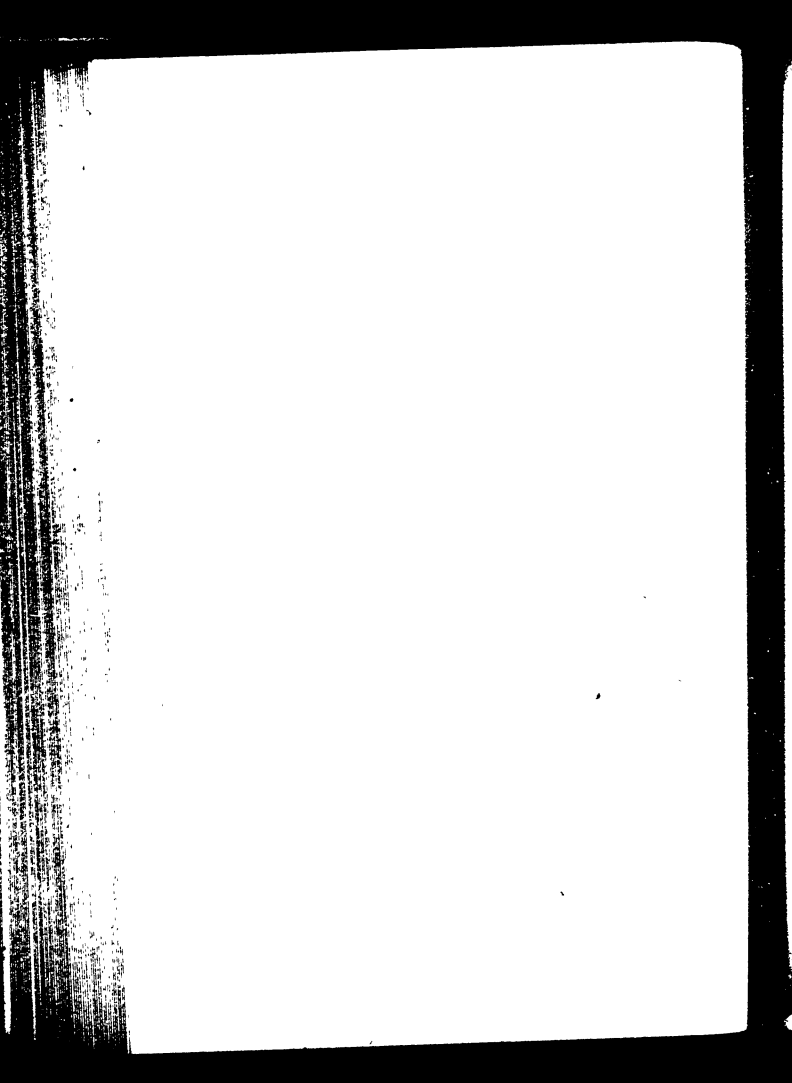
That when they made a bargain,  
'Twuz jes' as strong an' tight  
As if 't were drawn on sheep-skin  
An' signed in black an' white.

That's how them Hudson traders done  
Fer mor'n two hundred year;  
That's why that trader feller crossed  
Them plains without a fear.

An' jes' so long es white men  
Don't try some little game,  
To euchre out the red man,  
So long he'll act the same.

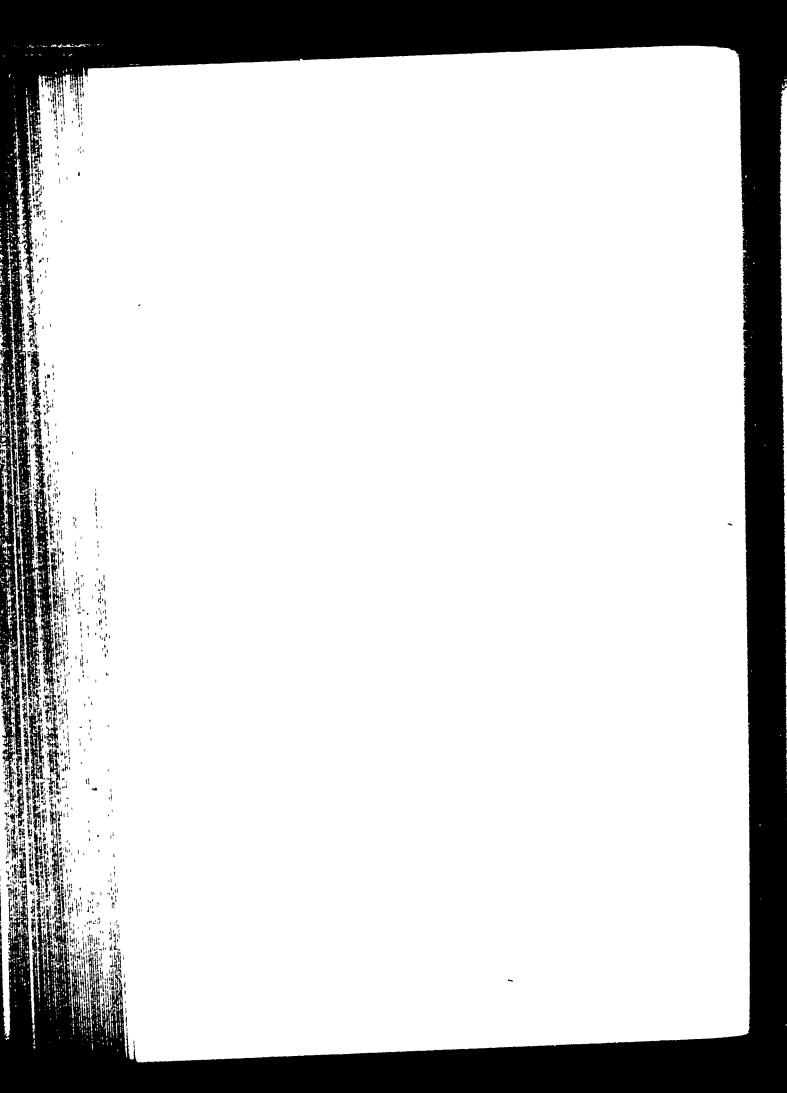
But when the men beneath that flag,  
Tries any monkey ways,  
Then, good-bye, old time friendship,  
For the Injuns goin' ter raise.

But jes' believe me, onst for all,  
To them that treats him fair,  
The Injun mostly allus wuz,  
And is, and will be, square.





VI.—SPORTS AND FREE LIFE.



VI.—SPORTS AND FREE LIFE

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THE WRAITH OF THE RED SWAN.\*

BLISS CARMAN.

WHY carries the flash of his blade?  
At morning he sailed from me ;  
From the depth of our high beech glade,  
To the surge and the sea  
I followed the gleam of his blade.

The cherries were flowering white,  
And the Nashwaak Islands flooded,  
When the long Red Swan took flight ;  
On a wind she scudded  
With her gunwale buried from sight,  
Till her sail drew down out of sight.

\* "The Red Swan" is the author's favourite birch bark canoe, so named by him from the phenomenal rosiness of its bark material.

He shouted, "A northward track,  
Before the swallows have flown!"  
And now the cherries are black,  
And the clover is brown,  
And the Red Swan comes not back.

The stream-bends, hidden and shy,  
With their harvest of lilies are strewn;  
The gravel bars are all dry,  
And warm in the noon,  
Where the rapids go swirling by,—  
Go singing and rippling by.

Through many an evening gone,  
Where the roses drank the breeze,  
When the pale slow moon outshone  
Through the slanting trees,  
I dreamed of the long Red Swan.

How I should know that one  
Great stroke, and the time of the swing  
Urging her on and on,  
Spring after spring,  
Lifting the long Red Swan,  
Lifting the long Red Swan!

How I should drink the foam—  
The far white lines from her swift  
Keen bow, when, hurrying to come,  
With lift upon lift  
The long Red Swan came home!

Here would I crouch down low,  
And watch the Red Swan from far,  
A speck in the evening, grow  
To a flaming star  
In the dusk as of ages ago,  
In the dusk of ages ago.

I would lean, and with lips apart,  
See the streak of the Red Swan's fire  
Glow dim at the twilight's heart,—  
Feel the core of desire  
From the slumber of years upstart.

How soon ~~should~~ the day grow wan,  
And a wind ~~from~~ the south unfold,  
Like the low beginning of dawn,—  
Grow steady and hold  
In the race of the long Red Swan,  
In the race of the long Red Swan!

How glad of their river once more  
Would the crimson wings unfurl,  
And the long Red Swan, on the roar  
Of a whitecap swirl,  
Steer in to the arms of her shore!

But the wind is the voice of a dirge!  
What wonder allures him, what care,  
So far on the world's bleak verge?  
Why lingers he there,  
By the sea and the desolate surge,  
In the sound of the moan of the surge?

Last midnight the thunder rode  
 With the lightning astride of the storm  
 Low down in the east, where glowed  
 The fright of his form  
 On the ocean-wild rack he bestrode.

The hills were his ocean wan,  
 And the white tree tops foamed high,  
 Lashed out of the night, whereon  
 In a gust fled by  
 A wraith of the long Red Swan,  
 A wraith of the long Red Swan.

Her crimson bellying saff  
 Was fleckered with brine and spume ;  
 Its taut wet clew, through the veil  
 Of the driving fume,  
 Was sheeted home on the gale.

The shoal of the fury of night  
 Was a bank in the fog, wherethrough  
 Hissed the Red Swan in her flight ;  
 She shrilled as she flew,  
 A shriek from the seething white,  
 In the face of the world grown white.

She laboured not in the sea,  
 Careened but a handbreadth over,  
 And, the gleam of her side laid free  
 For the drift to cover,  
 Sped on to the dark in her lee.

Through crests of the hoarse tide swing,  
    Clove sheer the sweep of her bow ;  
There was loosed the ice-roaring of Spring  
    From the jaws of her prow,—  
Of the long Red Swan full wing,  
The long Red Swan full wing.

Where the rake of her gunwale dipped  
    As the spent black waves ran aft,  
In a hand for helm there was gripped  
    The sheen of a haft,  
Which sang in the furrows it ripped.

Then I knew and was glad, for what foam  
    Could the rush of her speed o'erwhelm  
If Louis and his Whitehaulm  
    Were steersman and helm,  
When the long Red Swan drave home,  
When the long Red Swan drave home ?

Yet ever the sweeping mist  
    Was a veil to his face from me,  
Though yearning I well half wist  
    What his look might be  
From the carven bend of his wrist.

Then a break, and the cloud was gone,  
    And there was his set keen face  
Afire with smouldering dawn  
    In the joy of her race,  
In the flight of the long Red Swan,  
In the flight of the long Red Swan !

Though drenched in the spray-drift hoar,  
As of old it was ruddy and warm  
Through the black hair, grizzled and frore,  
Whipped out on the storm ;  
Then "Louis!" I launched on the roar.

O'er night and the brawl of the stream  
The hail of my cry flew on ;  
He turned, with a smile supreme,  
And the long Red Swan  
Grew dim as the wraith of a dream,  
As the blown white wraith of a dream

Look ! Burnished and blue, what a sweep  
Of river outwinds in the sun ;  
What miles of shimmering deep,  
Where the hills grow one  
With their shadow of summer and sleep !

I gaze from the cedar shade  
Day long, high over the beach,  
And never a ripple is laid  
To the long blue reach,  
Where faded the gleam of that blade,  
The far gold flash of his blade.

I follow and dream and recall,  
Forget and remember and dream ;  
When the interval grass waves tall,  
I move in the gleam  
Where his blade-beats glitter and fall.



Yet never my dream gets clear  
Of the whispering bodeful spell  
The aspen shudders to hear,  
Yet hurries to tell,—  
How the long Red Swan draws near,  
How the long Red Swan draws near.

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BIRCH AND PADDLE.

*To Bliss Carman.*

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

FRIEND, those delights of ours  
Under the sun and showers,—

Athrough the noonday blue  
Sliding our light canoe,

Or floating, hushed, at eve,  
When the dim pine-tops grieve!

What tonic days were they  
Where shy streams dart and play,—

Where rivers brown and strong  
As caribou bound along,

Break into angry parle  
Where wildcat rapids snarl,

Subside, and like a snake  
Wind to the quiet lake!

We've paddled furtively,  
Where giant boughs hide the sky,—

Have stolen, and held our breath,  
Thro' coverts still as death,—

Have left, with wing unstirred,  
The brooding phœbe-bird,

And hardly caused a care  
In the water-spider's lair.

For love of his clear pipe  
We've flushed the zigzag snipe,—

Have chased in wilful mood  
The wood-duck's flapping brood,—

Have spied the antlered moose  
Cropping the young green spruce,

And watched him till betrayed  
By the kingfisher's sharp tirade.

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Quitting the bodeful shades,  
We've run thro' sunnier glades,

And dropping craft and heed  
Have bid our paddles speed.

Where the mad rapids chafe  
We've shouted, steering safe,—

With sinew tense, nerve keen,  
Shot thro' the roar, and seen,

With spirit wild as theirs,  
The white waves leap like hares.

And then, with souls grown clear  
In that sweet atmosphere,

With influences serene,  
Our blood and brain washed clean,

We've idled down the breast  
Of broadening tides at rest,

And marked the winds, the birds,  
The bees, the far-off herds,

Into a drowsy tune  
Transmute the afternoon.

So, Friend, with ears and eyes,  
Which shy divinities

Have opened with their kiss,  
We need no balm but this,—

A little space for dreams  
On cafe-unsullied streams,—

'Mid task and toil, a space  
To dream on Nature's face

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THE NOR'-WEST COURIER.

"BARRY DANE"—JOHN E. LOGAN.

I.

UP, my dogs, merrily,  
The morn sun is shining,  
Our path is uncertain,  
And night's sombre curtain  
May drop on us, verily,  
Ere time for reclining;  
So, up, without whining,  
You rascals, instanter,  
Come into your places  
There, stretch out your traces,  
And off, at a canter.

II.

Up, my dogs, cheerily,  
The noon sun is glowing,  
Fast and still faster,  
Come, follow your master;  
Or to-night we may wearily,  
Tired and drearily,  
Travel, not knowing  
What moment disaster  
May sweep in the storm-blast,  
And over each form cast  
A shroud in its blowing.

III.

On, my dogs, steadily,  
Though keen winds are shifting  
The snowflakes, and drifting  
Them straight in our faces;  
Come, answer me readily,  
Not wildly nor headily,  
Plunging and lifting  
Your feet, keep your paces;  
For yet we shall weather  
The blizzard together,  
Though evil our case is.

IV.

Sleep, my dogs, cosily,  
Coiled near the fire,  
That higher and higher  
Sheds its light rosily  
Out o'er the snow and sky;

Sleep in the ruddy glow,  
Letting Keewaydin blow  
Fierce in his ire.  
Sleep, my dogs, soundly ;  
For to-morrow we roundly  
Must buffet the foe.

---

THE HALL OF SHADOWS.

ALEXANDER M'LACHLAN.

THE sun is up, and through the woods  
His golden rays are streaming ;  
The dismal swamp, and swale so damp,  
With faces bright are beaming.  
And in the wind-fall, by the creek,  
We hear the partridge drumming ;  
And strange bright things, on airy wings,  
Are all around us humming.

The merry schoolboys, in the woods  
The chipmunk are pursuing ;  
And as he starts, with happy hearts  
They're after him hallooing.  
The squirrel hears the urchins' cheers, —  
They never catch him lagging, —  
And on the beech, beyond their reach,  
Hear how the fellow's bragging!

The redbird pauses in his song,—  
The face of man aye fearing,—  
And flashes, like a flame, along  
The border of the clearing.  
The humming-bird, above the flower,  
Is like a halo bending ;  
Or like the gleams we catch in dreams  
Of heavenly things descending.

And hear the bugle of the bee  
Among the tufted clover !  
This day, like thee, I'll wander free,  
My little wild-wood rover !  
Through groves of beech, and maple green,  
And pines of lofty stature ;  
By this lone creek, once more we'll seek  
The savage haunts of nature.

See there a noble troop of pines  
Have made a sudden sally,  
And all, in straight, unbroken lines,  
Are rushing up the valley ;  
And round about the lonely spring  
They gather in a cluster,  
Then off again, till on the plain,  
The great battalions muster.

And there the little evergreens  
Are clust'ring in the hollows,  
And hazels green, with sumachs lean,  
Among the weeping willows ;

Or sit in pride the creek beside,  
Or through the valley ramble ;  
Or up the height, in wild delight,  
Among the rocks they scramble.

And here a gorge, all reft and rent,  
With rocks in wild confusion,  
As they were by the wood-gods sent  
To guard them from intrusion ;  
And gulfs, all yawning wild and wide,  
As if by earthquakes shattered ;  
And rocks that stand,—a grizzly band !—  
By time and tempest battered.

Some great pines, blasted in their pride,  
Above the gorge are bending ;  
And rock-elms, from the other side  
Their mighty arms extending.  
And midway down the dark descent  
One fearful hemlock's clinging ;  
His headlong fall he would prevent,  
And grappels out he's flinging.

One ash has ventured to the brink,  
And tremblingly looks over  
That awful steep, where shadows sleep,  
And mists at noonday hover.  
But further in the woods we go,  
Through birch and maple valleys,  
And elms that stand, like patriarchs grand,  
In long dark leafy alleys.



Away, away! from blue-eyed day,  
The sunshine and the meadows;  
We find our way, at noon of day,  
Within the Hall of Shadows.  
How like a great cathedral vast!  
With creeping vines roofed over,  
While shadows dim, with faces grim,  
Far in the distance hover.

Among the old cathedral aisles,  
And Gothic arches bending,  
And ever in the sacred pales  
The twilight gloom descending.  
And let me turn where'er I will,  
A step is aye pursuing;  
And there's an eye upon me still  
That's watching all I'm doing.

And in the centre there's a pool,  
And by that pool is sitting  
A shape of Fear, with shadows drear  
For ever round her fitting.  
Why is her face so full of woe?  
So hopeless and dejected?  
Sees she but there, in her despair,  
Nought but herself reflected?

Is it the gloom within my heart,  
Or lingering superstition,  
Which draws me here three times a year  
To this weird apparition?  
I cannot tell what it may be!  
I only know that seeing  
That shape of Fear, draws me more near  
The secret soul of being.

CANADIAN HUNTER'S SONG.

SUSANNA (STRICKLAND) MOODIE.

THE Northern Lights are flashing  
On the rapids' restless flow;  
But o'er the wild waves dashing  
Swift darts the light canoe,  
The merry hunters come,—  
“What cheer? What cheer?”  
“We've slain the deer!”  
“Hurrah! you're welcome home!”

The blithesome horn is sounding,  
And the woodman's loud halloo;  
And joyous steps are bounding  
To meet the birch canoe.  
“Hurrah! the hunters come!”  
And the woods ring out  
To their noisy shout,  
As they drag the dun deer home!

The hearth is brightly burning,  
The rustic board is spread;  
To greet their sire returning  
The children leave their bed.  
With laugh and shout they come,  
That merry band,  
To grasp his hand  
And bid him welcome home!

---

THE FISHERMAN'S LIGHT.

(*A Song of the Backwoods.*)

MRS. (SUSANNA STRICKLAND) MOODIE.

THE air is still,—the night is dark,—  
No ripple breaks the dusky tide ;  
From isle to isle the fisher's bark,  
Like fairy meteor, seems to glide,—  
Now lost in shade,—now flashing bright ;  
On sleeping wave and forest tree,  
We hail with joy the ruddy light,  
Which far into the darksome night  
Shines red and cheerily.

With spear high poised, and steady hand,  
The centre of that fiery ray  
Behold the skilful fisher stand,  
Prepared to strike the finny prey ;  
“ Now, now ! ” the shaft has sped below,—  
Transfixed the shining prize, we see ;  
On swiftly glides the birch canoe,  
The woods send back the long halloo  
In echoes loud and cheerily !

Around yon bluff, whose pine crest hides  
The noisy rapids from our sight,  
Another bark, another glides,—  
Red spirits of the murky night,—  
The bosom of the silent stream  
With mimic stars is dotted free ;  
The tall woods lighten in the beam,  
Through darkness shining cheerily.

THE KINGFISHER.

CHARLES LEE BARNES.

WHEN the summer's bright and tender sunbeams fill the  
land with splendour,  
In his robes of blue and purple, and his crown of  
burnished green,  
Lone the kingfisher sits dreaming, with his dark eyes  
brightly gleaming,  
While he peers for chub and minnows in the water's  
limpid sheen.

And he haunts the river's edges, oozy flats, and rustling  
sedges,  
Till he sees his prey beneath him in the waters clear and  
cool;  
Then he quickly dashes nearer, and he breaks the polished  
mirror  
That was floating on the surface of the creek or hidden  
pool.

Where the nodding reeds are growing, and the yellow  
lilies blowing,  
In our little boat we slowly glide along the placid stream;  
And we know he's coming after, by the music of his  
laughter,  
And the flashing of his vesture in the sun's effulgent  
beam.

Well he knows the alder bushes, and the slender slimy  
rushes,  
And the swamp, and pond, and lakelet, and the ice-cold  
crystal spring;  
And the brooklet oft he follows through the meadows  
and the hollows,  
Far within the shadowy woodland where the thrush and  
robin sing.

Oh, he well can flutter proudly, and he well can laugh so  
loudly,  
For he lives within a castle where he never knows a  
care!  
And his realm is on the water, and his wife a monarch's  
daughter;  
And his title undisputed is on earth, or sea, or air!

---

THE CANOE.

ISABELLA VALANCEY CRAWFORD.

MY masters twain made me a bed  
Of pine-boughs resinous, and cedar;  
Of moss, a soft and gentle breeder  
Of dreams of rest; and me they spread  
With furry skins, and, laughing, said,—  
“Now she shall lay her polish'd sides,  
As queens do rest, or dainty brides,  
Our slender lady of the tides!”

My masters twain their camp-soul lit,  
 Streamed incense from the hissing cones ;  
 Large crimson flashes grew and whirl'd,  
 Thin golden nerves of sly light curl'd,  
 Round the dun camp, and rose faint zones  
 Half-way about each grim bole knit,  
 Like a shy child that would bedeck  
 With its soft clasp a Brave's red neck ;  
 Yet sees the rough shield on his breast,  
 The awful plumes shake on his crest,  
 And fearful drops his timid face,  
 Nor dares complete the sweet embrace.

Into the hollow hearts of brakes  
 Yet warm from sides of does and stags,  
 Pass'd to the crisp dark river flags,  
 Sinuous, red as copper, snakes,—  
 Sharp-headed serpents, made of light,  
 Glided and hid themselves in night.

My masters twain the slaughter'd deer  
 Hung on fork'd boughs—with thongs of  
 leather.

Bound were his stiff slim feet together,—  
 His eyes like dead stars cold and drear ;  
 The wand'ring firelight drew near  
 And laid its wide palm, red and anxious,  
 On the sharp splendour of his branches ;  
 On the white foam grown hard and sere  
 On flank and shoulder,—  
 Death, hard as breast of granite boulder,—  
 And under his lashes  
 Peer'd thro' his eyes at his life's grey ashes.

My masters twain sang songs that wove  
(As they burnish'd hunting blade and rifle)  
A golden thread with a cobweb trifle,—  
Loud of the chase, and low of love.

“ O Love ! art thou a silver fish,  
Shy of the line, and shy of gaffing ?  
Which we do follow, fierce, yet laughing,  
Casting at thee the light-wing'd wish ;  
And at the last shall we bring thee up  
From the crystal darkness under the cup  
Of lily folden,  
On broad leaves golden ?

“ O Love ! art thou a silver deer ?  
Swift thy starr'd feet as wing of swallow,  
While we with rushing arrows follow ;  
And at the last shall we draw near,  
And over thy velvet neck cast thongs,  
Woven of roses, of stars, of songs,—  
New chains all moulden  
Of rare gems olden ? ”

They hung the slaughter'd fish like swords  
On saplings slender,—like scimitars  
Bright, and ruddied from new-dead wars,  
Blaz'd in the light,—the scaly hordes.

