

Un Canadien Errant

Un Canadien errant, banni de ses foyers.
Un Canadien errant, banni de ses foyers.
Parcourait en pleurant, des pays étrangers
Parcourait en pleurant, des pays étrangers.

Un jour, triste et pensif, assis au bord des flots.
Au courant fugitif, il adressa ses mots.

Si tu vois mon pays, mon pays malheureux.
Si tu vois mon pays, mon pays malheureux.
Va, dis a mes amis, que je me souviens d'eux
Va, dis a mes amis, que je me souviens d'eux

O, jours si pleins d'appas vous êtes disparus.
Et ma patrie, hélas! Je ne la verrai plus.

Non, mais en expirant, O mon cher Canada
Non, mais en expirant, O mon cher Canada
Mon regard languissant vers toi se portera
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Lyrics Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, 1842.

Based on the melody of French Canadian folk tune: "J'ai Fait une Maîtresse". In the public domain.

Song notes:

Judi: Growing up in Québec, I