They pil'd up boughs beneath the trees,  
Of cedar-web and green fir tassel ;  
Low did the pointed pine tops rustle,  
The camp fire blush'd to the tender breeze.

The hounds laid dew-laps on the ground,  
With needles of pine, sweet, soft, and rusty,—  
Dream'd of the dead stag, stout and lusty ;  
A bat by the red flames wove its round.

The darkness built its wigwam walls  
Close round the camp, and at its curtain  
Press'd shapes, thin woven and uncertain,  
As white locks of tall waterfalls.

---

CANOE SONG.

ISABELLA VALANCEY CRAWFORD.

O LIGHT canoe ! where dost thou glide ?  
Below thee gleams no silver'd tide,  
But concave heaven's chiefest pride.

Above thee burns eve's rosy bar ;  
Below thee throbs her darling star ;  
Deep 'neath thy keel her round worlds are !

Above, below, O sweet surprise !  
To gladden happy lover's eyes ;  
No earth, no wave,—all jewelled skies !

---



THE WALKER OF THE SNOW.

CHARLES DAWSON SHANLY.

SPEED on, speed on, good Master !  
The camp lies far away ;  
We must cross the haunted valley  
Before the close of day.

How the snow-blight came upon me  
I will tell you as I go,—  
The blight of the Shadow-hunter,  
Who walks the midnight snow.

To the cold December heaven  
Came the pale moon and the stars,  
As the yellow sun was sinking  
Behind the purple bars.

The snow was deeply drifted  
Upon the ridges drear,  
That lay for miles around me  
And the camp for which we steer.

'Twas silent on the hillside,  
And by the solemn wood  
No sound of life or motion  
To break the solitude,

Save the wailing of the moose-bird  
With a plaintive note and low,  
And the skating of the red leaf  
Upon the frozen snow.

And said I, "Though dark is falling,  
And far the camp must be,  
Yet my heart it would be lightsome,  
If I had but company."

And then I sang and shouted,  
Keeping measure, as I sped,  
To the harp-twang of the snow-shoe  
As it sprang beneath my tread ;

Nor far into the valley  
Had I dipped upon my way,  
When a dusky figure joined me,  
In a capuchon of grey,

Bending upon the snow-shoes,  
With a long and limber stride ;  
And I hailed the dusky stranger,  
As we travelled side by side.

But no token of communion  
Gave he by word or look,  
And the fear-chill fell upon me  
At the crossing of the brook.

For I saw by the sickly moonlight,  
As I followed, bending low,  
That the walking of the stranger  
*Left no footmarks on the snow.*

Then the fear-chill gathered o'er me,  
Like a shroud around me cast,  
As I sank upon the snow-drift  
Where the Shadow-hunter passed.

And the otter-trappers found me,  
Before the break of day,  
With my dark hair blanched and whitened  
As the snow in which I lay.

But they spoke not as they raised me ;  
For they knew that in the night  
I had seen the Shadow-hunter,  
And had withered in his blight.

Sancta Maria speed us !  
The sun is falling low,—  
Before us lies the valley  
Of the Walker of the Snow !

---

THE RAPID.

CHARLES SANGSTER.

ALL peacefully gliding,  
The waters dividing,  
The indolent bâteau moved slowly along,  
The rowers, light-hearted,  
From sorrow long parted,  
Beguiled the dull moments with laughter and song :  
" Hurrah for the Rapid ! that merrily, merrily  
Gambols and leaps on its tortuous way ;  
Soon we will enter it, cheerily, cheerily,  
Pleased with its freshness, and wet with its spray."

More swiftly careering,  
The wild Rapid nearing,  
They dash down the stream like a terrified steed ;  
The surges delight them,  
No terrors affright them,  
Their voices keep pace with their quickening speed :  
" Hurrah for the Rapid ! that merrily, merrily  
Shivers its arrows against us in play ;  
Now we have entered it cheerily, cheerily,  
Our spirits as light as its feathery spray."

Fast downward they're dashing,  
Each fearless eye flashing,  
Though danger awaits them on every side ;  
Yon rock—see it frowning !  
They strike—they are drowning !

But downward they sped with the merciless tide :  
No voice cheers the Rapid, that angrily, angrily  
Shivers their bark in its maddening play ;  
Gaily they entered it—heedlessly, recklessly,  
Mingling their lives with its treacherous spray !

---

THE WINTER SPIRIT.

(*The Origin of the Ice Palace* )

HELEN FAIRBAIRN.

THE winter night was full of wind and storm,  
The Christian's festal season close at hand,  
With frosty, glistening, snow-besprinkled form,  
The Winter Spirit roamed throughout the land.

Beneath, his flying footsteps froze the ground ;  
And with his garments' rustling fell the snow ;  
His lightest touch made icicles abound ;  
His breath, as when the keenest north winds blow.

He paused above the river, dull and gray,  
Turbid and chafing with a restless pain,  
And soon in icy quietness it lay,  
Bound, bank to bank, within his Arctic chain.

He roamed along the leafless mountain side,  
And wheresoe'er he found a solemn spruce,  
Or stately fir, or hemlock rich and wide,  
He paused, and shook his gleaming garments loose.

And from their ample folds came softly down  
A cloud of snowflakes like a starry mist,  
That gave each evergreen a spotless crown,  
For faithful keeping of its winter tryst.

Amid the storm-tossed pines his voice was heard,  
A wild soft sighing in their depths profound,  
Like notes of some strange ghostly winter bird,  
Whose white wings fluttered with a muffled sound.

To lighter, more fantastic work, anon  
He turned, and, with a skill that art surpassed,  
Drew strange designs and fairy forms upon  
The casements closed against the winter blast.

At one he longer paused than all the rest,  
And whispered in a frosty monotone,  
"This work shall be my rarest and my best,  
Rarest and best is she for whom 'tis done."

He knew the girlish face with heavenly eyes,  
The fair sweet face whose eyes, so deep and blue,  
Would kindle to their depths with glad surprise,  
At sight of what his frosty skill could do.

Without a sound the wintry work was done,  
With wondrous haste the icy picture grew,  
And when at last the crowning point was won,  
From ragged clouds the moon burst forth to view.

With crystal towers and glittering battlement,  
A pictured castle in the moonlight gleamed,  
In silver set, a gem of Occident,  
Like clustered starry jewels brightly beamed.

Now, when the Winter Spirit's fair design,  
In beauty rare, complete before him lay,  
"Farewell," he sighed, "the frosty gem be thine!  
While I in storm and darkness fly away."

Once more to darkling storm the night was given,  
Once more the wild wind whistled through the  
town,  
Like myriad blessings sent to earth from Heaven,  
The air was thick with snowflakes coming down.

---

### SNOWSHOEING SONG.

ARTHUR WEIR.

HILLOO, hilloo, hilloo, hilloo;  
Gather, gather ye men in white;  
The winds blow keenly, the moon is bright,  
The sparkling snow lies firm and white;  
Tie on the shoes, no time to lose,  
We must be over the hill to-night.

Hilloo, hilloo, hilloo, hilloo ;  
 Swiftly in single file we go,  
 The city is soon left far below,  
 Its countless lights like diamonds glow ;  
 And as we climb we hear the chime  
 Of church bells stealing o'er the snow.

Hilloo, hilloo, hilloo, hilloo ;  
 Like winding-sheet about the dead,  
 O'er hill and dale the snow is spread,  
 And silences our hurried tread ;  
 The pines bend low, and to and fro  
 The magpies toss their boughs o'erhead.

Hilloo, hilloo, hilloo, hilloo ;  
 We laugh to scorn the angry blast,  
 The mountain top is gained and past.  
 Descent begins, 'tis ever fast—  
 One short quick run, and toil is done,  
 We reach the welcome inn at last.

Shake off, shake off the clinging snow ;  
 Unloose the shoe, the sash untie,  
 Fling tuque and mittens lightly by,  
 The chimney fire is blazing high,  
 And, richly stored, the festive board  
 Awaits the merry company.

Remove the fragments of the feast !  
 The steaming coffee, waiter, bring.  
 Now tell the tale, the chorus sing,  
 And let the laughter loudly ring ;  
 Here's to our host, drink down the toast,  
 Then up ! for time is on the wing.



Hilloo, hilloo, hilloo, hilloo ;  
The moon is sinking out of sight,  
Across the sky dark clouds take flight,  
And dimly looms the mountain height ;  
Tie on the shoes, no time to lose,  
We must be home again to-night.

---

SKATING.

JOHN LOWRY STUART.

COME to the moonlit lake,  
Where rays of silver bright  
Their slender arrows break  
On the glassy pavement bright !  
For hearts are gay, and joy is rife ;  
And youth and beauty, love and life,  
Are out on the ice to-night.

Not in the crowded hall,  
Where earth-lit tapers gleam,  
We'll hold our festival,  
But out on the frozen stream ;  
No dull faint air, or heated room,  
Shall rob thy cheek of beauty's bloom,  
Thine eye of its sparkling beam.

Bright is the fairy scene ;  
 The ringing steels resound ;  
 And gleams the glowing sheen  
 To feet of beauty bound ;  
 And health, with rosy pencil, seeks  
 To paint the blush on beauty's cheeks,  
 And the echoing laugh rings round.

Ne'er such a pavement spread  
 Glittered in marble halls ;  
 Ne'er gleamed such lamps o'erhead  
 To gladden their carnivals ;  
 The circling hills, whose tree-clad brows  
 Upbear the dome on cornice boughs,  
 Are our lofty palace walls.

Whence foaming waters roar  
 That winter could not bind  
 (Their brothers called on Huron's shore,  
 And they would not stay confined).  
 As free and gay, and wild as they,  
 We'll speed e'en to the mystic way  
 Of the isle with cedars lined.

Earth and its cares forgot,  
 Our hearts we'll then reveal ;  
 And spurn each colder thought,  
 As the ice the flashing steel.  
 Who, 'neath the sway of Luna's ray,  
 Love's sweet commands could disobey,  
 Or its brighter beams conceal ?

THE WINTER CARNIVAL.

JOHN READE.

I.

WE fear thee not, O Winter !  
 Though stern thy face and grim ;  
 Though vast thy strength to crush and rend  
 Our bodies, limb from limb.  
 On Scandinavian mountains,  
 On stormy northern seas,  
 Our fathers braved thy wrath of yore,  
 And heeded not thy sullen roar  
 Amid the bending trees.

II.

They loved thy gusty music,  
 And from full chests and throats  
 Rivalled, in happy recklessness,  
 The Storm-King's boisterous notes ;  
 They made thee now their playmate,  
 They made thee now their slave ;  
 Thy frost-built roads for them to ride,  
 With fair-haired lemans side by side,  
 Above the rushing wave.

III.

Over the snows they trod apace,  
 Adown the drifts they sped ;  
 They met thy fury face to face,  
 And all thy shapes of dread.

And though thy wild sport sometimes left  
 Sights that were sad to see,  
 Health, beauty, courage, giant thews,  
 Well braced by salutary use,  
 Came of their fight with thee.

## IV.

Such were the hardy Northmen,  
 By land and sea renowned ;  
 Such gifts they brought where'er their feet  
 New resting-places found.  
 Such gifts to France, to England,  
 To Scotia's shores, they brought ;  
 And many a thrice-encircled rath  
 Still shows on Erin's hills the path  
 By which they came and fought.

## V.

Such gifts to this new Northland  
 All we of Northern blood,  
 Tempered by other gentler strains,  
 Brought with us o'er the flood  
 To this broad land, where Winter  
 Is Summer's best ally ;  
 And with his robe, so soft and white,  
 Her tender children shields from blight  
 Beneath the brumal sky.

## VI.

Ages ago, in battle,  
 We fairly won the day ;  
 And, though we still may call him king,  
 He bears disputed sway.

We make his mighty forces  
Obedient to our will ;  
Beneath our hands his ice and snow  
To wondrous shapes of beauty grow,  
Triumphs of art and skill.

VII.

Out of his frozen torrents  
We carve the glittering mass,  
And raise a dome, whose fairy charms  
Old Greece could not surpass.  
Upon its fair proportions  
Men gaze in silent awe,  
As those who in a dream behold  
The streets of pearl and gates of gold  
Which John in Patmos saw.

VIII.

And who that loveth Nature  
Feels not his heart aglow  
In presence of our winter woods,  
Tinselled with ice and snow !  
'Twas just such woodland visions,  
With moonlight glimmering down,  
Gave pious hearts the rapt desire  
To raise the grand cathedral spire  
In many a feudal town.

IX.

O Winter ! if thy anger  
Affrights the poor of heart,  
Best humoured and most cheery  
Of playfellows thou art.

E'en Summer cannot rival  
 Thy many-sided glee ;  
 For young and old, for maid and boy,  
 Thou hast a store of healthy joy  
 To bind our hearts to thee.

## X.

Now, in thy festal season,  
 We celebrate thy praise ;  
 For our Canadian Carnival  
 Send us auspicious days.  
 All ills that flesh is heir to  
 Be banished from our train ;  
 And may the pleasures of the scene  
 Keep in each heart its memory green  
 Until we meet again !

---

 THE SPIRIT OF THE CARNIVAL

## "FLEURANGE."

ONWARD ! the people shouted,  
 Let merriment be king !  
 Fling out your crimson banners,  
 Your fragrant roses fling,—  
 Fly faster, maddened horses,  
 Through din of trumpets loud ;  
 Crash down the dusty Corso,  
 Cheered by the frantic crowd !

Sweep onward, gaudy pageant,  
In wild uproarious glee ;  
Dark goblins, elves fantastic,  
Strange shapes from land and sea ;  
Wave high the flaming torches !  
Clang loud the brazen bells !  
The great enchanter, Carnival,  
Hath Rome within his spells.

Weary of heat and clamour  
A young Italian lay  
Beneath the ilex shadow,  
When closed the burning day ;  
Faint as his faded garlands  
His drowsy eyelids seem,—  
The Spirit of the Carnival,  
Comes to him in his dream :

“Awake, oh youth, arouse thee,  
And follow where I lead ;  
I know thy ardent nature,  
Thy soul is strong indeed ;  
It loathes the gilded folly,  
The childish pranks and play,  
The weak excited populace  
Wild with a holiday.

“And here, indeed, I linger  
To laugh and jest awhile ;  
But as a king may pause to greet  
A wilful beauty's smile.

Yet guardeth ever in his heart  
 An image pure and fair,  
 And hastening homeward to his queen  
 Finds life and love are there,—

“So follow, follow where I lead,  
 Across the western sea,  
 Where thou shalt learn thy manhood might,  
 From farce and folly free.”  
 The youth sighed in his sleep—his soul  
 Obeyed the strange command,—  
 The great enchanter, Carnival,  
 Still led him by the hand.

And soon the groves of olives  
 Are fading from his sight,  
 The dim blue shores of Italy  
 Melt into deeper night ;  
 Fresh draughts of light inhaling,  
 Where northern breezes blow,  
 Vast regions lie before him  
 All white with frost and snow.

“Behold !” th’ enchanter whispered,  
 “Gaze on, and thou shalt see  
 Why Canada, my kingdom,  
 My chosen home should be ;  
 Here all my sports and merriment,  
 To noble ends allied,  
 Teach manly strength and fortitude,  
 A nation’s truest pride.



See ! like a jewel burning  
Upon a silver band,  
Fair Montreal is shining  
Upon the snowy land ;  
Its stately mansions glowing  
With hospitable cheer,  
The merry sleigh-bells ringing  
Re-echo far and near."

The city keeps high festival,  
The icy air, like wine,  
Quickens each pace to bounding glee,  
Bright eyes with gladness shine.  
With merry laughter following fast  
From countless summits high—  
Like flashing arrows from a bow,  
The swift toboggans fly !

Then, as the youth gazed on, he sees  
A fairy palace rise,  
Seeming of mist and moonbeams born,  
Or poet's fantasies ;  
Within it throbs a soul of fire,  
That glows through every part,  
Softly as shines the light of love  
Within a maiden's heart.

A moment, and the magic scene  
Grows strangely bright as day,  
For, see ! an army storms the fort,  
Oh, guard it while ye may !

Hurrah ! the rockets leap aloft,  
 The waving torches flare—  
 A rainbow shower of golden stars  
 Breaks into glory there !

And far on yonder mountain side  
 A chain of living light !  
 Each link a stalwart snow-shoer  
 With torch that blazes bright,—  
 A jewelled order proudly flung  
 On old Mount Royal's breast,  
 A starry circlet from the skies  
 Dropt on his snowy crest.

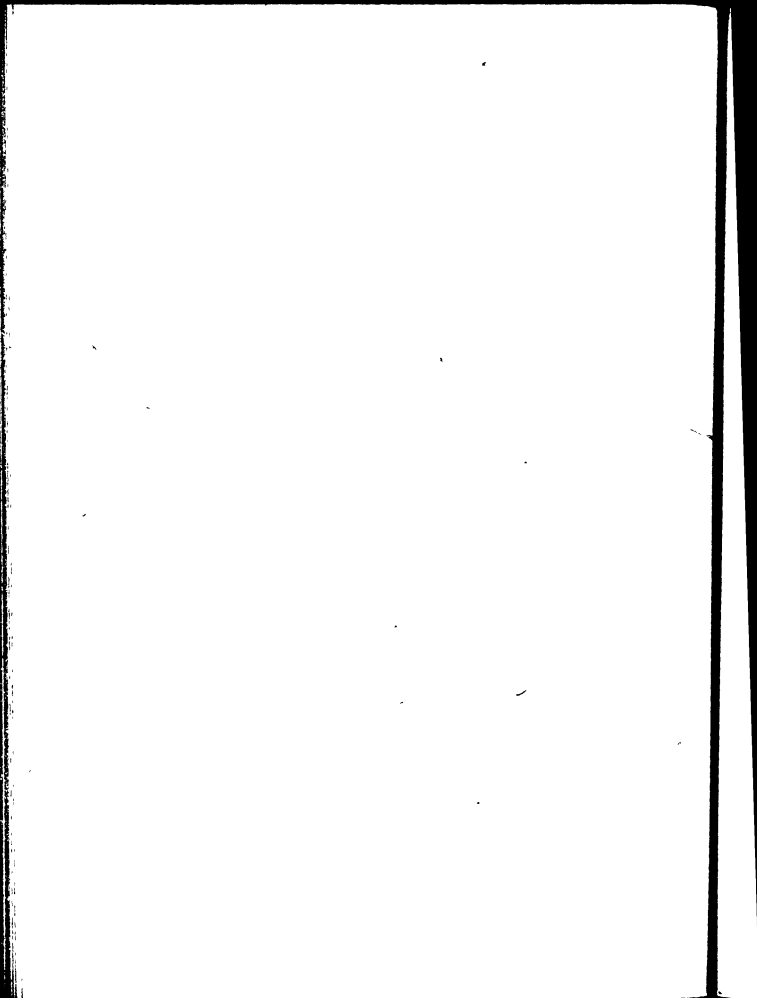
Then lights and city faded,  
 And the dreamer woke at last,  
 O'er him hung the old-world languor,  
 Faint with mem'ries of the past ;  
 But his spirit glowed within him,  
 And he left the careless throng,  
 Lived and wrought in earnest fashion,  
 Toil or pastime, brave and strong.

So may faint hearts ever gather  
 From Canadian sports and play  
 Something of the force that, working,  
 Hewed the forests, cleared the way :  
 For the tree shows fairer blossom  
 Where the roots are wide and deep,  
 And the pleasure turns to glory  
 When the victors revel keep ;

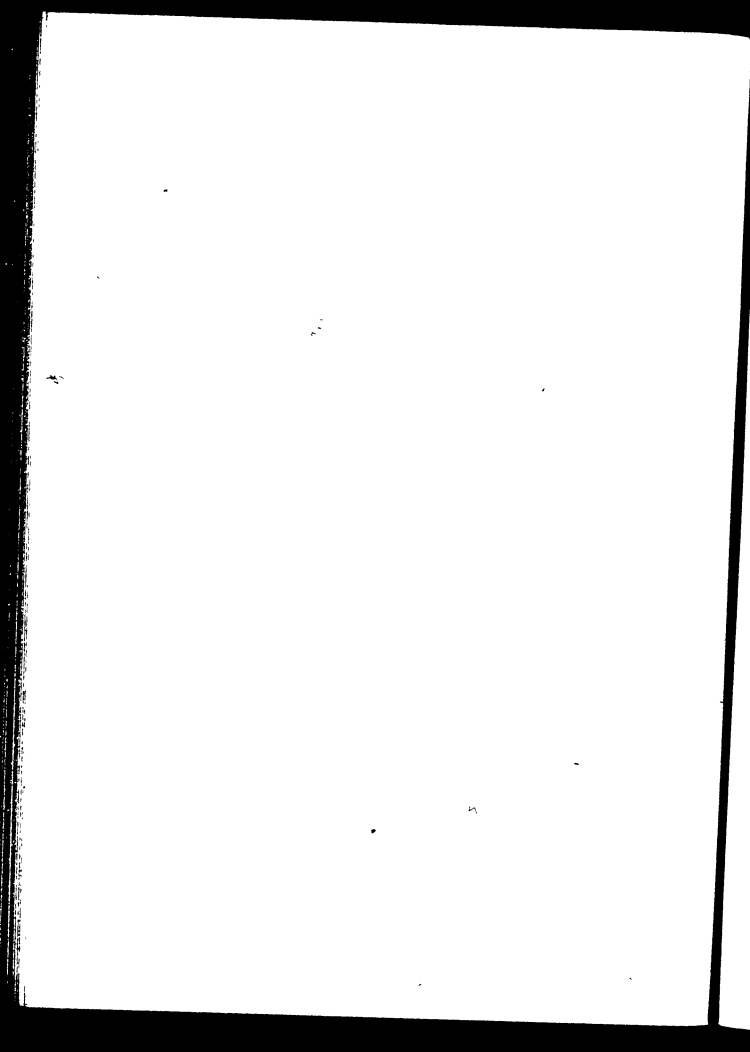
And the Carnival no longer wears  
The bells as Fancy's Fool,—  
He is a King, whose subjects free,  
Are loyal to his rule ;  
Each merry heart beats true and fast,  
And knows, amid his play,  
To-morrow he can meet the foe  
Who tries his strength to-day.

Then guard it well, fair Canada,  
Thy festival of snow,  
Proving old winter, stern and grim,  
Thy friend and not thy foe ;  
And may thy sons build steadfastly  
A nation great and free,  
Whose vast foundations stretch abroad  
From mighty sea to sea.

Long may Canadians bear thy name  
In unity and pride,—  
Their progress, like thy rushing streams,  
Roll a resistless tide ;  
Their hearts be tender as the flowers  
That o'er thy valleys grow,  
Their courage rugged as thy frost  
When winds of winter blow ;  
Their honour brilliant as thy skies,  
And stainless as thy snow !



VII.—THE SPIRIT OF CANADIAN  
HISTORY.



VII.—THE SPIRIT OF CANADIAN  
HISTORY.

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JACQUES CARTIER.

HON. THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE.

In the seaport of St. Malo, 'twas a smiling morn in May,  
When the Commodore Jacques Cartier to the westward  
sailed away ;  
In the crowded old Cathedral, all the town were on their  
knees,  
For the safe return of kinsmen from the undiscovered  
seas ;  
And every autumn blast that swept o'er pinnacle and  
pier,  
Filled many hearts with sorrow, and gentle hearts with  
fear.

A year passed o'er St. Malo—again came round the day,  
When the Commodore Jacques Cartier to the westward  
sailed away ;  
But no tidings from the absent had come the way they  
went.

And tearful were the vigils that many a maiden spent ;  
 And manly hearts were filled with gloom, and gentle  
 hearts with fear,  
 When no tidings came from Cartier at the closing of the  
 year.

But the earth is as the Future, it hath its hidden side,  
 And the Captain of St. Malo was rejoicing in his pride ;  
 In the forests of the North—while his townsmen mourned  
 his loss—  
 He was rearing on Mount Royal the *fleur-de-lis* and  
 cross ;  
 And when two months were over, and added to the year,  
 St. Malo hailed him home again, cheer answering to  
 cheer.

He told them of a region, hard, iron-bound, and cold,  
 Nor seas of pearl abounded, nor mines of shining gold ;  
 Where the wind from Thulé freezes the word upon the  
 lip,  
 And the ice in spring comes sailing athwart the early  
 ship ;  
 He told them of the frozen scene, until they thrilled with  
 fear,  
 And piled fresh fuel on the hearth to make them better  
 cheer.

But when he chang'd the strain,—he told how soon is  
 cast  
 In early Spring, the fetters that hold the waters fast ;  
 How the Winter causeway, broken, is drifted out to sea,  
 And the rills and rivers sing with pride the anthem of  
 the free ;



*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 145

How the magic wand of Summer clad the landscape to  
his eyes,  
Like the dry bones of the just when they wake in  
Paradise.

He told them of the Algonquin braves—the hunters of  
the wild ;  
Of how the Indian mother in the forest rocks her child ;  
Of how, poor souls, they fancy in every living thing  
A spirit good or evil, that claims their worshipping ;  
Of how they brought their sick and maim'd for him to  
breathe upon ;  
And of the wonders wrought for them, thro' the Gospel  
of St. John.

He told them of the river, whose mighty current gave  
Its freshness for a hundred leagues to ocean's briny  
wave ;  
He told them of the glorious scene presented to his sight,  
What time he reared the cross and crown on Hochelaga's  
height ;  
And of the fortress cliff, that keeps of Canada the key ;—  
And they welcomed back Jacques Cartier from the perils  
over sea.

## THE CAPTURED FLAG.

ARTHUR WEIR.

LOUDLY roared the English cannon, loudly thundered  
 back our own,  
 Pouring down a hail of iron from their battlements of  
 stone,  
 Giving Frontenac's proud message to the clustered British  
 ships :  
 " I will answer your commander only by my cannons'  
 lips."  
 Through the sulphurous smoke below us, on the Admiral's  
 ship of war,  
 Faintly gleamed the British ensign, as through cloud-  
 wrack gleams a star ;  
 And above our noble fortress, on Cape Diamond's rugged  
 crest,—  
 Like a crown upon a monarch, like an eagle in its nest,—  
 Streamed our silken flag, emblazoned with the royal  
*fleur-de-lys*,  
 Flinging down a proud defiance to the rulers of the sea.  
 As we saw it waving proudly, and beheld the crest it bore,  
 Fiercely throbbed our hearts within us, and with bitter  
 words we swore,  
 While the azure sky was reeling at the thunder of our  
 guns,  
 We would strike that standard never, while Old France  
 had gallant sons.

Long and fiercely raged the struggle, oft our foes had  
 sought to land,  
 But with shot and steel we met them, met and drove  
 them from the strand ;

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 147

Though they owned them not defeated, and the stately  
Union Jack,  
Streaming from the slender topmast, seemed to wave  
them proudly back.  
Louder rose the din of combat, thicker rolled the battle  
smoke,  
Through whose murky folds the crimson tongues of  
thundering cannon broke ;  
And the ensign sank and floated in the smoke-clouds on  
the breeze,  
As a wounded fluttering sea-bird floats upon the stormy  
seas.  
While we looked upon it sinking, rising through the sea  
of smoke,  
Lo ! it shook, and bending downwards, as a tree beneath  
a stroke,  
Hung one moment o'er the river, then precipitously fell,  
Like proud Lucifer descending from high heaven into hell.  
As we saw it flutter downwards, till it reached the eager  
wave,  
Not Cape Diamond's loudest echo could have matched  
the cheer we gave ;  
Yet the English, still undaunted, sent an answering echo  
back ;  
Though their flag had fallen conquered, still their fury  
did not slack,  
And with louder voice their cannon to our cannonade  
replied,  
As their tattered ensign drifted slowly shoreward with  
the tide.

There was one who saw it floating, and within his heart  
of fire,  
Beating in a Frenchman's bosom, rose at once a fierce  
desire,

That the riven flag thus resting on the broad St. Lawrence tide  
Should, for years to come, betoken how France humbled  
England's pride.  
As the stag leaps down the mountain, with the baying  
hounds in chase,  
So the hero, swift descending, sought Cape Diamond's  
rugged base,  
And within the water, whitened by the bullets' deadly  
hail,  
Springing, swam towards the ensign with a stroke that  
could not fail.  
From the shore and from the fortress we looked on with  
bated breath,  
For around him closer, closer, fell the messengers of  
death ;  
And as nearer, ever nearer, to the floating flag he drew,  
Thicker round his head undaunted still the English  
bullets flew.  
He has reached and seized the trophy. Ah ! what  
cheering rent the skies,  
Mingled with deep English curses, as he shoreward  
brought his prize !  
Slowly, slowly, almost sinking, still he struggled to the  
land,  
And we hurried down to meet him as he reached the  
welcome strand ;  
Proudly up the rock we bore him, with the flag that he  
had won,  
And that night the English vessels left us with the  
setting sun.

---

HOW CANADA WAS SAVED.

(May 1660.)

GEORGE MURRAY.

"Il faut ici donner la gloire à ces dix-sept François de Montreal, et honorer leurs cendres d'un éloge qui leur est deu avec justice, et que nous ne pouvons leur refuser sans ingratitude. Tout estait perdu, s'ils n'eussent péri, et leur malheur a sauvé ce pais."—RELATIONS DES JESUITES, 1660, p. 17.

BESIDE the dark Utawa's stream, two hundred years ago,  
A wondrous feat of arms was wrought, which all the  
world should know :

'Tis hard to read with tearless eyes that record of the  
past,

It stirs the blood, and fires the soul, as with a clarion's  
blast.

What though no blazoned cenotaph, no sculptured  
columns, tell

Where the stern heroes of my song, in death triumphant,  
fell ;

What though beside the foaming flood untombed their  
ashes lie,

All earth becomes the monument of men who nobly die.

A score of troublous years had passed since on Mount-  
Royal's crest

The gallant Maisonneuve upreared the Cross devoutly  
bless'd,

And many of the saintly Guild that founded Ville-Marie  
With patriot pride had fought and died—determined to  
be free.

Fiercely the Iroquois had sworn to sweep, like grains of  
 sand,  
 The Sons of France from off the face of their adopted  
 land,  
 When, like the steel that oft disarms the lightning of its  
 power,  
 A fearless few their country saved in danger's darkest  
 hour.

Daulac, the Captain of the Fort—in manhood's fiery  
 prime—  
 Hath sworn by some immortal deed to make his name  
 sublime,  
 And sixteen "Soldiers of the Cross," his comrades true  
 and tried,  
 Have pledged their faith for life and death—all kneeling  
 side by side ;  
 And this their oath :—On flood or field, to challenge face  
 to face  
 The ruthless hordes of Iroquois, the scourges of their  
 race ;  
 No quarter to accept or grant,—and, loyal to the grave,  
 To die like martyrs for the land they shed their blood to  
 save.

Shrived by the priest within the Church where oft they  
 had adored,  
 With solemn fervour they partake the Supper of the  
 Lord ;  
 And now, those self-devoted youths from weeping friends  
 have passed,  
 And on the Fort of Ville-Marie each fondly looks his  
 last.

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 151

Unskilled to steer the frail canoe, or stem the rushing  
tide,  
On through a virgin wilderness, o'er stream and lake  
they glide,  
Till, weary of the paddle's dip, they moor—their barks  
below  
A Rapid of Utawa's flood—the turbulent Long-Sault.

There, where a grove of gloomy pines sloped gently to  
the shore,  
A moss-grown Palisade was seen—a Fort in days of  
yore;  
Fenced by its circle, they encamped; and on the  
listening air,  
Before those staunch Crusaders slept, arose the voice of  
prayer.  
Sentry and scout kept watch and ward, and soon, with  
glad surprise,  
They welcomed to their roofless hold a band of dark  
allies,—  
Two stalwart chiefs and forty “braves”—all sworn to  
strike a blow  
In one great battle for their lives against the common  
foe.

Soft was the breath of balmy Spring in that fair month  
of May,  
The wild flower bloomed, the wild bird sang on many a  
budding spray,—  
A tender blue was in the sky, on earth a tender green,  
And Peace seemed brooding, like a dove, o'er all the  
sylvan scene;

When, loud and high, a thrilling cry dispelled the magic charm,  
And scouts came hurrying from the woods to bid their comrades arm,  
And bark canoes skimmed lightly down the torrent of the Sault,  
Manned by three hundred dusky forms—the long expected foe.

They spring to land—a wilder brood hath ne'er appalled the sight—  
With carbines, tomahawks, and knives that gleam with baleful light ;  
Dark plumes of eagles crest their chiefs, and broidered deerskins hide  
The blood-red war-paint that shall soon a bloodier red be dyed.  
Hark ! to the death-song that they chant,—behold them as they bound,  
With flashing eyes and vaunting tongues, defiantly around ;  
Then, swifter than the wind, they fly the barrier to invest,  
Like hornet-swarms that heedless boys have startled from a nest.

As Ocean's tempest-driven waves dash forward on a rock,  
And madly break in scething foam, hurl'd backward by the shock,  
So onward dashed that surging throng, so backward were they hurl'd,  
When from the loopholes of the Fort flame burst and vapour curl'd.



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Each bullet aimed by bold Daulac went crashing through  
the brain,  
Or pierced the bounding heart of one who never stirred  
again;  
The trampled turf was drenched with blood—blood  
stained the passing wave—  
It seemed a carnival of death, the harvest of the grave.

The sun went down—the fight was o'er—but sleep was  
not for those  
Who, pent within that frail redoubt, sighed vainly for  
repose;  
The shot that hissed above their heads, the Mohawks'  
taunting cries,  
Warned them that never more on earth must slumber  
seal their eyes.  
In that same hour their swart allies, o'erwhelmed by  
craven dread,  
Leaped o'er the parapet like deer and traitorously fled;  
And, when the darkness of the night had vanished, like  
a ghost,  
Twenty and two were left—of all—to brave a maddened  
host.

Foiled for a time, the subtle foes have summoned to their  
aid  
Five hundred kinsmen from the Isles, to storm the  
Palisade;  
And, panting for revenge, they speed, impatient for the  
fray,  
Like birds of carnage from their homes allured by scent  
of prey.

With scalp-locks streaming in the breeze, they charge,  
 —but never yet  
 Have legions in the storm of fight a bloodier welcome  
 met  
 Than those doomed warriors, as they faced the desolating  
 breath  
 Of wide-mouthed musketoons that poured hot cataracts  
 of death.

Eight days of varied horrors passed ! What boots it now  
 to tell  
 How the pale tenants of the Fort heroically fell ?  
 Hunger, and thirst, and sleeplessness—death's ghastly  
 aids—at length  
 Marred and defaced their comely forms, and quelled their  
 giant strength.  
 The end draws nigh—they yearn to die—one glorious  
 rally more  
 For the dear sake of Ville-Marie, and all will soon be  
 o'er ;  
 Sure of the martyr's golden Crown, they shrink not from  
 the Cross,  
 Life yielded for the land they love they scorn to reckon  
 loss !

The Fort is fired, and through the flames, with slippery,  
 splashing tread,  
 The Redmen stumble to 'the camp o'er ramparts of the  
 dead ;  
 There, with set teeth and nostril wide, Daulac the  
 dauntless stood,  
 And dealt his foes remorseless blows 'mid blinding  
 smoke and blood,

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 155

Till, hacked and hewn, he reeled to earth, with proud  
unconquered glance,  
Dead—but immortalised by death—Leonidas of France!  
True to their oath, that glorious band no quarter basely  
craved ;—  
So died the peerless Twenty-two, so Canada was saved !

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MADELEINE DE VERCHÈRES.

JOHN READE.

I.

"OH! my country, bowed in anguish 'neath a weight of  
bitter woe,  
Who shall save thee from the vengeance of the desolating  
foe?  
They have sworn a heathen oath, that every Christian  
soul must die,—  
God of Heaven, in mercy shield us! Father, hear thy  
children's cry."

II.

Thus prayed Madelcine, the daughter of an old heroic  
line,—  
Grecian poet, had he seen her, would have deemed her  
race divine ;  
But as the golden sun transcends the beauty of the  
brightest star,  
Than all the charms of face or form her maiden heart  
was lovelier far.

iii.

We can see her now in fancy, through the dim years  
gazing back  
To those stormy days of old, the days of valiant Fron-  
tenac,  
When the thinly settled land was sadly wasted far and  
near,  
And before the savage foe the people fled like stricken  
deer.

iv.

'Tis the season when the forest wears its many-coloured  
dress,  
And a strange foreboding whisper answers back the  
wind's caress  
As the swaying pines repeat the murmurs of the distant  
waves,  
While the children of the Summer flutter softly to their  
graves.

v.

But—was that another whisper, warning *her* of ill to  
come,  
As she stands beside the river, near her father's fortress-  
home?  
Hark! the sound of stealthy footsteps creeps upon the  
throbbing ear—  
Maiden, fly! the foe approaches, and no human aid is  
near.

VI.

Surely He who decked with beauty this fair earth on  
which we dwell,  
Never meant that men should change it by their madness  
into hell !  
He who gave the trees their glory, gave the birds their  
gift of song,  
Cannot smile from out yon heavens at the sight of  
human wrong.

VII.

But those savage hearts no beauty wins to thoughts of  
tender ruth—  
Mother fond, or gentle maid, or smiling innocence of  
youth.  
See! with fierce exulting yells the flying maiden they  
pursue—  
Hear her prayer, O God, and save her from that wild  
vindictive crew.

VIII.

Never ere that day or since was such a race by maiden  
run,  
Never 'gainst such fearful odds was wished-for goal so  
swiftly won ;  
Fifty foes are on her track, the bullets graze her floating  
hair—  
But worse than vain is all their rage, for God above has  
heard her prayer.

IX.

Madeleine has reached the Fort,—the gates are closed  
against the foe,  
—But now, a stricken throng sends up to heaven a wail of  
woe—  
Feeble men, and fainting women, without heart or hope  
or plan—  
Then it was that God gave courage to a maid to act the  
man.

X.

Then it was that Madeleine bethought her of her father's  
name :  
“ Never shall a soldier's daughter die the coward's  
death of shame ;  
Never in the days to come, when Canada is great and  
proud,  
Be it said a Christian maiden by a heathen's threat was  
cowed.

XI.

“ He is but a craven wretch would bid me yield in such  
an hour—  
Never yet my country's sons in peril's face were known  
to cower !  
No, my people ! God is with us ; 'tis our homes that we  
defend—  
Let the savage do his worst, we will oppose him to the  
end.

XII.

"Women, I am but a girl, but heroes' blood is in my  
veins,  
And I will shed it drop by drop before I see my land in  
chains;  
Let them tear me limb from limb, or strew my ashes to  
the wind,  
Ere I disgrace the name I bear, or leave a coward's fame  
behind.

XIII.

"Brothers mine, though young in years, you are old  
enough to know  
That to shed your blood is noble, fighting with your  
country's foe!  
Be the lesson unforgotten that our noble father gave,  
Whether glory be its guerdon, or it wins us but a grave.

XIV.

"Come, my people, take your places, every one as duty  
calls;  
Death to every foe who ventures to approach these  
fortress walls!  
Let no point be unprotected, leave the rest to God on  
high,  
That we shall have done our duty, even if we have to  
die."

XV.

Thus she raised their drooping courage, matchless maiden,  
    Madeleine,  
And the cry, "To arms!" re-echoed, till the roof-trees  
    rang again;  
Cannons thundered, muskets rattled, and the clank of  
    steel was heard,  
Till the baffled foe retreated, like a wolf untimely scared.

XVI.

Seven days and seven nights, with sleepless eye and  
    bated breath,  
They held the Fort against the foe that lurked around  
    them plotting death!  
At last a joyous challenge came, it was the brave La  
    Monnerie,  
And up to heaven arose a shout, "The foe has fled, and  
    we are free."

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THE BATTLE OF LA PRAIRIE.

(1691.)

(*A Ballad.*)

WILLIAM DOUW LIGHTHALL.

I.

THAT was a brave old epoch,  
Our age of chivalry,  
When the Briton met the Frenchman  
At the Fight of La Prairie ;  
And the manhood of New England,  
And the Netherlanders true,  
And Mohawks sworn, gave battle  
To the Bourbon's lilies blue.

II.

That was a brave old Governor,  
Who mustered his array,  
And stood to meet, he knew not what,  
On that alarming day.  
Eight hundred, against rumours vast  
That filled the wild wood's gloom,  
With all New England's flower of youth,  
Fierce for New France's doom.

III.

And the brave old scarce three hundred !  
Theirs should in truth be fame ;  
Borne down the savage Richelieu  
On what emprise they came !

Your hearts are great enough, O few:  
 Only your numbers fail!  
 New France asks more for conquerors,  
 All glorious though your tale.

## IV.

It was a brave old battle,  
 That surged around the fort,  
 When D'Hosta fell in charging,  
 And 'twas deadly strife and short;  
 When in the very quarters  
 They contested face and hand,  
 And many a goodly fellow  
 Crimsoned yon La Prairie sand.

## V.

And those were brave old orders  
 The colonel gave to meet  
 That forest force, with trees entrenched,  
 Opposing the retreat:  
 "De Callières' strength's behind us,  
 And beyond's your Richelieu:  
 We must go straightforward at them;  
 There is nothing else to do."

## VI.

And then the brave old story comes,  
 Of Schuyler and Valrennes,\*  
 When "Fight!" the British colonel called,  
 Encouraging his men,

\* Pronounced "Skylar" and "Valrenn."

"For the Protestant Religion,  
And the honour of our King!"—  
"Sir, I am here to answer you!"  
Valrennes cried, forthstepping.

VII.

Were those not brave old races?—  
Well, here they still abide;  
And yours is one or other,  
And the second's at your side.  
So when you hear your brother say,  
"Some loyal deed I'll do;"  
Like old Valrennes, be ready with,  
"I'm here to answer you!"

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THE BATTLE OF GRAND PRÉ.

(February 9th, 1746.)

M. J. KATZMANN LAWSON.

ROOM for the dead, the honoured dead, in this fair year  
of grace;  
In the Valhalla of the brave, give them a glorious place!  
The loyal men who crossed the sea, and came with battle  
ring,  
To hold this free fair land of ours a province for their  
king.

When winter's iron fetters bound river and lake and bay,  
And snow-drifts, piled in fleecy white, on plain and  
mountain lay,  
Where Blomidon's blue crest looks down upon the valley  
land,  
And the great waves of Fundy lap the grey stones on the  
strand ;  
Here, where the scattered homesteads stood, from time  
and labour won,  
The brave commander of the force quartered his garrison,  
Retaining for his citadel the old French stone house, set  
Where the ripple of the Gaspereaux sighs round its ruins  
yet.

Down from the heights of Cobequid, on noiseless snow-  
shoes borne,  
Slowly the crafty foeman came, by march and travel  
worn ;  
Lightly the low toboggans swept, bearing their motley  
freight,  
Food for the rebels on the march, shot for the brave who  
wait ;  
Broad rivers, all unknown to name, their stealthy foot-  
steps crossed,  
The Shubenacadie, Ste. Croix, and Avon bridged by  
frost ;  
For sixteen weary days they crept over these leagues of  
snow,  
As the grim panther tracks his prey, so stole they on the  
foe.  
In the deep stillness of the night,—out from the cold,  
black cloud,  
The snowflakes, falling one by one, the hemlock branches  
bowed ;

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 165

Forest, and plain, and hamlet, all hushed in slumber  
deep,  
And still before the driving blast the freezing Frenchmen  
creep ;  
With panting breath and weary tread, through midnight's  
icy blast,  
With murder in their hearts, they reach the Grand Pré  
camp at last.  
The sentinels were at their post, within the watchers  
slept,  
Hushed in the tumult which the storm and cruel snow-  
drift kept ;  
Oh, God ! that brave men thus should die, no time to  
rouse or stir !  
One hundred English soldiers fell in that dread massacre,  
Guarding the colours of their king in this new province  
land,—  
Scalped by the Indians' tomahawk, hewn down by alien  
hand !

Roused by the din at dead of night, piercing the stone  
house then,  
Brave Noble faced, with sword in hand, those fierce and  
blood-stained men ;  
The bitter wind in fury swept around his half-clad form,  
And flash of steel and sweep of shot, more cruel than the  
storm ;  
The Red Cross flag of England waved above his fortress  
rude,  
And brave, as all her loyal sons, he well her foes with-  
stood ;  
All worn and faint, from battle sore, wounded in heart  
and frame,  
From dying lips the valiant shout of "No surrender !"   
came.

166 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

Nor nobler names can Britain write upon her glorious  
scroll

Than those who held the fort that night where Minas'  
waters roll,—

Surprised, and overpowered and slain, yet heroes every  
one,

Those cold, set faces, white and still, turned to the rising  
sun.

Though many a score of years has marked this earth with  
loss and gain,

Since Noble fought his last long fight on Grand Pré's  
snowy plain,

No stone is raised to mark the place where his brave  
comrades fell,

No monument above his grave, of valiant deeds to tell.

Room for the honoured dead to-day, in memory's tender  
grace.

To chronicle their glorious deeds above their burial-  
place.

Crimean heroes, all our own, Lucknow and Kars still tell  
That Nova Scotia's sons can serve their Queen and  
country well!

But, with their fame, let us recall the battle long ago,

When English soldiers met the French at daybreak in the  
snow;

And held the fort, and kept the flag, as only heroes  
could,

Where, in this orchard land of ours, the old grey stone  
house stood.

Now, in this year of Jubilee, when living deeds are read,  
Glañce backward through the centuries which hold our  
honoured dead,—

Where Lechmere sank, and Pickering died, where the  
brave Noble fell,

Under our own old English flag, the flag they loved so well;

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 167

Where sunny Gaspereaux sweeps on amid the apple trees,  
And the blue waves of Minas chant a requiem to the  
breeze;  
Raise shaft or column to the dead, let some memorial fair  
Tell to our children's children still that *Heroes* slumber  
there!

SPINA CHRISTI.

WILLIAM KIRBY.

PART I.

" There is a thorn—it looks so old,  
In truth you'd find it hard to say  
How it could ever have been young,  
It looks so old and grey."

—WORDSWORTH.

THE city walls of Avignon are built of stone, and high  
The houses stand, with balconies above the streets that  
lie  
Around the old cathedral, whose sweet bells were ringing  
clear  
A merry tune, one day in June  
Of seventeen hundred year,  
And half a hundred years beside, while crowding far and  
near,  
Beneath the flags and tapestries, the people loudly  
cheer;—  
The regiment of Rousillon is ordered to the war,  
A thousand strong, the pick among  
The mountaineers of Var.

168 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

The great Church portals open wide, the crowd goes  
surging in,  
The soldiers tramp with measured tread—the services  
begin,  
A blessing is invoked upon the King's Canadian war;  
Beyond the seas there is no ease,  
And all things are ajar.  
The English in America do boldly break and mar  
The peace they made; but we will keep the treaties as  
they are!  
And now the Royal Rousillon take up the route with joy,  
And march away while bugles play—  
'Mid shouts of "Vive le Roy!"

There lives a lady beautiful as any Provence rose,  
The chataine of Bois le Grand, who weepeth as she  
goes—  
For sleep has left her eyelids on the banks of rapid Rhone:  
"But three months wed! alas," she said,  
"To live my life alone!  
Pining for my dear husband, in his old chateau of stone,  
While he goes with his regiment, and I am left to moan;  
That his dear head, so often laid at rest upon my knee,  
No pillow kind, but stones, shall find—  
No shelter but a tree!"

"Weep not, dear wife!" replied the count, and took  
her in his arms,  
And kissed her lovingly, and smiled to quiet her alarms;  
They stood beneath the holy thorn of the old Celestine,  
Pope Clement brought with blessing fraught  
And planted it between  
The wall and wall beside the cross, where he was daily  
seen



CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 169

To kneel before it reverently. It came from Palestine,  
A plant from that which cruelly the crown of thorns  
supplied,  
Christ wore for me, when mocked was He,  
And scourged and crucified.

"I'll take a branch of it," he said, "across the stormy  
sea  
That roars between New France and Old, and plant it  
solemnly  
In that far country where I go campaigning for the King;  
It will remind and teach mankind  
Of pains that blessing bring."  
Above his head he plucked a spray acute with many a  
sting,  
And placed it on his plumed chapeau, in token of the  
thing  
Alone can turn the sinful man—the piercing of the  
thorn—  
The healing smart—the contrite heart—  
Of penitence new born.

Despairingly she kissed his lips: "O welcome sharpest  
pain,  
That cuts the heart to bleeding, and bids hope revive  
again!  
O *Spina Christi!* to my heart I press thee wet with  
tears—  
If love outlast as in the past  
Each parting that endears!  
Our sky has been so bright and filled with music of the  
spheres,  
So gloomy now in sad eclipse it suddenly appears!

For joy dies out in silence like sweet singing that is  
done,  
If men forget their sacred debt  
To women they have won."

## PART II.

Atlantic gales come winged with clouds and voices of the  
sea,  
The misty Capes uncap to hear the ocean melody ;  
In broad St. Lawrence rise and fall the everlasting tides,  
Which come and go with ebb and flow—  
While every ship that rides  
At anchor swings, and east or west the passing flood  
divides,  
Or westward ho ! 'mid seamen's shouts still onward  
gently glides,  
Tasting the waters sweet from lakes, of boundless soli-  
tude  
Where thousand isles break into smiles  
Of nature's gladdest mood.

A hundred leagues and many more towards the glowing  
west,  
Amid the forests' silence, Ontario lay at rest—  
Keel rarely ploughed, or paddle dipt its wilderness of blue ;  
Where day by day life passed away  
In peace that irksome grew.  
In old Niagara fort, a cross stood loftily in view,\*

\* In the centre of the fort stood a cross eighteen feet high, with the inscription "Regn. Vinc. Imp. Chrs." The interpretation of which admits of as much ambiguity as a Delphic oracle.

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 171

And *Regnat. Vincit. Imperat. Christus* the words did  
show  
Carved on it, when the Rousillon came up in early spring  
To close the port, and guard the fort,  
And keep it for the King.

O ! fair in summer time it is, Niagara plain to see,  
Half belted round with oaken woods and green as grass  
can be !  
Its levels broad in sunshine lie, with flowerets gemmed  
and set  
With daisy stars, and red as Mars  
The tiny sanguinet,  
The trefoil with its drops of gold, white clover heads, and  
yet  
The sweet grass, commonest of all God's goodnesses we  
get !  
The dent-de-lions downy globes a puff will blow away,  
Which children pluck to try good luck,  
Or tell the time of day.

Count Bois le Grand sought out a spot of loveliness, was  
full  
Of sandworts, silvered leaf and stem, with down of fairy  
wool ;  
Hard by the sheltering grove of oak he set the holy  
thorn,  
Where still it grows and ever shows  
How sharp the crown of scorn  
Christ wore for man, reminding him what pain for sin  
was borne,  
And warning him he must repent before his sheaf is  
shorn,

172 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

When comes the reaper ~~Death~~, and his last hour of life  
is scored,  
Of all bereft, and only left  
The mercy of the Lord.

The thorn was planted, leafed and bloomed, as if its sap  
were blood  
That stained its berries crimson which fell dropping where  
it stood,  
And seeded others like it,—as on Golgotha befell,  
An awful sight, if seen aright,  
The trees that root in hell ! \*  
Contorted, twisted, writhing, as with human pain to tell  
Of cruel spines and agonies that God alone can quell.  
A cluster like them Dante saw, and never after smiled;  
A grove of doom, amid whose gloom  
Were wicked souls exiled.

. . . . .  
Niagara fort was bravely built with bulwarks strong and  
high,  
A tower of stone, and pallisades with ditches deep and  
dry,  
And best of all behind them lay Guienne and Rousillon, †  
La Sarre and Béarn, 'neath Pouchot stern—  
A wall of men like stone—  
De Villiers and Bois le Grand of old Avignon ;

\* A number of these thorns, old and weird of aspect, are still standing on the plains of Niagara near the grove of Paradise ; they were formerly called the " French thorns," a designation now nearly forgotten.

† Portions of the regiments of Rousillon, La Sarre, Béarn, and Guienne formed the garrison of Niagara during the memorable siege of 1759.

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 173

And over all, the flag of France waved proudly in the  
sun.

Prepared for it—they met the war with gaiety and zest—  
And every day barred up the way  
That opened to the west.

Discord was rampant now and hate, and peace lay like a  
yoke,  
That galled the necks of both of them, and French and  
English broke,  
With mutual wrath and rivalry, the treaty they had  
made;  
Too proud to live and each one give  
Sunshine as well as shade.  
From Louisburg to Illinois they stood as foes arrayed,  
And east and west war's thunder rolled,—the soldier's  
polished blade  
Flashed 'mid the savage tomahawks that struck and  
never spared,  
While fort and field alternate yield  
The bloody laurels shared.

The clouds of war rolled redder from the north, and  
English pride  
Was stung to desperation at the turning of the tide,  
When Montcalm the heroic, wise in council—struck the  
blow,  
Won Chouaguen, and conquered then  
At Carillon the foe.  
But with his very victories his armies melted slow.  
No help from France obtained he—and his heart sank  
very low;

174 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

He knew that England's courage flames the fiercest in  
defeat,  
And in the day she stands at bay  
Most dangerous to meet.

“ Help us, O France ! to save thy fair dominion in the  
west,  
Which for thy sake we planted, and have carved thy  
royal crest  
Of golden lilies on the rocks beside the streams that flow  
From mountain rills and past the hills  
Of far-off Ohio ;  
Then down leagues by the hundred, where bayous  
meander slow,  
Through orange groves and sugar canes, and flowers that  
ever blow,  
In fair Louisiana. We will take and hold the land  
For Francia's crown of old renown,  
If she will by us stand.”

So spake Montcalm, and message sent—“ My armies  
melt away  
With victories—my beaten foes grow stronger every day ;  
In vain Monongahela and Carillon piled with slain,  
If France forget to pay the debt  
Of honour without stain,  
She owes her sons who willingly are bleeding every vein  
For sake of her white flag and crown, on fortress and on  
plain.  
If we can keep Niagara safe that guards the western door,  
Then in the east Quebec may feast  
In quiet evermore.”  
Vain were Montcalm's appeals for aid, Voltaire's cold  
spirit ruled

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 175

The Court—while noisy doctrinaires, a gallant nation  
schooled  
In selfishness, and unbelief, and cowardice—and ease,  
Which manhood daunt, while women flaunt  
Their idle hours to please.  
Degenerately they drank the wine of life mixed with the  
lees;  
The Spartan virtues that make nations free and famous—  
these  
Were mocked, derided, set at nought, while fatuous  
statesmen stand,  
Whose feeble will, potent for ill,  
Yields where it should command.

PART III.

Remote amid the trackless woods and waters of the west,  
No enemy had broken yet Niagara's quiet rest.  
The fifth year of the war came in—a change was nigh at  
hand;  
The order ran to raise the ban  
And make a final stand.  
Prideaux and Johnson honoured were with new and high  
command,  
From Albany a hundred leagues to march across the land,  
While Wolfe besieged Quebec, and its defences battered  
in;  
So they elate took bond of fate  
Niagara to win.

But not before June's leafy days, when all the woods are  
green,  
And skies are warm and waters clear, the English scouts  
were seen.

176 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

A lull before the tempest fell with weeks of steady calm,  
Of golden hours when blooming flowers  
Filled all the air with balm.

The garrison were now prepared to struggle for the palm,  
To win the wreath of victory or die without a qualm;  
So passed their time in jollity and ease, as if the day  
Of bloody strife with life for life  
Was continents away.

A fleet of swift canoes came up, all vocal with the song  
Of voyageurs, whose cadences kept even time among  
The dipping paddles, as they flashed along Ontario's  
shore,

Past headlands high and coasts that lie  
In mistiness, and bore

A bevy of fair wives who loved their husbands more and  
more,—

Who could not bear their absence, and defiant of the roar  
Of forests and of waters, came to comfort and caress,  
As women may—and only they—  
Man's solitariness.

In these Capuan days they basked in pleasure's sunny  
beams,

The Provence home of Bois le Grand was rarer in his  
dreams,

The chatelaine of his chateau fast by the rapid Rhone,  
A memory dim became to him—

Nor loved he her alone.

A dame of charms most radiant—the cynosure that shone  
Amid the constellations of Quebec's magnetic zone,



CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 177

Drew him with force and held him fast, a captive with  
her eyes,  
Which, dark and bright as tropic night,  
Loved him without disguise ;

And he remembered not the thorn he planted by the  
grove  
Of Paradise, where he forgot in his forbidden love,  
The chatelaine of Bois le Grand, the purest wife and best  
Of womankind he left behind,  
And ventured, like the rest,  
To sport with woman's loveliness—as for a passing jest.  
His heart was very lonely, too, while all beside were  
blest ;  
Like Samson in Delilah's lap, his lock of strength was  
shorn ;  
He loved again, despite the pain  
And stinging of the thorn.

One day when he a-hunting went in the Norman Marsh,\*  
and she  
The dame he loved rode with him, as Diana fair to see  
In green and silver habited, and silken bandoleer,  
With dainty gun—by it undone!—  
And bugle horn so clear ;  
While riding gaily up and down to turn the timid deer  
And meet the joyance of his glance, when she should  
reappear,

\* The "*Marais Normand*," so called during the French occupation of Niagara. It is now covered with farms, but is still called the swamp.

178 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

She vanished in the thicket, where a pretty stag had  
flown—  
Saw something stir—alas for her!  
She shot her lover down!

Bleeding he fell—"O, Madelaine!" his cry turned her  
to stone,  
"What have you done unwittingly?" he uttered with a  
groan,  
As she knelt over him with shrieks sky-rending, such as  
rise  
From women's lips on sinking ships,  
With death before their eyes.  
She beat her breast despairingly; her hair dishevelled  
flies;  
She kissed him madly, and in vain to stanch the blood  
she tries,  
Till falling by him in a swoon they both lay as the  
dead—  
A piteous sight! love's saddest plight!  
With garments dabbled red.

Their servants ran, and hunters pale, and raised them  
from the ground;  
Restored the dame to consciousness, and searched his  
fatal wound.  
They pitched for him a spacious tent the river bank  
above,  
With boundless care for ease and air  
And tenderness of love.  
She waited on him night and day; plucked off her silken  
glove  
With self-accusing grief and tears—lamenting, as a dove

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 179

Bewails her wounded mate—so she—and in her bosom  
wore  
A spike of thorn which every morn  
She gathered—nothing more.

She cast her jewels off and dressed in robe of blackest  
hue,  
Her face was pale as look the dead, and paler ever grew.  
Smiles lit no more her rosy lips where sunbeams used to  
dance;  
A withering blight that kills outright  
Fell on her like a trance;  
For Bois le Grand was dying, and it pierced her like a  
lance  
To hear him vainly calling on his chatelaine in France,  
And not for her who knelt by him, and lived but in his  
breath—  
Remorse and grief without relief  
Were hastening her death.

Far, far away in Avignon, beneath the holy thorn,  
The chatelaine of Bois le Grand knelt down at eve and  
morn;  
And prayed for him in hope and trust long witless of his  
fate;  
But never knew he was untrue  
And had repented late.  
As caught between two seas his bark was in a rocky  
strait  
And with his life went down the lives of those two  
women. Fate

180 *CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.*

Bedrugged the love, betrayed them both—and one by  
    Laura's shrine  
Took her last rest—the other best,  
Drank death with him like wine.

Niagara's doom long threatened came—the roll of  
    English drums  
Was heard deep in the forest as Prideaux's stout army  
    comes.  
They sap and trench from day to day, the cannon fiercer  
    roar,  
The hot attack when beaten back  
Again comes to the fore.  
The pallisades are red with fire, the ramparts red with  
    gore,  
Its brave defenders on the walls die thickly more and  
    more,  
'Mid rack and ruin overwhelmed—no help above—below,  
The few remain—not of the slain—  
Surrender to the foe.

But not before all hope had fled, when gathered far and  
    wide  
From prairie, forest, fort, and field—with every tribe  
    allied  
To France, throughout the west they came, the fatal  
    siege to raise,  
And marched along, a mingled throng,  
Amid the forest maze.  
They halted in the meadows, where they stood like stags  
    at gaze,  
The English and the Iroquois confronting them for days,

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 181

Till Brant and Butler, wary chiefs, with stratagem of war  
Broke up their host, and captured most,  
While fled the rest afar.

The last day *came*, and Bois le Grand beheld with misty  
eyes  
The flag of France run down the staff, and that of  
England rise.

It was the sharpest thorn of all that 'neath his pillow  
lay—

“O, Madelaine!” he cried, “my men!

My Rousillon so gay!

Fill graves of honour,—while I live to see this fatal day!  
But not another! No!” he cried, and turned as cold as  
clay.

She kissed his mouth the last long kiss the dying get  
alone—

“O, Spina!” cried—fell by his side,  
And both lay dead as stone.

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**THE LOYALISTS.**

SARAH ANNE CURZON.

O YE, who with your blood and sweat  
Watered the furrows of this land,—  
See where upon a nation's brow,  
In honour's front, ye proudly stand!

Who for her pride abased your own,  
And gladly on her altar laid  
All bounty of the older world,  
All memories that your glory made.

And to her service bowed your strength,  
Took labour for your shield and crest;  
See where upon a nation's brow,  
Her diadem, ye proudly rest!

---

BROCK.

CHARLES SANGSTER.

ONE voice, one people, one in heart,  
And soul, and feeling, and desire!  
Re-light the smouldering martial fire,  
Sound the mute trumpet, strike the lyre,  
The hero deed can not expire,  
The dead still play their part.

Raise high the monumental stone!  
A nation's fealty is theirs,  
And we are the rejoicing heirs,  
The honoured sons of sires whose cares  
We take upon us unawares,  
As freely as our own.

We boast not of the victory,  
But render homage, deep and just,  
To his—to their—inmortal dust,  
Who proved so worthy of their trust,  
No lofty pile nor sculptured bust  
Can herald their degree.

No tongue need blazon forth their fame,—  
The cheers that stir the sacred hill  
Are but mere promptings of the will  
That conquered then, that conquers still ;  
And generations yet shall thrill  
At Brock's remembered name.

Some souls are the Hesperides  
Heaven sends to guard the golden age,  
Illuming the historic page  
With records of their pilgrimage ;  
True Martyr, Hero, Poet, Sage :  
And he was one of these.

Each in his lofty sphere sublime  
Sits crowned above the common throng,  
Wrestling with some Pythonic wrong,  
In prayer, in thunder, thought, or song ;  
Briareus-limbed, they sweep along,  
The Typhons of the time.

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## TECUMSEH'S DEATH.

MAJOR RICHARDSON.

AMID that scene, like some dark towering fiend,  
 With death-black eyes and hands all spotted o'er,  
 The fierce Tecumseh on his tall lance leaned,  
 Fired with much spoil and drunk with human gore ;  
 And now his blasting glance ferocious gleamed—  
 The chief who leads the eagles to his shore—  
 When, with one scream that devils might appal,  
 Deep in his breast he lodged the whizzing ball.

Like the quick bolt that follows on the flash  
 Which rends the mountain oak in fearful twain,  
 So springs the warrior with infernal dash  
 Upon the Christian writhing in his pain ;  
 High gleamed his hatchet, ready now to crash  
 Along the fibres of his swimming brain,  
 When from the adverse arm a bullet flew  
 With force resistless, and with aim too true.

The baffled Chieftain tottered, sunk, and fell,  
 Rage in his heart, and vengeance in his glance ;  
 His features ghastly pale—his breast was hell ;  
 One bound he made to seize his fallen lance,  
 But quick the death-shades o'er his vision swell,  
 His arm dropped nerveless, straining to advance ;  
 One look of hatred, and the last, he gave,  
 Then sunk and slumbered with the fallen brave.



Forth from the copse a hundred foemen spring,  
And pounce like vultures on the bleeding clay ;  
Like famished bloodhounds to the corpse they cling,  
And bear the fallen hero's spoils away ;  
The very covering from his nerves they wring,  
And gash his form, and glut them o'er their prey, —  
Wild hell-fiends all, and revelling at his death,  
With bursting shrieks and pestilential breath.

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A BALLAD FOR BRAVE WOMEN.

CHARLES MAIR.

A STORY worth telling our annals afford,  
'Tis the wonderful journey of Laura Secord !  
Her poor crippled spouse hobbled home with the news,  
That Bœrstler was nigh ! " Not a minute to lose,  
Not an instant," said Laura, " for stoppage or pause—  
I must hurry and warn our brave troops at Decaw's."  
" What ! you !" said her husband, " to famish and  
tire !"  
" Yes, me !" said brave Laura, her bosom on fire.  
" And how will you pass the gruff sentry," said he,  
" Who is posted so near us ?"

" Just wait till you see ;  
The foe is approaching, and means to surprise  
Our troops, as you tell me. Oh, husband, there flies

No dove with a message so needful as this—  
 I'll take it, I'll bear it. Good-bye, with a kiss.  
 Then a biscuit she ate, tucked her skirts well about,  
 And a bucket she slung on each arm, and went out.

'Twas the bright blush of dawn, when the stars melt  
 from sight,  
 Dissolved by its breath like a dream of the night;  
 When Heaven seems opening on man and his pain,  
 Ere the rude day strengthens and shuts it again.  
 But Laura had eyes for her duty alone—  
 She marked not the glow and the gloom that were  
 thrown  
 By the nurslings of morn, by the cloud-lands at rest,  
 By the spells of the East, and the weirds of the West.  
 Behind was the foe, full of craft and of guile;  
 Before her, a long day of travel and toil.  
 "No time this for gazing," said Laura, as near  
 To the sentry she drew.

"Halt! You cannot pass here."  
 "I cannot pass here! Why, sirrah, you drowse,  
 Are you blind? Don't you see I am off to my cows?"  
 "Well, well, you can go." So she wended her way  
 To the pasture's lone side, where the farthest cow lay,  
 Got her up, caught a teat, and, with pail at her knees,  
 Made her budge, inch by inch, till she drew by degrees  
 To the edge of the forest. "I've hoaxed, on my word,  
 Both you and the sentry," said Laura Secord.

With a lingering look at her home, then away  
 She sped through the wild wood—a wilderness gray—

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 187

Nature's privacy, haunt of a virgin sublime,  
And the mother who bore her, as ancient as Time ;  
Where the linden had space for its fans and its flowers,  
The balsam its tents, and the cedar its bowers ;  
Where the lord of the forest, the oak, had its realm,  
The ash its domain, and its kingdom the elm ;  
Where the pine bowed its antlers in tempests, and gave  
To the ocean of leaves the wild dash of the wave ;  
And the mystical hemlock—the forest's high-priest—  
Hung its weird, raking, top-gallant branch to the east.

And denser and deeper the solitude grew,  
The underwood thickened, and drenched her with dew ;  
She tripped over moss-covered logs, fell, arose,  
Sped, and stumbled again by the hour, till her clothes  
Were rent by the branches and thorns, and her feet  
Grew tender and way-worn and blistered with heat.  
And on, ever on, through the forest she passed,  
Her soul in her task, but each pulse beating fast,  
For shadowy forms seemed to flit from the glades,  
And beckon her into their limitless shades ;  
And mystical sounds—in the forest alone,  
Ah ! who has not heard them?—the voices, the moan  
Or the sigh of mute nature, which sinks on the ear,  
And fills us with sadness or thrills us with fear ?  
And who, lone and lost in the wilderness deep,  
Has not felt the strange fancies, the tremors which creep  
And assemble within, till the heart 'gins to fail,  
The courage to flinch, and the cheeks to grow pale,  
'Midst the shadows which mantle the spirit that broods  
In the sombre, the deep haunted heart of the woods ?

She stopped—it was noonday. The wilds she espied  
Seemed solitudes measureless. "Help me !" she cried ;

Her piteous lips parched with thirst, and her eyes  
 Strained with gazing. The sun in his infinite skies  
 Looked down on no creature more hapless than she,  
 For woman is woman where'er she may be.  
 For a moment she faltered, then came to her side  
 The heroine's spirit—the Angel of Pride.  
 One moment she faltered. Beware! What is this?  
 The coil of the serpent! the rattlesnake's hiss!  
 One moment, then onward. What sounds far and near?  
 The howl of the wolf, yet she turned not in fear,  
 Nor bent from her course till her eye caught a gleam,  
 From the woods, of a meadow through which flowed a  
 stream,  
 Pure and sweet with the savour of leaf and of flower,  
 By the night-dew distilled and the soft forest shower;  
 Pure and cold as its spring in the rock crystalline,  
 Whence it gurgled and gushed 'twixt the roots of the  
 pine.

And blest above bliss is the pleasure of thirst,  
 Where there's water to quench it; for pleasure is nursed  
 In the cradle of pain, and twin marvels are they  
 Whose interdependence is born with our clay.  
 Yes, blessed is water, and blessed is thirst,  
 Where there's water to quench it; but this is the worst  
 Of this life, that we reck not the blessings God sends,  
 Till denied them. But Laura, who felt she had friends  
 In Heaven, as well as on earth, knew to thank  
 The Giver of all things, and gratefully drank.

Once more on the pathway, through swamp and through  
 mire,  
 Through covert and thicket, through bramble and brier

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 189

She toiled to the highway, then over the hill,  
And down the deep valley, and past the new mill,  
And through the next woods, till, at sunset, she came  
To the first British picket and murmured her name;  
Thence, guarded by Indians, footsore and pale,  
She was led to Fitzgibbon, and told him her tale.

For a moment her reason forsook her; she raved,  
She laughed, and she cried—"They are saved, they are  
saved!"

Then her senses returned, and, with thanks loud and  
deep

Sounding sweetly around her, she sank into sleep.  
And Boerstler came up, but his movements were known,  
His force was surrounded, his scheme was o'erthrown.  
By a woman's devotion—on stone be't engraved—  
The foeman was beaten, and Burlington saved.

Ah! faithful to death were our women of yore!  
Have they fled with the past, to be heard of no more?  
No, no! Though this laurelled one sleeps in the grave,  
We have maidens as true, we have matrons as brave;  
And should Canada ever be forced to the test—  
To spend for our country the blood of her best—  
When her sons lift the linstock and brandish the sword,  
Her daughters will think of brave Laura Secord.

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THE VETERAN.

J. A. FRASER.


THE call "To arms!" resounded through the city broad  
and fair,  
And volunteers in masses came, prepared to do and  
dare ;  
Young lads, whose cheeks scarce showed the down, men  
bearded, stout and strong,  
Assembled at the first alarm, in bold undaunted throng.  
"I'll volunteer!" an old man cried, "I've served the  
Queen before ;  
I fought the Russ at Inkerman, the Sepoy at Cawnpore ;"  
And as he stood erect and tall, with proud and flashing  
eye,  
What though his hair were white as snow,—he could but  
do or die !  
"You are too old," the answer was ; "too old to serve  
her now."  
Then o'er his face a wonder flashed, a scowl came on his  
brow,  
And then a tear stole down his cheek, a sob his strong  
voice shook,—  
"Sir, put me in a uniform, and see how old I'll look !"

IN HOSPITAL.

ANNIE ROTHWELL.

ACROSS the glittering snow stretches the long blue  
shadows fall,  
And the golden flash of the sunset creeps up on the  
white-washed wall ;  
If I ever reach Heaven, I wonder shall I see the sun set  
on the snows ?  
And if there are shadows in Heaven, will they be as blue  
as those ?  
Sick fancies ? Maybe. Perhaps, if you'd lain here as  
long as I,  
If your life was one long patience, and you knew that to  
change was to die,  
You'd be thankful for even a fancy to take you out of  
your pain,  
And lift you one minute,—what, crying?—there—hush,  
I won't say it again.

Too young ? Ay, I'm not very old, lady ; but when  
death stares you hard in the face,  
There's a wonderful change comes on you : and a  
hospital ward's not the place  
To grow younger, exactly. What brought me ? Sit  
nearer, and bend your ear,  
For this plaguy breath comes short ; 'twould be hard for  
me now to join in a cheer.



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We were comrades, me and Joe Linton; we shared one  
bench at school,  
Together we worked in the harvest, and bathed in the  
shady pool;  
He was little, and bright-eyed, and shapely, as straight  
as a balsam tree;  
I'd strength, but I'd never no beauty, — folks never  
thought much of me.  
To manhood we grew like brothers; then he took a  
strange fancy to roam,  
And went away for a sailor, while I stayed with the old  
folks at home.  
I missed him,—but 't wasn't so hard, somehow, as it  
might be to let him go;  
I had learned to fear him a little—for I'd learned to love  
Mary Snow.

And I tried through the short bright summer to teach her  
to care for me;  
My gentle darling, my rosebud, the sweetest girl that  
could be!  
And sometimes I thought she had learned it, sometimes  
my hope was low;  
But I never dared ask—an old story—but you bade me  
tell you, you know.  
Well, Joe came back with the winter, and he asked me  
the question straight,—  
“Have you made it out with Mary, Will? I'd as lief  
know it now as to wait.”  
I shook my head, for I couldn't speak, but my heart beat  
thick and fast,  
As his dark eyes flashed, and—God help us both!—I  
saw the truth at last.



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He was true to me, Joe. All winter he spoke to her  
never a word;  
And her cheek grew pale, and the voice grew still that  
had warbled as gay as a bird;  
My chance was gone, and I knew it, but a loyal heart  
had Joe,—  
While I stayed he was dumb; so in spring-time 'twould  
be my turn to go.

Well, the spring-time came, and the summons; you  
remember it, lady? the call  
That rang out so sharp and sudden, and struck the fire in  
us all?  
I was glad, for I wanted no better than a lawful chance  
to die;  
But when Joe—I thought of Mary, and I wondered, and  
asked him, why?  
Then he took my hand in the old-time grip, and smiled,  
as he softly said,—  
“There's One we can seek without strife, lad, and both  
win,—living or dead.  
I can't let you win her alone, lad; we'll look for her side  
by side;  
And whichever comes back—)” I knew what he  
meant. Oh, if only I had died!

Through the hard, grand times that followed, we lived  
like brothers again;  
Shared frost and fatigue and hunger, and duties of  
pleasure and pain;  
Together through march and bivouac, we fared to the  
tenth of May,  
And together, that Sunday morning, on the skirmish line  
we lay.

Ah! 'twas no home echo of church bells that Sabbath  
 silence broke ;  
 Command and obedience were priest and psalm, and our  
 incense was rifle smoke.  
 But "obedience is better than sacrifice," I think I have  
 heard it said ;  
 Maybe our's will be reckoned for worship when the last  
 great orders are read.

Need I tell the rest? You can guess it,—the shot and  
 the swift, sharp word,  
 Half oath and half prayer, hurled towards me, as the  
 grass where he lay was stirred :  
 And how I, on my knees beside him, in the waste and  
 desolate place,  
 With his blood on my useless fingers, and his fainting  
 eyes on my face,  
 In appeal for the help I had not, saw the desperate  
 choice that must lie  
 Betwixt one mad effort to save him, or waiting to watch  
 him die.  
 My arms were strong, and I clasped him,—the wide  
 plain, as I raised him and ran,  
 Heaved to and fro around me. In that struggle of man  
 for man,  
 My own heart choked me. . . . The distant lines  
 seemed to mock my failing speed,  
 And no breath in the burden I carried gave me hope or  
 strength in my need. . . .  
 —The end? Well, a crack in the distance, and  
 something struck my wrist,  
 And I shifted the weight to my shoulder that I thanked  
 God the bullet had missed.

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A second,—my foot slipped,—I stumbled : was it only  
over a stone ?  
Ah ! this time the lead gave its message,—took tribute  
of flesh and of bone.

That's all—— I had tried and failed. When they  
found us they scarce could tell  
The dead from the living. Oh, had I but died when I  
fainted and fell !  
But I've lingered these long months over ('tis a weary  
time since May !)  
With pain my companion in darkness, and sorrow my  
comrade by day.  
They gave Joe a soldier's burial,—he has earned a  
soldier's fame ;  
In the day so swiftly coming. do you think I shall have  
the same ?

Had I saved him, lady, I'd have given twenty lives, nor  
counted the cost ;  
But it's somewhat hard to fight one's best, yet know that  
the day is lost.  
We shall know why it happens, maybe, some day, and  
perhaps we shall get our reward,  
When the last retreat has been sounded, and the angels  
relieve the guard.

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IN MEMORIAM.

*Those killed in the North-West, 1885.*

FREDERICK GEORGE SCOTT.

GROWING to full manhood now,  
With the care-lines on our brow,  
We, the youngest of the nations,  
With no childish lamentations,  
Weep, as only strong men weep,  
For the noble hearts that sleep,  
Pillowed where they fought and bled,  
The loved and lost, our glorious dead !

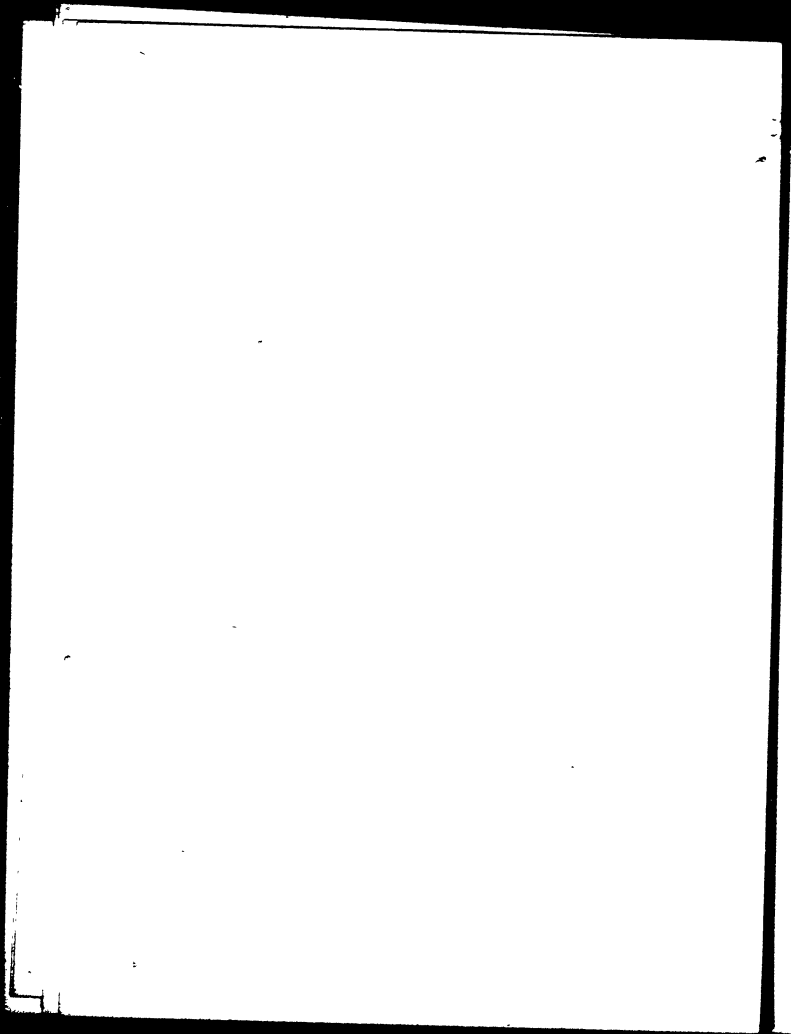
Toil and sorrow come with age,  
Manhood's rightful heritage ;  
Toil our arms more strong shall render,  
Sorrow make our heart more tender,  
In the heartlessness of time ;  
Honour lays a wreath sublime—  
Deathless glory—where they bled,  
Our loved and lost, our glorious dead !

Wild the prairie grasses wave  
O'er each hero's new-made grave ;  
Time shall write such wrinkles o'er us.  
But the future spreads before us  
Glorious in that sunset land—  
Nerving every heart and hand,  
Comes a brightness none can shed,  
But the dead, the glorious dead !

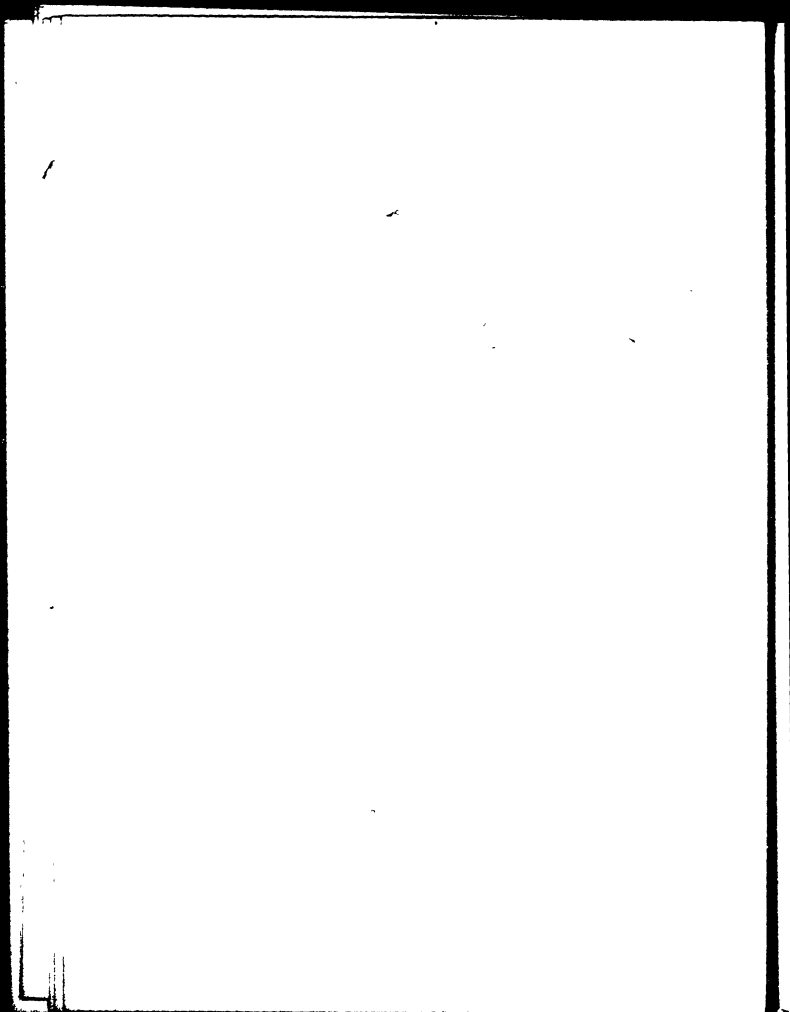
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Lay them where they fought and fell;  
Every heart shall ring their knell,  
For the lessons they have taught us,  
For the glory they have brought us.  
Tho' our hearts are sad and bowed,  
Nobleness still makes us proud—  
Proud of light their names shall shed  
In the roll-call of our dead!

Growing to full manhood now,  
With the care-lines on our brow,  
We, the youngest of the nations,  
With no childish lamentations,  
Weep, as only strong men weep,  
For the noble hearts that sleep  
Where the call of duty led,  
Where the lonely prairies spread,  
Where for us they fought and bled,  
Our ever loved and glorious dead.



VIII.—PLACES.





## VIII.—PLACES.

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### THE TANTRAMAR REVISITED.

SUMMERS and summers have come, and gone with the  
flight of the swallow;  
Sunshine and thunder have been, storm and winter and  
frost;  
Many and many a sorrow has all but died from remem-  
brance,  
Many a dream of joy fall'n in the shadow of pain.  
Hands of chance and change have marred, or moulded,  
or broken,  
Busy with spirit or flesh, all I most have adored;  
Even the bosom of Earth is strewn with heavier  
shadows,—  
Only in these green hills, aslant to the sea, no change!  
Here, where the road that has climbed from the inland  
valleys and woodlands  
Dips from the hill-tops down, straight to the base of the  
hills,—  
Here, from my vantage-ground, I can see the scattering  
houses,

Stained with time, set warm in orchards, and meadows,  
 and wheat,  
 Dotting the broad bright slopes outspread to southward  
 and eastward,  
 Wind-swept all day long, blown by the south-east wind.  
 Skirting the sun-bright uplands stretches a riband of  
 meadow,  
 Shorn of the labouring grass, bulwarked well from the  
 sea,  
 Fenced on its seaward border with long clay dikes from  
 the turbid  
 Surge and flow of the tides vexing the Westmoreland  
 shores.  
 Yonder, towards the left, lie broad the Westmoreland  
 marshes,—  
 Miles on miles they extend, level, and grassy, and dim,  
 Clear from the long red sweep of flats to the sky in the  
 distance,  
 Save for the outlying heights, green-rampired Cumber-  
 land Point;  
 Miles on miles outrolled, and the river-channels divide  
 them,—  
 Miles on miles of green, barred by the hurtling gusts.

Miles on miles beyond the tawny bay is Minudie,  
 There are the low blue hills; villages gleam at their feet.  
 Nearer a white sail shines across the water, and nearer  
 Still are the slim grey masts of fishing boats dry on the  
 flats.  
 Ah! how well I remember those wide red flats, above  
 tide-mark,  
 Pale with scurf of the salt, seamed and baked in the sun!  
 Well I remember the piles of blocks and ropes, and the  
 net-reels

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Wound with the beaded nets, dripping and dark from the  
sea!

Now at this season the nets are unwound; they hang  
from the rafters

Over the fresh-stowed hay in upland barns, and the wind  
Blows all day through the chinks, with the streaks of  
sunlight, and sways them

Softly at will; or they lie heaped in the gloom of a loft.

Now at this season the reels are empty and idle; I see them  
Over the lines of the dikes, over the gossiping grass.

Now at this season they swing in the long strong wind,  
thro' the lonesome

Golden afternoon, shunned by the foraging gulls.

Near about sunset the crane will journey homeward  
above them;

Round them, under the moon, all the calm night long,  
Winnowing soft grey wings of marsh-owls wander and  
wander,

Now to the broad lit marsh, now to the dusk of the dike.  
Soon, thro' their dew-wet frames, in the live keen fresh-  
ness of morning,

Out of the teeth of the dawn blows back the awakening  
wind.

Then, as the blue day mounts, and the low shot shafts of  
the sunlight

Glance from the tide to the shore, gossamers jewelled  
with dew

Sparkle and wave, where late sea-spoiling fathoms of  
drift-net

Myriad-meshed, plumed sombrely over the land.

Well I remember it all. The salt raw scent of the  
margin;

While, with men at the windlass, groaned each reel, and  
 the net,  
 Surging in ponderous lengths, uprose and coiled in its  
 station ;  
 Then each man to his home,—well I remember it all !

Yet, as I sit and watch, this present peace of the land-  
 scape,—  
 Stranded boats, these reels empty and idle, the hush,  
 One grey hawk slow-wheeling above yon cluster of hay-  
 stacks,—  
 More than the old-time stir this stillness welcomes me  
 home.

Ah, the old-time stir, how once it stung me with rapture !  
 Old-time sweetness, the winds freighted with honey and  
 salt !  
 Yet will I stay my steps and not go down to the marsh-  
 land,—  
 Muse and recall far off, rather remember than see,—  
 Lest, on too close sight, I miss the darling illusion,  
 Spy at their task even here the hands of chance and  
 change.

---

### LOW TIDE ON GRAND-PRÉ.

BLISS CARMAN.

THE sun goes down, and over all  
 These barren reaches by the tide  
 Such unelusive glories fall,  
 I almost dream they yet will bide  
 Until the coming of the tide.

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And yet I know that not for us,  
By any ecstasy of dream,  
He lingers to keep luminous  
A little while the grievous stream,  
Which frets, uncomforted of dream,—

A grievous stream, that to and fro  
Athrough the fields of Acadie  
Goes wandering, as if to know  
Why one beloved face should be  
So long from home and Acadie !

Was it a year or lives ago  
We took the grasses in our hands,  
And caught the summer flying low  
Over the waving meadow lands,  
And held it there between our hands?

The while the river at our feet—  
A drowsy inland meadow stream—  
At set of sun the after-heat  
Made running gold, and in the gleam  
We freed our birch upon the stream.

There down along the elms at dusk  
Wedrifted dripping blade to drift,  
Through twilight scented fine like musk,  
Where night and gloom awhile uplift,  
Nor sunder soul and soul adrift.

And that we took into our hands—  
Spirit of life or subtler thing—  
Breathed on us there, and loosed the bands  
Of death, and taught us, whispering,  
The secret of some wonder-thing.

---

Then all your face grew light, and seemed  
To hold the shadow of the sun ;  
The evening faltered, and I deemed  
That time was ripe, and years had done  
Their wheeling underneath the sun.

So all desire and all regret,  
And fear and memory, were naught ;  
One to remember or forget  
The keen delight our hands had caught ;  
Morrow and yesterday were naught !

The night has fallen, and the tide . . .  
Now and again comes drifting home,  
Across these aching barrens wide,  
A sigh like driven wind or foam :  
In grief the flood is bursting home !

---

THE INDIAN NAMES OF ACADIA.

ATTRIBUTED TO DE MILLE.

THE memory of the Red Man,  
How can it pass away,  
While his names of music linger  
On each mount and stream and bay?  
While *Musquodobit's* waters  
Roll sparkling to the main;  
While falls the laughing sunbeam  
On *Chegogin's* fields of grain.

While floats our country's banner  
O'er *Chebucto's* glorious wave;  
And the frowning cliffs of *Scaterie*  
The trembling surges brave;  
While breezy *Aspotogon*  
Lifts high its summit blue,  
And sparkles on its winding way  
The gentle *Sissibou*.

While *Escasoni's* fountains  
Pour down their crystal tide;  
While *Inganish's* mountains  
Lift high their forms of pride;  
Or while on *Mabou's* river  
The boatman plies his oar;  
Or the billows burst in thunder  
On *Chickaben's* rock-girt shore.

The memory of the Red Man,  
 It lingers like a spell  
 On many a storm-swept headland,  
 On many a leafy dell;  
 Where *Tusket's* thousand islets,  
 Like emeralds, stud the deep;  
 Where *Blomidon*, a sentry grim,  
 His endless watch doth keep.

It dwells round *Catalon's* blue lake,  
 'Mid leafy forests hid,—  
 Round fair *Discourse*, and the rushing tides  
 Of the turbid *Pisiquid*.  
 And it lends, *Chebogue*, a touching grace  
 To thy softly flowing river,  
 As we sadly think of the gentle race  
 That has passed away for ever.

---

### ON LEAVING THE COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA.

GEORGE FREDERICK CAMERON.

I STAND alone at midnight on the deck,  
 And watch with eager eye the sinking shore  
 Which I may view, it may be, nevermore;  
 For there is tempest, battle, fire, and wreck,  
 And Ocean hath her share of each of these,—  
 Attest it, thousand rotten argosies,  
 Wealth-laden, sunken in the southern seas!



And who can say that evermore these feet  
Shall tread thy soil, Acadia? Who can say  
That evermore this heart of mine shall greet  
The loved to whom it sighs adieu to-day?  
Our sail is set for countries far away;  
Our sail is set, and now is no retreat,  
Though Ocean should but lure, like Beauty,  
to betray!

---

THE FAIRIES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

(From "*The Emigration of the Fairies.*")

JOHN HUNTER-DUVAR.

FIRST halt. They heard within a sugar patch  
The rhyming tic-a-tac of axes chopping,  
So scouts were sent ahead to try to catch  
A glimpse of whom or what 'twas caused the lopping,  
And bring back a description of the natives—  
If they were cannibals or friends, or caitiffs.

The scouts returned and said where they had stole,  
They'd seen a score or so of stalwart creatures  
In flannel shirts, not smock-frocks; on the whole  
They rather liked their friendly bearded features,  
And that the first glance of these live Canadians  
Impressed them favourably—(they were Acadians).

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Then onward. Sudden on the horizon came  
A burst of blaze like to a town on fire,  
While smoke in columns and fierce tongues of flame  
Rose grandly heavenwards, high and ever higher—  
They were so scared they went by with a rush,  
And did not know 'twas choppers burning brush.

With feelings as on field of Waterloo,  
They came upon a space of blackened stumps ;  
"Alas !" cried they, "here greenwood temples grew,  
And columns, ruined now, have stood in clumps."  
They thought that war had here wiped out a nation  
And left this ghastly scene of desolation.

They reached a scaffold frame beside a weir  
With criss-cross beams, and rafters gaunt and slewed,  
And in it agonising screams could hear,  
And saw a whirling fiend devouring wood—  
It was a sawmill, and, too scared for speech,  
They skirred away beyond the monster's reach.

It pleased them much to see the birds about,  
And one boy cried, "A robin ! big as thrush !  
Ma, can that be Cock Robin grown so stout ?"  
Whereon his mother, with her thoughts a-rush  
With English memories, said (and checked a sob in),  
"My dear, that is a fowl and not a robin."

They saw woodpeckers hanging by the toes,  
Bluejay they thought was a professional beauty ;  
They looked for rooks but only lit on crows,  
Whose only link with crows, is both are sooty ;  
And as to linnets, finches, and those others,  
They looked on them in light of little brothers.

A number of strange other things they noted  
As quite unlike what they had seen at home,  
To all of which they curiously devoted  
Attention, as a gentle hill they clomb,  
Where on them burst a true colonial scene  
Of wood and meadow land of living green.

---

THE VALE OF THE GASPEREAU.

(From "Gaspereau.")

ARTHUR JOHN LOCKHART.

WOE fell on you, ye genial race,  
Ye exiled sons of lily France!  
This is no more your dwelling-place,—  
Ye live in music and romance;  
But oft as purple even-tide  
Bathes all these hills in fire and dew,  
Some wanderer by the river-side  
Shall drop a tear and dream of you.

The Vale still rings with childhood's song,  
Amid its yellowing sea of flowers,  
While days of summer glide along  
On wings of light through all your bowers.  
Here are the trees ye planted, here  
The remnants of your broken homes;  
But to old graves from year to year,  
No ghostly mourner ever comes.

## THE ISLE OF DEMONS.

*(From "Marguerite.")*

GEORGE MARTIN.

TOGETHER o'er the mystic Isle  
 We wandered many a sinuous mile.  
 'Twas midway in the month of June,  
 And rivulets with lisp'ng rune,  
 And bow'ring trees of tender green,  
 And flowering shrubs their trunks between,  
 Enticed our steps till gloaming grey  
 Upon the pathless forest lay.  
 Think not I journeyed void of fear ;  
     Sir Roberval's hot malediction,  
 Like hurtling thunder, sounded near ;  
 Our steps the envious demons haunted,  
     And peeped, or seemed to peep and leer,  
     From rocky clefts and caverns drear.  
 But still, defiantly, undaunted,  
 Eugene averred it had been held  
 By wise philosophers of eld  
 That all such sights and sounds are mere  
 Fantastic tricks of eye and ear,  
     And only meet for tales of fiction.  
 "Heed not," he said, "the vicious threat,  
     'Twas but a ruffian's empty talk,  
 The which I pray thou may'st forget  
     And half his evil purpose baulk."  
 A silent doubt and grateful kiss  
 Was all I could oppose to this.

But firmer grew my steps. The air  
Was laden with delicious balm;  
Rich exhalations everywhere,  
From pine and spruce and cedar grove,  
And over all a dreamy calm,  
An affluence of brooding love,  
A palpable, beneficent  
Sufficiency of blest content.

Amid the hours, in restful pause  
We loitered on the moss-clad rocks,  
And listened to the sober caws  
Of lonely rooks, and watched thick flocks  
Of pigeons passing overhead;  
Or where the scarlet grosbeak sped,  
A wingéd fire, through clumps of pine  
Sent chasing looks of joy and wonder.  
Blue violets and celandine,  
And modest ferns that glanced from under  
Grey-hooded boulders, seemed to say—  
“O, tarry, gentle folk; O, stay,  
For we are lonely in this wood,  
And sigh for human sympathy  
To cheer our days of solitude.”

. . . . .  
The great rude world was far away,  
And like a troubled vision lay  
Outside our thoughts; its cold deceits,  
The babble of its noisy streets,  
And all the selfish rivalry  
That courts and castles propagate

Were alien to our new estate.—  
 A fragment of propitious sky,  
 Whereon a puff of cloud might lie,  
 Through verdured boughs o'er-arching seen,  
 And glimpses of the sea between  
 Far stretches of majestic trees,  
 Such peaceful sanctities as these  
 Were our abiding joyance now.

Cheerily, and with lifted brow,  
 Eugene led on, where tamaracs grew,  
 And where tall elms their shadows threw  
 Athwart a little glen, wherein  
 A virgin brook seemed glad to win  
 The pressure of our thirsty lips.  
     Pleasant it was to linger there  
 And cool our fevered finger-tips  
     In that pellucid stream, and share  
 The solace of the ocean breeze.  
     For summer heats were now aglow,  
 The fox sat down and took his ease,  
     The hare moved purposeless and slow :  
 But louder rang the bluejay's scream,  
     The woodpeck tapped the naked tree,  
     Nor ceased the simple chickadee  
 To twitter in the noonday beam.—  
 My lover, wheresoe'er we strayed,  
     Made search in every charmed nook,  
     And angled in the winding brook  
 For all sweet flowers that love the shade,  
 To twine for me a bridal braid.  
 Pale yellow lilies, nursed by rocks  
 Rifted and scarred by lightning shocks,  
 Or earthquake ; river buds and pinks,

And modest snow-drops, pearly white,  
And lilies of the vale, unite  
Their beauty in close-loving links  
Around a scented woodbine fair  
To coronate my dark brown hair.  
The fragile fern and clover sweet  
On that enchanted circlet meet ;  
Young roses lent their blushing hues ;  
Nor could the cedar leaf refuse  
With helmet flowers to intertwine  
Its glossy amplitude divine.—  
Emerging from that solemn wood,  
High on a rocky cliff we stood  
At set of sun ; far, far away  
The splendours of departing day  
Upon the barren ocean lay.—  
There on that lone sea-beaten height,  
Investured in a golden light,  
Eugene, with looks half sad, whole sweet,  
Upon my brow the garland set,  
At once a chaplet and aigrette,  
And said " Be crowned, my Marguerite ! "

Was it sick fancy, sore misled,  
That to my shuddering spirit said ?—  
" Those sounds that shake the midnight air,  
Are threats of Shapes that will not spare  
Your trespass on their fief accurst. "  
" Hush, hush, my love, " Eugene would say,  
" That cry which o'er our cabin burst  
Came from the owls, perched royally  
Among the pine-tops ; you but heard  
The language of some beast or bird ;  
The mooring of a mother bear,

An hungered in her frozen lair ;  
 The laugh and mooring of the loon  
 That welcometh the rising moon.  
 The howling of the wolves you hear,  
 In chase of some unhappy deer,  
 Impeded in its desperate flight  
     By deep and thickly crusted snows,  
     O'er which its lighter-footed foes  
 Pursue like shadows of the night.  
 That lengthened groan, that fearful shriek,  
 Was but the grinding stress and creak  
 Of aged trees ; they seem to feel  
 The wrench of storms, and make appeal  
 For mercy ; in their ducts and cells  
 The sap, which is their life-blood, swells  
 When frosts prevail, and bursts asunder  
 With sharp report its prison walls."

The double darkness walled us in,  
     The blackness of the storm and night,  
 And still he came not ! O, what sin,  
     What blasphemy against the light  
 Of Heaven had my soul committed ?  
     Never before had eventide  
     Once found him absent from my side.  
 Eugene came not ! deceived, outwitted,  
     Sore tempest-tossed and lured astray  
 By demons, when the night-owl flitted  
     Across his face at close of day,  
 Groping for home, exhausted, faint,  
 No angel near, no pitying saint  
     To aid his steps and point the way !



From ebb of day till noon of night,  
And onward till return of light,  
The signal horn, Nanette and I,  
Alternate blew ; but for reply  
The wind's unprecedented roar,  
And ocean thundering round the shore  
Our labour mocked ; and other sounds,  
Nor of the land, nor sea, nor sky,  
Our ears profaned ; the unleashed hounds  
Of spleenful hell were all abroad,  
And round our snow-bound cabin trod,  
And stormed on clashing wings aloof,  
And stamped upon the yielding roof,  
And all our lamentation jeered.  
Down the wide chimney-gorge they peered  
With great green eye-balls fringed with  
flame ;—  
The holy cross I kissed and reared,  
And in sweet Mary's blessed name,  
Who erst had buoyed my sinking heart,  
Conjured the foul-faced fiends depart.  
Their shriekings made a storm more loud  
Than that before whose fury bowed  
The hundred-ringéd oaken trees ;  
More fearful, more appalling these  
Than thunder from the thunder-cloud

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SAGUENAY.

*(From the French of Fréchetle.)*

J. D. EDGAR.

THE forest has spells to enchant me,  
The mountain has power to enthrall ;  
Yet the grace of a wayside blossom  
Can stir my heart deeper than all.

O towering steeps, that are mirrored  
On Saguenay's darkening breast !  
O grim rocky heights, sternly frowning,  
The thunders have smitten your crest !

O sentinels, piercing the cloudland,  
Stand forth in stupendous array !  
My brow, by your shadows enshrouded,  
Is humbled before you to-day.

But, peaks that are gilded by Heaven,  
Defiant you stand in your pride !  
From glories too distant, above me,  
I turn to the friend by my side.

QUEBEC.

CHARLES SANGSTER.

QUEBEC ! how regally it crowns the height,  
Like a tanned giant on a solid throne !  
Unmindful of the sanguinary fight,  
The roar of cannon mingling with the moan  
Of mutilated soldiers years ago,  
That gave the place a glory and a name  
Among the nations. France was heard to groan ;  
England rejoiced, but checked the proud acclaim,—  
A brave young chief had fall'n to vindicate her fame.

Wolfe and Montcalm ! two nobler names ne'er graced  
The page of history, or the hostile plain ;  
No braver souls the storm of battle faced,  
Regardless of the danger or the pain.  
They passed unto their rest without a stain  
Upon their nature or their generous hearts.  
One graceful column to the noble twain  
Speaks of a nation's gratitude, and starts  
The tear that Valour claims and Feeling's self imparts.

MONTREAL.

WILLIAM M'LENNAN.

SPRUNG from the hope of noble hearts,  
Brought into being through sacrifice  
Of men and women who played their parts,  
And counted not their lives as the price.  
She has grown in her strength like a Northern Queen,  
'Neath her crown of light and her robe of snow,  
And stands in her beauty fair, between  
The Royal Mount and the River below.

Changing its hue with the changing skies,  
The river flows in its beauty rare ;  
While across the plain eternal, rise  
Boucherville, Rougemont, and St. Hilaire.  
Far to the westward lies Lachine,  
Gate of the Orient long ago,  
When the virgin forest swept between  
The Royal Mount and the River below.

With its convent buildings low and white  
Nun's Island lies, half wood, half plain ;  
While abreast of the city, green and bright  
Springs the wooded crest of St. Helene.  
In the east the shimmer of waves is seen,  
Where the River spreads in its onward flow  
From the Royal City that lies between  
The Royal Mount and the River below.

THE ST. LAWRENCE.

K. L. JONES.

SWIFT from Ontario's side,  
Hating the lake's cold embraces,  
Laughing, the blue waters glide  
Into far pleasanter places ;  
Threading the maze of the isles,  
Shimmering, shivering ever,  
Wearing a wreathlet of smiles,  
Rolls the great river ;

Trending through darkness and day,  
Fondling the dawning and gloaming ;  
Tossing huge billows and spray,  
High, when the Storm King is roaming ;  
Mirroring chalet-crowned rocks,  
Fern leaves, long grasses, and clover,  
Wild fowls in myriad flocks  
As they fly over ;

Sleeping in lily-starred bays ;  
Rushing through factory races,  
Where o'er the looms ever gaze  
Hundreds of bloom-bereft faces ;  
Wid'ning to lakelets and meres,  
Wildly o'er cascades careering,  
Sweeping by bridges and piers,  
Ocean-ward bearing ;

Chafing the Laurentide shores,—  
 Cliffs frowning over, and under  
 Murling the dark waters roar  
 As if they would tear them asunder,—  
 Past the grim fortress and plain  
 Linked with brave Wolfe and his story,  
 Pealing in pæan's refrain  
 Canada's glory;

Stretching her arms to the world,  
 Wide, as a maid to her lover ;  
 Coyly, with banners unfurled,  
 Welcoming argosies over ;  
 Wearied, her life's journey done,  
 Grateful to God, the life-giver,  
 Her goal on the ocean's breast won,  
 Rests the great river.

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NIGHT IN THE THOUSAND ISLES.

CHARLES SANGSTER.

AND now 'tis night. A myriad stars have come  
 To cheer the earth and sentinel the skies.  
 The full-orbed moon irradiates the gloom,  
 And fills the air with light. Each islet lies  
 Immersed in shadow, soft as thy dark eyes ;  
 Swift through the sinuous path our vessel glides,  
 Now hidden by the massive promontories,  
 Anon the bubbling silver from its sides  
 Spurning, like a wild-bird whose home is on the tides.

*CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.* 223

Here Nature holds her Carnival of Isles.  
Steeped in warm sunlight all the merry day,  
Each nodding tree and floating greenwood smiles,  
And moss-crowned monsters move in grim array;  
All night the Fisher spears his finny prey;  
The piney flambeaux reddening the deep,  
Past the dim shores, or up some mimic bay;  
Like grotesque banditti they boldly sweep  
Upon the startled prey, and stab them while they sleep.

Many a tale of legendary lore  
Is told of these romantic Isles. The feet  
Of the Red Man have pressed each wave-zoned shore,  
And many an eye of beauty oft did greet  
The painted warriors and their birchen fleet,  
As they returned with trophies of the slain.  
That race has passed away; their fair retreat  
In its primeval liveness smiles again,  
Save where some vessel snaps the isle-enwoven chain;

Save where the echo of the huntsman's gun  
Startles the wild duck from some shallow nook,  
Or the swift hounds' deep baying, as they run,  
Rouses the lounging student from his book;  
Or where, assembled by some sedgy brook,  
A picnic party, resting in the shade,  
Spring pleasedly to their feet, to catch a look  
At the strong steamer, through the watery glade  
Ploughing, like a huge serpent from its ambushade.

---

OTTAWA.

*Before Dawn.*

DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT.

THE stars are stars of morn; a keen wind wakes  
The birches on the slope; the distant hills  
Rise in the vacant North; the Chaudière fills  
The calm with its hushed roar; the river takes  
An unquiet rest, and a bird stirs, and shakes  
The morn with music; a snatch of singing thrills  
From the river; and the air clings and chills.  
Fair, in the South, fair as a shrine that makes  
The wonder of a dream, imperious towers  
Pierce and possess the sky, guarding the halls  
Where our young strength is welded strenuously;  
While in the East, the star of morning dowers  
The land with a large tremulous light, that falls  
A pledge and presage of our destiny.

---

AT THE FERRY.

E. PAULINE JOHNSON.

WE are waiting in the nightfall by the river's placid rim,  
Summer silence all about us, save where swallows'  
pinions skim  
The still grey waters sharply, and the widening circles  
reach,  
With faintest, stillest music, the white gravel on the  
beach.



CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 225

The sun has set long, long ago. Against the pearly sky  
Elm branches lift their etching up in arches slight and high.  
Behind us stands the forest, with its black and lonely  
pines ;

Before us, like a silver thread, the old Grand River winds.  
Far down its banks the village lights are creeping one by  
one ;

Far up above, with holy torch, the evening star looks  
down.

Amid the listening stillness, you and I have silent grown,  
Waiting for the river ferry,—waiting in the dusk alone.  
At last we hear a velvet step, sweet silence reigns no  
more ;

'Tis a barefoot, sunburnt little boy upon the other shore.  
Far thro' the waning twilight we can see him quickly  
kneel

To lift the heavy chain, then turn the rusty old cog-wheel ;  
And the water-logged old ferry-boat moves slowly from  
the brink,

Breaking all the star's reflections with the waves that rise  
and sink ;

While the water dripping gently from the rising, falling  
chains,

Is the only interruption to the quiet that remains  
To lull us into golden dreams, to charm our cares away  
With its Lethæan waters flowing 'neath the bridge of  
yesterday.

Oh! the day was calm and tender, but the night is  
calmer still,

As we go aboard the ferry, where we stand and dream,  
until

We cross the sleeping river, with its restful whisperings,  
And peace falls, like a feather from some passing angel's  
wings.

## NIAGARA.

*From "The U. E."*

WILLIAM KIRBY.

Now sailed the cloudless moon through seas of light  
 And dimmed the sleepless stars that watch the night,  
 As swiftly turning from the sandy lane  
 The riders crossed a spacious rolling plain,  
 Hedged by the lofty screen of dusky woods  
 That hide Niagara's deep-embedded floods.  
 White clouds of mist rolled upward on the breeze,  
 Swept o'er the brink, and dripped among the trees;  
 While earth and air, in tremor all around,  
 Shook in dread cadence to the rumbling sound  
 That rises up from Nature's troubled womb,  
 With war unbroken till the day of doom.  
 They hurried on; the woody veil withdrew,  
 The wondrous vision swept full into view;  
 Niagara's twin-born cataracts descend,  
 And eye and ear with their contention rend.  
 A spot of chaos, from Creation's day  
 Left unsubdued, to show the world alway  
 What was the earth ere God's commandment ran  
 That light should be, and order first began.


The riders halt, and for a moment stay,  
 While Ranger John half chid the brief delay.  
 Though often seen before, with fresh desire  
 The glorious vision still they each admire.  
 Spread o'er the south, a furious tumbling sea  
 Rolls down the steep incline, as wild and free

CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS. 227

As when with tossing heads and flowing manes  
The desert steeds in herds sweep o'er the plains,—  
As in th' Olympic Stadium's final round  
The chariot wheels revolve with thundering sound,  
While veiled in clouds of dust the champions fly,  
And shouts and turmoil shake the earth and sky !

Thus down the rocky rapids, side by side,  
A thousand foaming currents madly ride ;  
Now mingling, now dividing, each and all  
Still swifter hurry to the final goal.  
There, waves that washed Superior's rocky strand,  
And rolled transparent o'er her silver sand,  
So pure and limpid, that they seemed to bear  
The bark canoe afloat in very air,  
Now, lashed to madness, o'er the rapids ran,  
Yoked to the darker waves of Michigan ;  
St. Clair's shoal streams, and Huron's haunted floods  
That tumbled round the Manitoulin woods,  
And fretful Erie's waters, in dismay  
Sweep white with terror down the shelvy way.

In vain, Goat Island, dank, and grim with scars  
Of an eternity of watery wars,  
With stony shoulder stems the rushing tides  
That right and left his dripping shore divides.  
They 'scape his grasp, and o'er the jutting brink  
Sheer down on either hand impetuous sink ;  
The veil of waters rending, as they go  
'Mid storms of mist into the gulf below,  
Where, face to face, the sundered torrents pour  
In rival cataracts, with deafening roar,  
Mingle their sprays, and with their mighty war  
Shake earth's deep centre with eternal jar.



That dread abyss ! What mortal tongue may tell  
 The seething horrors of its watery hell !  
 Where, pent in craggy walls that gird the deep,  
 Imprisoned tempests howl, and madly sweep  
 The tortured floods, drifting from side to side  
 In furious vortices, that circling ride  
 Around the deep arena ; or, set free  
 From depths unfathomed, bursts a boiling sea  
 In showers of mist and spray, that leap and bound  
 Against the dripping rocks ; while loud resound  
 Ten thousand thunders, that as one conspire  
 To strike the deepest note of Nature's lyre.

---

THE HEART OF THE LAKES.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

THERE are crags that loom like spectres  
 Half under the sun and the mist,  
 There are beaches that gleam and glisten,  
 There are ears that open to listen,  
 And lips held up to be kissed.

There are miles and miles of waters  
 That throb like a woman's breast,  
 With a glad harmonious motion,  
 Like happiness caught at rest ;  
 As if a heart beat under  
 In love with its own glad rest,  
 Beating and beating for ever  
 Outward to east and to west.

There are forests that kneel for ever,  
Robed in the dreamiest haze  
That God sends down in the Summer  
To mantle the gold of its days;  
Kneeling and leaning for ever  
In winding and sinuous bays.

There are birds that like smoke-drift hover  
With a strange and bodeful cry,  
Into the dream and the distance  
Of the marshes that southward lie  
With their lonely lagoons and rivers  
Far under the reeling sky.

---

MANITOU.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

[The island of the Manitou, the largest island in Lake Huron, believed by the Indians to be sacred to Manitou when he makes his abode on earth.]

GIRDLED by Huron's throbbing and thunder,  
Out on the drift and rift of its blue ;  
Walled by mists from the world asunder,  
Far from all hate and passion and wonder,  
Lieth the isle of the Manitou.

Here, where the surfs of the great Lake trample,  
Thundering time-worn caverns through,  
Beating on rock-coasts aged and ample,  
Reareth the Manitou's mist-walled temple,  
Floored with forest and roofed with blue.

Grey crag-battlements, seared and broken,  
 Keep these passes for ages to come ;  
 Never a watchword here is spoken,  
 Never a single sign or token,  
 From hands that are motionless, lips that are dumb.

Only the sun-god rideth over,  
 Marking the seasons with track of flame ;  
 Only the wild-fowl float and hover,—  
 Flocks of clouds, whose white wings cover  
 Spaces on spaces without a name.

Stretches of marsh and wild lake-meadow,  
 Beaches that bend to the edge of the world ;  
 Morn and even, suntime and shadow ;  
 Wild flame of sunset over far meadow,  
 Fleets of white vapours sun-kissed and furled

Year by year the ages onward  
 Drift, but it lieth out here alone ;  
 Earthward the mists, and the earth-mists sunward ;  
 Starward the days, and the nights bloom dawnward ;  
 Whisper the forests, the beaches make moan.

Far from the world, and its passions fleeting,  
 Neath quiet of noonday and stillness of star,  
 Shore unto shore each sendeth greeting,  
 Where the only woe is the surf's wild beating  
 That throbs from the maddened lake afar.

---

THE LAST BISON.

CHARLES MAIR.

EIGHT years have fled since, in the wilderness,  
I drew the rein to rest my comrade there,—  
My supple, clean-limbed pony of the plains.  
He was a runner of pure Indian blood,  
Yet in his eye still gleamed the desert's fire,  
And form and action both bespoke the Barb.  
A wondrous creature is the Indian's horse;  
Degenerate now, but from the "Centaur" drawn,—  
The furious Fifty which dissolved with fear  
Montezuma's plumed Children of the Sun,  
And shared rough Cortez in his realm of gold!

A gentle vale, with rippling aspens clad,  
Yet open to the breeze, invited rest.  
So there I lay, and watched the sun's fierce beams  
Reverberate in wreathed ethereal flame;  
Or gazed upon the leaves which buzzed o'erhead,  
Like tiny wings in simulated flight.  
Within the vale a lakelet, lashed with flowers,  
Lay like a liquid eye among the hills,  
Revealing in its depths the fulgent light  
Of snowy cloudland and cerulean skies.  
And rising, falling, fading far around,  
The homeless and unfurrowed prairies spread  
In solitude and idleness eterne.  
And all was silence, save the rustling leaf,  
The gadding insect, or the grebe's lone cry;  
Or where Saskatchewan, with turbid moan,  
Deep-sunken in the plain, his torrent poured.  
Here loneliness possessed her realm supreme—  
Her prairies all about her, undeflowered,  
Pulsing beneath the summer sun, and sweet

With virgin air and waters undefiled.  
 Inviolate still ! Bright solitudes with power  
 To charm the spirit, bruised, where ways are foul,  
 Into forgetfulness of chuckling wrong,  
 And all the weary clangour of the world.

Yet Sorrow, too, had here its kindred place,  
 As o'er my spirit swept the sense of change.  
 Here sympathy could sigh o'er man's decay ;  
 For here, but yesterday, the warrior dwelt  
 Whose faded nation had for ages held,  
 In fealty to Nature, these domains.  
 Around me were the relics of his race,—  
 The grassy circlets where his village stood,  
 Well ruled by custom's immemorial law.  
 Along these slopes his happy offspring roved  
 In days gone by, and dusky mothers plied  
 Their summer tasks, or loitered in the shade.  
 Here the magician howled his demons up ;  
 And here the lodge of council had its seat,  
 Once resonant with oratory wild.  
 All vanished ! perished in the swelling sea  
 And stayless tide of an encroaching power,  
 Whose civil fiat, man-devouring still,  
 Will leave at last no wilding on the earth  
 To wonder at or love.

With them had fled  
 The bison,—breed which overflowed the plains,  
 And, undiminished, fed uncounted tribes.  
 Its vestiges were here,—its wallows, paths,  
 And skulls and shining ribs and vertebræ ;  
 Grey bones of monarchs, from the herds perchance  
 Descended, by De Vaca first beheld,  
 Or Coronado, in mad quest of gold.



Here hosts had had their home; here had they roamed,  
Endless and infinite,—vast herds which seemed  
Exhaustless as the sea. All vanished now!  
Of that wild tumult not a hoof remained  
To scour the countless paths where myriads trod.

Long had I lain, 'twixt dreams and waking, thus:  
Musing on change and mutability,  
And endless evanescence, when a burst  
Of sudden roaring filled the vale with sound.  
Perplexed and startled, to my feet I sprang,  
And in amazement from my covert gazed,  
For presently into the valley came  
A mighty bison, which with stately tread  
And gleaming eyes descended to the shore!  
Spell-bound I stood. Was this a living form,  
Or but an image by the fancy drawn?  
But no,—he breathed! and from a wound blood  
flowed

And trickled with the frothing from his lips.  
Uneasily he gazed, yet saw me not,  
Haply concealed; then, with a roar so loud  
That all the echoes rent their valley-horns,  
He stood and listened; but no voice replied!  
Deeply he drank, then lashed his quivering flanks,  
And roared again, and hearkened, but no sound,  
No tongue congenial answered to his call,—  
He was the last survivor of his clan!

Huge was his frame! emasculate, so grown  
To that enormous bulk whose presence filled  
The very vale with awe. His shining horns  
Gleamed black amidst his fell of floating hair;  
His neck and shoulders, of the lion's build,  
Were framed to toss the world! Now stood he there,

And stared, with head uplifted, at the skies,  
 Slow-yielding to his deep and mortal wound.  
 He seemed to pour his mighty spirit out  
 As thus he gazed, till my own spirit burned,  
 And teeming fancy, charmed and overwrought  
 By all the wildering glamour of the scene,  
 Gave to that glorious altitude a voice,  
 And, rapt, endowed the noble beast with song.

THE SONG.

Hear me, ye smokeless skies and grass green earth,  
 Since by your sufferance still I breathe and live!  
 Through you fond Nature gave me birth  
 And food and freedom,—all she had to give.  
 Enough! I grew, and with my kindred ranged  
 Their realm stupendous, changeless, and unchanged,  
 Save by the toll of nations primitive,  
 Who throve on us, and loved our life-stream's roar,  
 And lived beside its wave, and camped upon its shore.

They loved us, but they wasted not. They slew,  
 With pious hand, but for their daily need;  
 Not wantonly, but as the due  
 Of stern necessity which Life doth breed.  
 Yea, even as earth gave us its herbage meet,  
 So yielded we, in turn, our substance sweet  
 To quit the claims of hunger, not of greed.  
 So stood it with us, that what either did  
 Could not be on the earth foregone, nor Heaven forbid.

And so companioned in the blameless strife  
 Enjoined upon all creatures, small and great,  
 Our ways were venial, and our life  
 Ended in fair fulfilment of our fate.

No gold to them by sordid hands were passed;  
No greedy herdsman housed us from the blast.  
Ours was the liberty of regions rife,  
In winter's snow, in summer's fruits and flowers,—  
Ours were the virgin prairies, and their rapture ours!

So fared it with us both; yea, thus it stood  
In all our wanderings from place to place,  
Until the red man mixed his blood  
With paler currents. Then arose a race—  
The reckless hunters of the plains—who vied  
In wanton slaughter for the tongue and hide,  
To satisfy vain ends and longings base.  
This grew; and yet we flourished, and our name  
Prospered upon the earth, until the pale-faced con-  
course came.

Then fell a double terror on the plains,  
The swift inspreding of destruction dire,—  
Strange men, who ravaged our domains  
On every hand, and ringed us round with fire;  
Pale enemies, who slew with equal mirth  
The harmless or the hurtful things of earth,  
In dead fruition of their mad desire;  
The ministers of mischief and of might,  
Who yearn for havoc as the world's supreme delight.

So waned the myriads, which had waxed before  
When subject to the simple needs of men.  
As yields to eating seas the shore,  
So yielded our vast multitude; and then—  
It scattered! Meagre bands, in wild dismay,  
Were parted, and for shelter fled away  
To barren wastes, to mountain gorge and glen;  
A respite brief from stern pursuit and care,  
For still the spoiler sought, and still he slew us there.

Hear me, thou grass-green earth, ye smokeless skies,  
 Since by your sufferance still I breathe and live !  
 The charity which man denies  
 Ye still would tender to the fugitive !  
 I feel your mercy in my veins ; at length  
 My heart revives, and strengthens with your strength.  
 Too late, too late, the courage ye would give !  
 Nought can avail these wounds, this failing breath,  
 This frame which feels, at last, the wily touch of death.

Here must the last of all his kindred fall ;  
 Yet, 'midst these gathering shadows, ere I die,—  
 Responsive to an inward call,—  
 My spirit fain would rise and prophesy.  
 I see our spoilers build their cities great  
 Upon our plains,—I see their rich estate ;  
 The centuries in dim procession fly !  
 Long ages roll, and then at length is bared  
 The time when they who spared not are no longer  
 spared.

Once more my vision sweeps the prairies wide :  
 But now, no peopled cities greet the sight,—  
 All perished now, their pomp and pride ;  
 In solitude the wild wind takes delight.  
 Nought but the vacant wilderness is seen,  
 And grassy mounds where cities once had been :  
 The earth smiles as of yore, the skies are bright,  
 Wild cattle graze and bellow on the plain,  
 And savage nations roam o'er native wilds again !

The burden ceased : and now, with head bowed down  
 The bison smelt, then grinned into the air.  
 An awful anguish seized his giant frame,  
 Cold shudderings and indrawn gaspings deep,—

The spasms of illimitable pain.  
One stride he took, and sank upon his knees,  
Glared stern defiance where I stood revealed,  
Then swayed to earth, and, with convulsive groan,  
Turned heavily upon his side, and died.

---

A PRAIRIE YEAR.

*From "Eos: A Prairie Dream."*

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

THE depths of infinite shade,  
The soft green dusk of the glade,  
With fiery fingers the frost had fret,  
And dyed a myriad hue,  
Making of forests temples of golden aisles ;  
The swooning rose forgot to bloom ;  
In fragrant graves slept violets blue ;  
And earlier shook her locks of jet  
Night, with her subtle shadowy wiles,—  
Night, with her starry gloom,—  
Before, like suns which could not set,  
Your eyes shone clear on mine,  
Flushing the heart with feelings high,  
Touching all life, as thrills the sky  
When over cloudy pavements thunders rumble  
and roll ;  
Then flamed the faltering blood like wine,  
And overflowed the soul.

Through wintry weeks, the sun above  
Oceaned in blue, the frost below ;  
Through blustry hours, when fiercely drove  
Winds razor-armed the drifting snow,

And peeled the face and pinched the ear,  
 And hurled the avalanche of fear  
 From roof-tops on the muffled crowd ;  
     The air one blinding cloud ;—  
 Through many a brisk and bracing day,  
     The sky wide summer as in June,  
     The joyous sleigh-bells' ringing tune  
 More blithe than aught musicians play ;  
     The pure snow gleaming white ;  
     Men's eyes fulfilled of finer light,  
 Of finer tints the women's hair ;  
     Their cheeks aglow, and full and pink ;  
     The skaters sweeping through the rink,  
 Like swallows through the air :  
 We talked and walked, and laughed and  
     dreamed,  
     And now snow-wreaths, auroral rays,  
     The winter moon, day's blinding blaze,  
     The merry bells, the skaters' grace,  
     Recall thy laugh, recall thy face  
 As dazzling as it earliest beamed !

Love stirred in the frozen branches,  
     And straight the world was crown'd with green ;  
 And as a shipwright his trim craft launches,  
 Each bud put forth in a night its might,  
     And the trees stood proud in summer sheen,  
     Their foliage dense a grateful screen  
 'Gainst the bold bright heat and the full fierce light.  
 Like cathedral windows the gardens glowed ;  
     Mirrors of light the broad lakes gleamed ;  
 His cunning in song the robin showed,  
     And the shore-lark swung on a branch and  
     dreamed ;  
 And boats were gliding, lover-laden,

Over lakes and streams that will yet be known,  
The boy in flannel, the blooming maiden  
In muslin white with a ribbon zone.  
The chestnuts fell. From their dull green sheaths  
With satin-white linings the nuts burst free ;  
And as sundown came, bright hazy wreaths  
The spirit of eve hung from tree to tree.  
The weeks rolled on, the lush green fields  
Became billowy breadths of golden grain,  
And all roots and fruits the kind earth yields  
Were piled on the labouring wain.—  
And you were by the cliff-barred white-crested sea,  
And I where the delicate pink of the prairie rose  
Amid rich coarse grasses hides ;  
Where the sunset's boisterous pageantry,  
And the mornings the tenderest tints disclose,  
Where far from the shade and shelter of wood  
The prairie hen rears her speckled brood,  
And the prairie wolf abides ;  
And lonely memory, searching through,  
Found no such stars in the orbèd past,  
As the glad first greeting 'twixt me and you,  
And the sad, mad meeting which was our last.

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### THE LEGEND OF THUNDER.

H. R. A. POCOCK.

Note by Walpole Roland, Esq., C.E., with which this ballad is headed in his recent work, "Algoma West":—"Among the most popular traditions touching the origin of this suggestive title, 'Thunder Cape,' is the following as related in the Otehipiway, by 'Weisaw,' and very freely translated by a friend of the writer's:—"Long years ago, while my great-great-grandfather,

then a young brave, was returning with a war-party from a bloody encounter with our foes (the Sioux) near Dog Mountain, a place twenty-five miles north-west of the Kaministiquia River, their attention was suddenly arrested by loud and prolonged reverberations, accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning. Ascending the heights overlooking the Kitchee Gamee (Lake Superior), an appalling sight met their gaze. Far out in the bay towards the east, where the "Sleeping Giant" Nanibijou usually reclined on his fleecy couch, all appeared in flames, while at intervals great pinnacles or shafts of flame and black clouds were driven upwards with terrible fury. . . . Arriving at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River, they were told of the fate of two hunters from a distant tribe who, regardless of repeated warnings, provoked the fiery spirit of the great "Thunder Eagle" by ascending its home in the cloud-capped cliff, and perished in the vain attempt to bring down a great medicine. Previous to the advent of the white man our storms were grander and more frequent, and only upon rare occasions indeed could a view from a distance be obtained of the Cape or Nanibijou."

BEHOLD the gentle waters lap against the Giant's side,  
 The playful whispers of the winds that by his slumber  
 glide,  
 The warm sun bending o'er his sleep, the breathing of  
 the sea,  
 The cool grey shadows nestled down beneath each  
 fragrant tree.  
 The Monarch of this sombre land, he dwells in clouded  
 state  
 Beside the portals of the East, where yonder mighty gate  
 At morning sunders his broad leaves to let the daylight in,  
 When Night must quit the Giant's throne, and conqu'ring  
 Day begin.  
 'Tis then across the waters that the earliest sunlight  
 laves  
 The myriad spirit forms that throng that pathway o'er  
 the waves,  
 The beings that come to take the form and humble garb  
 of man,



That come to labour and to love, to tread their destined  
span  
Of sorrow, sickness, and despair, of evil years and few,  
Before the Potter comes to make the broken vessels new.

We fathers, and our fathers saw, before ye White Men  
came,  
Yon mighty Giant heave in sleep, and breathe the sul-  
phurous flame ;  
Have seen him roused to anger, lash these seas in furious  
wrath,  
And all the torrents of his ire in lightning pouring forth ;  
Have seen him ever wrapt in smoke, and his tremendous  
form  
For ever shrouded in his robe—his night robe of the  
storm ;  
But never saw his rugged sides bared to the day, till ye  
Brake through the mighty Gates as gods, the Masters of  
the Sea.

Once from some nation far away two wand'ring hunters  
strayed,  
Their birch canoe all patched and old, their dress of deer-  
skin made ;  
They rested in our Chieftain's lodge beside the stormy  
bay  
Ere towards the setting sun in peace they should pursue  
their way.  
They came towards the setting sun to seek his resting-  
place,  
Where all the spirits of our dead and all the human race  
Dwell where the sky is ever bath'd in floods of sunset  
light,—  
The everlasting eventide that knows not death, or night,

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Or fire or flood, or drought or war, where winter never  
reigns,  
To the far happy Hunting Grounds upon the Golden  
Plains.

But when men of the Giant spoke, and his deep shroud  
of gloom,  
And when they saw across the bay the clouded mountain  
loom,  
And heard of the dread Thunder Bird whose nest is in the  
height,  
Who guards the unassailed cliffs all wrapt in endless  
night ;  
And heard their fate who dared to seek his nest, and  
bring us down  
The wondrous sacred medicine hid upon the mountain  
crown ;—  
They laughed our fears to scorn, and said, “ Should  
brave men danger fear ?  
And what is danger, if it bring the Life Hereafter near ?  
He who hath sought through doubt and dread the  
Mystery of Life,  
And won a blessing for Mankind by warring giant strife  
With deathless gods, hath vanquish'd death, and in his  
body slain  
Lust, wrath, and darkness, self, and shame ; and from a  
beast's flesh free  
Stands naked—man—”

So, o'er the breast of that still  
moonlit sea  
Led by the stranger braves we sped ; and all the night  
time long  
The startled clouds fled past the moon, the sad wind's  
dirge-like song

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Wail'd in vague echoes down the heights, and moaned  
across the bay,  
And moaned in tremulous low sighs from great cliffs far  
away.

So on the strangers sped:—the spray that from their  
paddles gleam'd  
Made in the wake a path, whereon our long procession  
stream'd  
A cortège to the grave; it seemed that in that midnight  
gloom  
Huge enemies stalked by and frown'd, and moments big  
with doom  
Fled wailing lost into the night. Oh, why should brave  
men die,  
While coward hearts of thousands fail, and, wing'd with  
terror, fly!

So, when the East was cold with dawn, and all the clouds  
were grey,  
The shadow of the mountain loom'd against the wak'ning  
day.  
'Twas then an earnest conclave pray'd that Manitou  
should save  
The strangers who amid the clouds sought wisdom or a  
grave.  
The agates rattled as their skiff touch'd light the sombre  
main,—  
We heard the solemn thunders warn, but warn the braves  
in vain.  
With red plumes waving as they strode, they passed  
along the shore  
To where a clouded canyon loom'd through broken rocks  
and hoar;

And high the ancient cliffs soar'd up on every side  
 around,  
 And at their base the fragments lay, and brushwood  
 strew'd the ground.  
 They, clamb'ring o'er the boulders, leapt from rock to  
 rock, and climb'd  
 Right up amid the canyon's gloom, till troubled sight  
 and mind  
 Had lost the tiny spots that moved among the shadows  
 vast,  
 And every vestige of their forms passed from our sight at  
 last.

Then morning instant sank to gloom, and gloom was  
 steep'd in night,  
 The waters all so late at rest had crests of foaming white;  
 Our prayers' assail'd and storm'd the heaven for tender  
 youth, and age,  
 And the Great Spirit saved our barks amid the cyclone's  
 rage.  
 The hurricanes swept by—a lull—a blast—a loud wild  
 cry—  
 From the rent altitudes, the towers, and battlements on  
 high;  
 And ancient crags crash'd down the heights, and, lo,  
 each breaking wave  
 Scream'd in his triumph round a crag, and bounded o'er  
 its grave!  
 The Giant shook with wrath; the trees, uprooted, hurl'd  
 in space;  
 A hail of monster spears were shot adown the mountain  
 face;  
 Against the precipice on high the wildest breakers hurl'd,  
 And round a whirlpool's circling deeps the broken waters  
 swirl'd;

And who can tell the lightning's glare, recount the  
thunder's roar,  
Or the fierce shrieks that through the gloom the vengeful  
cyclones bore!

How long the tempests swept the bay, how long we  
fought for life,  
How long among the lodges mourn'd the aged, child,  
and wife;  
How long before we saw the smoke of camp-fires far  
away,  
Just where the Kaministiquia is emptied in the bay;  
How long we slept, and wearied lay, restored to home at  
last—  
We could not tell, but heard the squaws relate four days  
were past  
Since they had seen the tempest rage about the Giant's  
bed,  
And saw the seas contend with heaven, and mourned their  
braves for dead.

Full many suns were set behind the darksome western  
height,  
And still the tempest roar'd by day and lightning glared  
by night,  
And still these dark cliffs answer'd loud the thunders  
from the bay;  
The forests dared not sleep by night, the beasts were  
dumb by day!  
We prayed that Manitou should aid the strangers to  
escape,—  
'Twas then we named this "Thunder Bay," the moun-  
tain "Thunder Cape."

At last the shades of evening crept across the mighty sea,  
 When all the waters slept at last, the cloud-chained sky  
     was free ;  
 And all the great blue vault on high was echoed in the deep,  
 And floating in two azure skies the mountains lay asleep ;  
 Then, as the waning sunlight flushed the crested cliffs on  
     high,  
 There came to us a lone canoe across the nether sky.  
 It came not urged by sail or blade, but as a mother's  
     breast  
 The bearing waters nestled it and laid it in its rest.  
 The little ripples at the sides laughed in their heedless  
     play,  
 And in that cradle of the sea a dying warrior lay.

We laid him down beside the tents, and death-shades,  
     like the night,  
 Upon his face were chased away by the red sunset light.  
 His dim eyes opened, and he spoke, but in the voice was told  
     The fever spirit dwelt within ; in each stern feature's mould  
 We saw that youth was changed to age, since on the  
     mountain side  
 We ceased to find him in the gloom, and hope grew sick  
     and died.

“I see the thunder-clouds stoop down, and with their  
     lean hands grasp  
 And hurl abroad their lightning fires—the mad winds  
     halt and gasp—  
 The hills are sweating in their fear—the weary Air is  
     slain—  
 The very crags crouch down and hide upon the upper  
     plain.

The storm is breaking—lo, the trees as hail are hurl'd in space—  
And all the huge rocks glow with fire along the mountain face;  
From all the mountain mighty flames in fell contortion soar,  
And through a whirling rain of fire unearthly cyclones roar!  
In this great storm unaided man a thousand deaths had died—  
Break Giant all this world to nought—Avenge—Thou art defied!  
And thou, inviolate Thunder, hail, for Man has raped thy hold,  
Thy nest is desecrate at last—the mighty secret told—  
He strikes! And death is near—is come! • Erect thy pride, my friend—  
Lay down the life but not the man, for death is *not* the End!  
And he is dead—and I shall live to tell to all mankind  
The vulture Death is slain by death, and deathless reigns the Mind.  
But oh the price!—For he is gone—he who had won the fight;  
He who alone had grasped the Truth from that abyss of night—  
By fire; by fever, or in fight, by lightning, ice, or wave,  
There never sank a braver man than to yon hero's grave.”

A mightier hero still than he who on the mountain died  
Lay by the Kaministiquia.

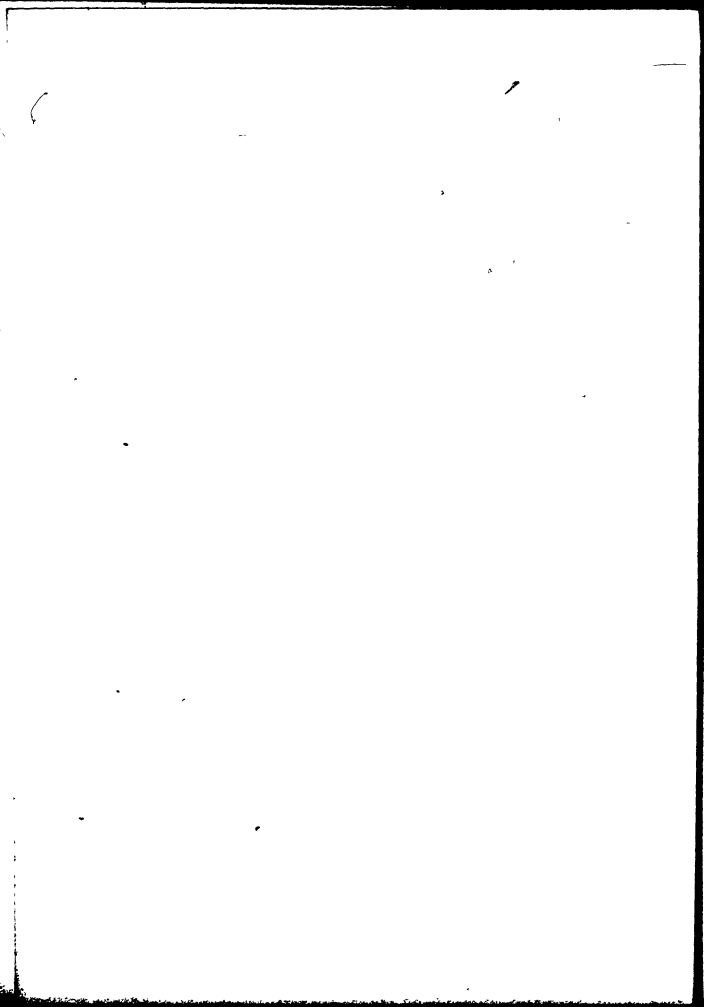
Now all the bars aside,  
And mighty barriers of death, were melted in the light  
That stream'd from out the courts of Heaven o'er all the  
realms of Night.

The kingdom of the Life to Come reigned once o'er  
earthly sin,  
For sunset opens wide the gates to let the dead come in ;  
The Land of the Hereafter lay before our straining eyes,  
The amethystine glories flashed across the amber skies ;  
And in that light the Hero lay, and closed his eyes and  
slept—  
The silver mists upon his brow their tears of parting  
wept—  
So all the air was filled with light, and all the earth with  
rest  
As that brave Spirit took the trail that leads towards the  
West.





IX.—SEASONS.



## IX.—SEASONS.

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### H E A T.

ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

FROM plains that seek to southward dim,  
The road runs by me white and bare;  
Up the steep hill it seems to swim  
Beyond, and melt into the glare.  
Upward, half-way, or it may be  
Nearer the summit, slowly steals  
A haycart, moving duskily,  
With idly clacking wheels.

By his cart's side the waggoner  
Is slouching slowly at his ease,  
Half-hidden in the windless blur  
Of white dust puffing to his knees.  
This waggon on the height above,  
From sky to sky on either hand,  
Is the sole thing that seems to move  
In all the heat-held land.

Beyond me, in the fields, the sun  
 Soaks in the grass, and hath his will ;  
 I count the marguerites one by one ;  
 Even the buttercups are still.  
 On the brook yonder not a breath  
 Disturbs the spider or the midge ;  
 The water-bugs draw close beneath  
 The cool gloom of the bridge.

Where the far elm-tree shadows flood  
 Dark patches in the burning grass,  
 The cows, each with her peaceful cud,  
 Lie waiting for the heat to pass.  
 From somewhere on the slope near by,  
 Into the pale depth of the noon  
 A wandering thrush slides leisurely  
 His thin revolving tune.

In intervals of dreams I hear  
 The cricket from the droughty ground ;  
 The grasshoppers spin into mine ear  
 A small immeasurable sound.  
 I lift mine eyes sometimes to gaze,  
 The burning sky-line blinds my sight ;  
 The woods far off are blue with haze,  
 The hills are drenched in light.

And yet to me, not this or that  
 Is always sharp or always sweet ;  
 In the sloped shadow of my hat  
 I lean at rest and drain the heat.  
 Nay more, I think some blessed power  
 Hath brought me wandering idly here ;  
 In the full furnace of this hour  
 My thoughts grow keen and clear.

THE FIR WOODS.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

THE wash of endless waves is in their tops,  
Endlessly swaying, and the long winds stream  
Athwart them from the far-off shores of dream.  
Thro' the stirred branches filtering, faintly drops  
Mystic dream-dust of isle, and palm, and cave,  
Coral and sapphire, realms of roses, that seem  
More radiant than ever earthly gleam  
Revealed of fairy mead or haunted wave.

A cloud of gold, a cleft of blue profound,—  
These are my gates of wonder, surged about  
By tumult of tossed bough and rocking crest.  
The vision lures; the spirit spurns her bound,  
Spreads her imprisoned wing, and drifts from out  
This green and humming gloom that wraps my rest.

---

CLOUDS.

ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

THE dew is gleaming in the grass,  
The morning hours are seven;  
And I am fain to watch you pass,  
Ye soft white-clouds of heaven.

Ye stray and gather, part and fold;  
The wind alone can tame you;  
I dream of what in time of old  
The poets loved to name you.

They called you sheep, the sky your sward;  
 A field, without a reaper;  
 They called the shining sun your lord,  
 The shepherd wind your keeper.

Your sweetest poets I will deem  
 The men of old for moulding,  
 In simple beauty, such a dream,—  
 And I could lie beholding,

Where daisies in the meadow toss,  
 The wind from morn till even  
 For ever shepherd you across  
 The shining field of heaven.

---

FROGS.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

HERE, in the red heart of the sunset lying,  
 My rest an islet of brown weeds blown dry,  
 I watch the wide bright heavens hovering nigh,  
 My plain and pools in lucent splendours dyeing !  
 My view dreams over the rosy wastes, descrying  
 The reed-tops fret the solitary sky;  
 And all the air is tremulous to the cry  
 Of myriad frogs on mellow pipes replying.

For the unrest of passion, here is peace;  
 And eve's cool drench for midday soil and taint !  
 To tired ears, how sweetly brings release  
 This limpid babble from life's unstilled complaint;  
 While under tired eye-lids, lapse and faint  
 The noon's derisive visions,—fade and cease !

TWILIGHT.

CHARLES HEAVYSEGE.

THE day was lingering in the pale north-west,  
And night was hanging o'er my head,—  
Night where a myriad stars were spread;  
While down in the east, where the light was least,  
Seemed the home of the quiet dead.  
And, as I gazed on the field sublime,  
To watch the bright pulsating stars,  
Adown the deep, where the angels sleep,  
Came drawn the golden chime  
Of those great spheres that sound the years  
For the horologe of time;—  
Millenniums numberless they told,  
Millenniums a millionfold  
From the ancient hour of prime !

---

A CANADIAN SUMMER EVENING.

MRS. LEPROHON.

THE rose-tints have faded from out of the west,  
From the mountain's high peak, from the river's  
broad breast,  
And silently shadowing valley and rill  
The twilight steals noiselessly over the hill.  
Behold, in the blue depths of ether afar,  
Now softly emerging each glittering star;  
While later the moon, placid, solemn, and bright,  
Floods earth with her tremulous silvery light.

Hush! list to the whip-poor-will's soft plaintive notes,  
 As up from the valley the lonely sound floats;  
 Inhale the sweet breath of yon shadowy wood,  
 And the wild flowers blooming in hushed solitude.  
 Start not at the whispering, 'tis but the breeze,  
 Low rustling 'mid maple and lonely pine trees,  
 Or willows and alders that fringe the dark tide  
 Where canoes of the red men oft silently glide.

See, rising from out of that copse, dark and damp,  
 The fire-flies, each bearing a flickering lamp!  
 Like meteors, gleaming and streaming, they pass  
 O'er hillside and meadow, and dew-laden grass;  
 Contrasting with ripple on river and stream,  
 Alternately playing in shadow and beam,  
 Till fulness of beauty fills hearing and sight  
 Throughout the still hours of a calm summer night.

---

EVENING ON THE MARSHES.

BARRY STRATON.

We have roamed the marshes, keen with expectation,  
 Laid in ambush, where the ducks are wont to fly;  
 Felt the feverish fervour, the thrilling, full pulsation,  
 As the flocks came whirring from the rosy western sky.

All day long the sun with heat, and breeze with coolness,  
 Smote or kissed the grasses, and it seemed another  
 lake  
 Flooded o'er the land and up the hills in fulness,—  
 Shadows for the billows, sunshine for the waves that  
 break.



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Now beneath the pine, whose branches voice the breezes,  
Past the toil of day, we lie like gods in utter peace;  
This is life's full nectar, this from care releases,—  
Oh, to rest for ever here where toil and tumult cease !

Slowly down the west the weary day is dying;  
Slowly up the east ascends the mellow, mystic moon;  
Swiftly swoop the hawks; the hooting owls are flying;  
Through the darksome splendour breaks the lonesome  
cry of loon.

Ghost-like move the sails along the lake's dim distance;  
Faintly wafts the sailors' weirdsome song the waters  
o'er;  
Faint the wavelets' music, as with low insistence,  
Break they softly singing on the drowsy sandy shore.

Wooring us in whispers, water, earth, and heaven,—  
Mystic whispers, wafted o'er the darksome waving  
deep,—  
Win us to themselves, our old creative leaven,  
And we, mingling with them, softly sink to dreamless  
sleep.

---

MIDSUMMER NIGHT.

ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

MOTHER of balms and soothings manifold,  
Quiet-breathèd Night, whose brooding hours are  
seven,  
To whom the voices of all rest are given,

And those few stars whose scattered names are told.  
 Far off, beyond the westward hills outrolled,  
 Darker than thou, more still, more dreamy even,  
 The golden moon leans in the dusky heaven.  
 And under her, one star, a point of gold.

And all go slowly lingering toward the west,  
 As we go down forgetfully to our rest,  
 Weary of daytime, tired of noise and light.  
 Ah, it was time that thou shouldst come, for we  
 Were sore athirst, and had great need of thee,  
 Thou sweet physician, balmy-bosomed Night.

---

OCTOBER.

ALEXANDER M'LACHLAN.

SEE how the great old forest vies  
 With all the glory of the skies,  
 In streaks without a name;  
 And leagues on leagues of scarlet spires,  
 And temples lit with crimson fires,  
 And palaces of flame!  
 And domes on domes that gleam afar,  
 Through many a gold and crimson bar,  
 With azure overhead;  
 While forts, with towers on towers arise,  
 As if they meant to scale the skies,  
 With banner bloody red!

Here, orange groves that seem asleep;  
 There, stately avenues that sweep  
 To where the land declines;

There, starting up in proud array,  
With helmets flashing to the day,  
Troop upon troop of pines!  
Here, evergreens that have withdrawn,  
And hang around the open lawn,  
With shadows creeping back;  
While yonder, girdled hemlocks run  
Like fiery serpents to the sun,  
Upon their gleaming track!

And, in the distance far apart,  
As if to shame man's proudest art,  
Cathedral arches spread;  
While yonder ancient elm has caught  
A glory, 'yond the reach of thought,  
Upon his hoary head.  
But every object, far and wide—  
The very air is glorified—  
A perfect dream of bliss!  
Earth's greatest painters never could,  
Nor poet in inspired mood,  
Imagine aught like this.

O what are all ambition's gains!  
What matters it who rules or reigns  
While I have standing here!  
Gleams of unutterable things,  
The work of the great King of kings!  
God of the full-crown'd year!  
October! thou'rt a marvellous sight,  
And with a rapture of delight  
We hail thy gorgeous pinion;  
To elevate our hearts thou'rt here,  
To bind us with a tie more dear  
To our beloved Dominion!

FIRST SNOW.

JOHN TALON-LESPÉRANCE—"LACLÈDE."

THE sun burns pale and low  
Along the gloomy avenue of pines,  
And the grey mist hangs heavily in lines  
Above the torrent's flow.

I hear, on the violet hill,  
The caw of blackbirds fleeing from the cold ;  
And buzz of insects, hiding in the mould,  
Under the ruined mill.

The deep embrownèd wood  
Is garlanded with wreaths of fleecy white ;  
And the stark poplar stands, a Northland sprite,  
Muffled in snowy hood.

Afar, the cottage roof  
Glistens with gems ; the bridge that spans the drain  
Is carpeted with down ; the harvest plain  
Gleams 'neath a crystal woof.

Heigh ho ! The silver bells—  
The gaudy sleighs that glide so merrily along—  
The crunch of skipping hoofs—the woodman's song  
Loud echoing in the dells !

The pine-knots cheerily blaze,  
And shed a genial heat in wealthy homes ;  
The lords of earth, immured in cosy rooms,  
Heed not the wintry haze.

But, in the dark damp lanes,  
Where shrinks the pauper girl in filth and rags,  
How dismally falls the snow upon the flags,  
Athwart the broken panes !

With quick convulsive breath,  
And hollow cough, the hopeless sufferers greet  
In cruel winter's snow and ice and sleet  
The harbingers of death.

Ay ! But chief, on thy headstone,  
Who slept 'neath summer roses, cold flakes rest,  
And filter icy drops upon thy breast,—  
Thy tender breast—my own !

While on my drooping head—  
Yea, on my sunken heart—distils the snow,  
Chilling the warmth and life that in its glow,  
In pity for my dead

Not till the crocus bloom,  
And April rays have thawed the frost-bound slope,  
O Rita, shall this heart to light re-ope,  
With the flowers on thy tomb !

---

INDIAN SUMMER.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

ALONG the line of smoky hills  
The crimson forest stands,  
And all the day the blue-jay calls  
Throughout the autumn lands.

Now by the brook the maple leans,  
With all his glory spread ;  
And all the sumachs on the hills  
Have turned their green to red.

Now, by great marshes wrapt in mist,  
Or past some river's mouth,  
Throughout the long still autumn day  
Wild birds are flying south.

---

AN INDIAN SUMMER CAROL.

"FIDELIS."

ALL day the dreamy sunshine sleeps  
In gold the yellowing beeches,  
In softest blue the river sleeps  
Among the island reaches.

Against the distant purple hills  
Rich autumn tints are glowing ;  
Its blood-red wine the sumach spills,  
Deep hues of carmine showing.

Upon the glassy stream the boat  
Glides softly, like a vision ;  
And, with its shadow, seems to float  
Among the isles Elysian.

About the plummy golden-rod  
The tireless bee is humming,  
While crimson blossoms star the sod  
And wait the rover's coming.

The birch and maple glow with dyes  
Of scarlet, rose, and amber ;  
And, like a flame from sunset skies  
The tangled creepers clamber.

The oaks a royal purple wear,  
Gold-crowned where sunlight presses ;  
The birch stands like a Dryad fair  
Beneath her golden tresses.

So still the air—so like a dream—  
We hear the acorn falling ;  
And, o'er the scarcely rippled stream,  
The loon's long-quavered calling.

The robin softly, o'er the lea,  
A farewell song is trilling ;  
The squirrel flits from tree to tree  
Its winter storehouse filling.

Like him, we too may gather store  
From all this glorious Nature ;  
Then leave, my friend, your bookish lore  
And dreary nomenclature.

Leave the old thinkers to their dreams,  
The treasures of the ages ;  
Leave dusty scientific reams,  
And study Nature's pages.

Her poetry is better far  
Than all men write about her ;  
Old Homer's song of love and war  
Had scarce been sung without her.

Haste to the wood,—put books away,  
They'll wait the tardy comer ;  
For *them* there's many a winter day,  
But brief's our Indian summer !

---

A MID-WINTER NIGHT'S DREAM.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

THE snows outside are white and white ;  
The gusty flue shouts through the night ;  
And by the lonely chimney light  
I sit and dream of Summer.

The orchard bough creaks in the blast,  
That like a ghost goes shrieking past,  
And coals are dying fast and fast,  
But still I dream of Summer.

'Tis not the voice of falling rain,  
Or dream wind blown through latticed pane,  
When earth will laugh in green again,  
That makes me dream of Summer.

But hopes will then have backward flown,  
Like fleets of promise, long outblown,  
And Love once more will greet his own ;  
This is my dream of Summer.

---



WINTER NIGHT.

CHARLES HEAVYSEGE.

THE stars are setting in the frosty sky,  
Numerous as pebbles on a broad sea-coast ;  
While o'er the vault the cloud-like galaxy  
Has marshalled its innumerable host.  
Alive all heaven seems ; with wondrous glow,  
Tenfold refulgent every star appears ;  
As if some wide, celestial gale did blow,  
And thrice illumine the ever-kindled spheres.

Orbs, with glad orbs rejoicing, burning, beam,  
Ray-crowned, with lambent lustre in their zones ;  
Till o'er the blue, bespangled spans seem  
Angels and great archangels on their thrones ;  
A host divine, whose eyes are sparkling gems,  
And forms more bright than diamond diadems.

---

ICICLE DROPS.

ARTHUR JOHN LOCKHART.

I.

FAST from yon icicle's inverted spire,  
Yon shining minims, glittering in the sun,  
Fall brightly down, sheen drops of fluent fire,  
Momently hanging,—sinking, one by one,—  
Sliding clear beads as down a silver wire ;  
So archer-stars shoot thro' abysses dun ;  
So blood drips down from the knife's fierce desire ;  
So fall our moments ; so our tears do run.

With drop on drop, with everlasting flow,  
 With changing atom, and revolving sphere,  
 Our never-resting lives must downward go ;—  
 Still hung in momentary brightness here,  
 Then sinking to that breast toward which incline  
 The drops that glow, and eke the beams that shine.

## II.

The sun, at length, with a more fervent fire,  
 Hath gained a subtle mastery of the dawn ;  
 And, still more swiftly, from the less'ning spire  
 The hastening gems descend, till all are gone.  
 But, lo! they come! The vanish'd ones surprise  
 In golden mist, my wistful, musing sight ;  
 Soul o' th' earth, its exhalations rise,  
 And soon the drops return to air and light.

There shall they hang 'mid purple glooms aloof,  
 With clouds noon-white, or tinct with crimson eve ;  
 Or shine supreme in Iris' circling woof,  
 Wherein his married hues the sun doth weave.  
 And so this falling life shall not remain  
 Sunk in the earth ; 'twill rise to Heaven again.

## THE SILVER FROST.

BARRY STRATON.

A BREATH from the tropics broke Winter's spell  
 With an alien rain which froze as it fell,  
 And ere the Orient blushed with morn  
 A beautiful crystal forest was born.

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Blackthorn hedge and hawthorn bush  
Dawned spectrally white in the first grey flush:  
Drifted from night the circling trees  
As icebergs drift from northern seas.

Branch above branch, an aerial maze  
Of pendulous crystals and silvery sprays!  
Tree behind tree impregnable,  
Where beauty, and silence, and sweet thoughts dwell!

The elm boughs bend, like a searching thought,  
With their silvery weight of beauty caught.  
White limbs are asleep on the misty blue skies  
Like lilies on lakelets in paradise.

Daylight refulgent floods over the hills,  
And the forest, conscious of beauty, thrills.  
Through the mazes of fragile mimicry  
The dazzling sunrays flare and flee.

Pine, elm, and maple, in icy attire,  
Burn with a myriad gems of fire.  
The snow-billowed ground and the gossamer height  
Are aflame with the scornful spirit of light.

Violet, orange, indigo, red,  
Green, yellow, and blue from each diamond are shed:  
More beautiful these than the jewels of a throne,  
For the forest is nature's glory and crown.

The grape-vine over the lilacs laid  
Gleams like a rainbowed, tossed cascade,  
And he who beholds might pause to hear:  
The calivened voices of waters there.

In the Balm of Gilead and poplar's spire  
 Are incarnate the spirits of water and fire:  
 In cedar and linden, and everywhere,  
 The flames of the passionless fires flare.

But wandering winds the frail boughs shake  
 And rustling ripples of ruin awake,  
 And a myriad scintillant gems fall down,  
 Like thoughts transfigured of beauties flown.

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### THE JEWELLED TREES.

GEORGE MARTIN.

I.

ON the verge of the month of the white new year,  
 When friend to friend gives heartiest cheer,  
 The rain and the frost for a night and a day  
 Have cunningly worked alternately.  
 They have thickened the crust of the dazzling snow  
 Over whose surface the cold winds blow ;  
 They have fringed the eaves with their old device,  
 Enormous daggers of glittering ice ;  
 And the nails in the walls, where in summer time  
 The scarlet-runners were wont to climb,  
 They have crowned with gems more bright, more fair,  
 Than eastern queens on their bosoms wear.  
 But scarcely a glance do we waste on these,  
 For our wonder is fixed on the jewelled trees ;  
 Never before, in all their days,  
 Have they borne such beauty for mortal gaze ;  
 On them the frost and the rain have wrought  
 A splendour that could not be sold or bought,

Heavily laden from foot to crown,  
Like fairest of brides with heads bowed down,  
In park and square, demurely they stand,—  
Stand by the wayside all over the land.  
Thick-crueted with pearls of marvellous size,  
Whose lustre rebukes our aching eyes.

II.

Thus for a night and a day have they stood,  
Modest and chaste in their virginhood ;  
But are they as happy, as joyful at heart,  
As when, in green vesture, they gladly took part  
In all the fresh bliss that to spring-time they owed,—  
In all the hot pleasure that summer bestowed ?  
“ Nay, verily, nay ! ” I hear them repeat ;  
The blood in our veins, even down to our feet,  
Is gelid and still,—we are sick unto death ;  
Oh send us, ye heavens ! oh send us a breath  
Of warmth that will bear all these jewels away !  
These fetters that we for a night and day  
Have borne in silence with infinite pain.  
Oh give us our freedom ! our bare arms again ! ”

III.

A wind that had slept all this time in the south,  
In an orange grove that was faint from drouth,  
Heard the soft plaint of the jewelled trees,  
And came in the guise of a gentle breeze,—  
Came, and with kisses tenderly  
Unbound the captives, and set them free.  
Their crysalline chains were broken asunder,  
Filling all earth with a blinding wonder ;—  
With a crash and a flash and a musical sound,  
Like a shower of stars they fell to the ground ;

And, freed from their bondage, the grateful trees  
In their bare brown arms caressed the breeze,  
Caressed the wind that came from the south,  
From the orange grove that was faint from drouth;  
And they wept for joy, their thanks they wept,  
While the wind lay still in their arms and slept.

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IN LYRIC SEASON.

BLISS CARMAN.

THE lyric April time is forth  
With lyric mornings, frost and sun;  
From leaguers vast of night undone  
Auroral mild new stars are born.

And ever at the year's return,  
Along the valleys grey with rime,  
Thou ledest as of old, where time  
Can nought but follow to thy sway.

The trail is far through leagues of Spring  
And long the quest to the white core  
Of harvest quiet, yet once more  
I gird me to the old unrest.

I know I shall not ever meet  
Thy calm regard across the year,  
And yet I know thou wilt draw near,  
Nor stir the hour asleep on guard.

Beside the orchard, when athwart  
The dusk, a meteor's gleam unbars  
God's lyric of the April stars  
Above the autumn hills of dream.

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THE FROGS. \*

ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

BREATHERS of wisdom won without a quest,  
Quaint, uncouth dreamers, voices high and strange,  
Flutist of lands, where beauty hath no change,  
And wintery grief is a forgotten guest;  
Sweet murmurers of everlasting rest,  
For whom glad days have ever yet to run,  
And moments are as æons, and the sun  
But ever half-way sunken toward the west.

Often to me who heard you in your day,  
With close-wrapped ears, it could not choose but  
seem  
That earth, our mother, searching in what way  
Men's hearts might know her spirit's inmost dream,  
Ever at rest beneath life's change and stir,  
Made you her soul, and bade you pipe for her.

In those mute days, when spring was in her glee,  
And hope was strong, we know not why or how,  
And earth, the mother, dreamed with brooding brow,

\* The orchestras of frogs are a notable feature of settlement life. Their singing, in the distances of forest rivers, is really very musical.

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Musing on life, and what the hours might be  
When love should ripen to maternity,  
Then, like high flutes in silvery interchange,  
Ye piped with voices still and sweet and strange.  
And ever as ye piped, on every tree

The great buds swelled; among the pensive woods  
The spirits of first flowers awoke, and flung  
From buried faces the close-fitting hoods,  
And listened to your piping till they fell;  
The frail spring beauty, with her perfumed bell,  
The wind flower, and the spotted adder tongue.

All the day long, wherever pools might be,  
Among the golden meadows, where the air  
Stood in a dream, as it were moored there  
For ever in a noontide reverie;  
Or where the birds made riot of their glee  
In the still woods, and the hot sun shone down,  
Crossed with warm shadows, on the brown  
Leaf-paven pools, that bubbled dreamily;

Or far away in whispering river meads  
And watery marshes, where the brooding noon,  
Full with the wonder of its own sweet boon,  
Nestled and slept among the noiseless reeds,  
Ye sat and murmured motionless as they  
With eyes that dreamed beyond the night and day.

And when day passed, and over heaven's height,  
Thin with the many stars, and cool with dew,  
The fingers of the deep hours slowly drew  
The wonder of the ever-heating night,



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No grief or loneliness, or wrapped delight,  
Or weight of silence, ever brought to you  
Slumber or rest; only your voices grew  
More high and solemn. Slowly with hushed flight

Ye saw the echoing hours go by, long drawn,  
Nor ever stirred, watching with fathomless eyes,  
And with your countless clear antiphonies  
Filling the earth and heaven, even till dawn,  
Hast risen, found you with its first pale gleam,  
Still with soft throats unaltered in your dream.

And slowly, as we heard you day by day,  
The stillness of enchanted reveries  
Bound brain and spirit and half-closed eyes  
In some divine sweet wonder dream astray;  
To us no sorrow or upreared dismay,  
Nor any discord came; but ever more,  
The voices of mankind, the outer roar,  
Grew strange and murmurous, faint and far away;

Morning and noon and midnight exquisitely,  
Wrapped with your voices, this alone we knew,  
Cities might change and fall, and men might die,  
Secure were we, content to dream with you,  
That change and pain are shadows faint and fleet,  
And dreams are real, and life is only sweet.

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THE CANADIAN SONG-SPARROW.

J. D. EDGAR.

FROM the leafy maple ridges,  
FROM the thickets of the cedar,  
FROM the alders by the river,

From the bending willow branches,  
 From the hollows and the hillsides,  
 Through the lone Canadian forest,  
 Comes the melancholy music,  
 Oft repeated,—never changing,—  
 “All—is—vanity—vanity—vanity.”

Where the farmer ploughs his furrow,  
 Sowing seed with hope of harvest,  
 In the orchard white with blossom,  
 In the early field of clover,  
 Comes the little brown-clad singer,  
 Flitting in and out of bushes,  
 Hiding well behind the fences,  
 Piping forth his song of sadness,—  
 “Poor—hu—manity—manity—manity.”

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IN JUNE.

*The Canadian Rossignol on Mount Royal.*

E. W. THOMSON.

PRONE where maples widely spread  
 I watch the far blue overhead,  
 Where little fine-spun clouds arise  
 From naught to naught before my eyes ;  
 Within the shade a pleasant rout  
 Of dallying zephyrs steal about ;  
 Lazily as moves the day  
 Odours float and faint away  
 From roses yellow, red, and white,  
 That prank yon garden with delight ;

Round which the locust blossoms swing,  
 And some late lilacs droop for spring.  
 Anon swells up a dubious breeze  
 Stirring the half reluctant trees,  
 Then, rising to a mimic gale,  
 Ruffles the massy oak to pale  
 Till, spent its sudden force, once more  
 The zephyrs come that went before ;  
 Now silvery poplars shivering stand,  
 And languid lindens waver bland,  
 Hemlock tracteries scarcely stir,  
 All the pines of summer purr.  
 Hovering butterflies I see,  
 Full of business shoots the bee,  
 Straight to yon valley is his flight  
 Where solemn marbles crowd so white.  
 Half hid in the grasses there  
 Red-breast thrushes jump and stare,  
 Sparrows flutter up like leaves  
 Tossed upon the wind in sheaves.  
 Curve-winged swallows slant and slide  
 O'er the graves that stretch so wide,  
 Steady crows go labouring by—  
 Ha ! the Rossignol is nigh !

Rossignol, why will you sing  
 Though lost the lovely world of spring ?  
 'Twas well that then your roulades rang  
 Of joy, despite of every pang,  
 But now the sweet, the bliss is gone—  
*Nay, now the summer joy is on,  
 And lo, the foliage and the bloom,  
 The fuller life the bluer room,  
 'Twas this the sweet spring promised me:*  
 O bird, and can you sing so free ?

And will you sing when summer goes  
 And leaves turn brown and dies the rose?

*Oh, then how brave shall autumn dress  
 The maple out with gorgeousness!  
 And red-cheeked apples deck the green,  
 And corn wave tall its yellow sheen.*

But, bird, bethink you well, I pray,  
 Then marches winter on his way.

*Ah, winter—yes, ah, yes—but still,  
 Hark! sweetly chimes the summer rill,  
 And joy is here and life is strong,  
 And love still calls upon my song.*

No, Rossignol, sing not that strain,  
 Triumphant 'spite of all the pain,—  
 She cannot hear you, Rossignol,  
 She does not pause and flush, your thrall.  
 She does not raise that slender hand  
 And, poised, lips parted, understand  
 What you are telling of the years  
 Her brown eyes soft with happy tears,  
 She does not hear a note of all.

Ah, Rossignol, ah, Rossignol!

*But skies are blue, and flowers bloom,  
 And roses breathe the old perfume,  
 And here the murmuring of the trees  
 In all of lovelier mysteries—  
 And maybe now she hears my song  
 Pouring the summer hills along,  
 Listens with joy that still to thee  
 Remain the summer time and me.*

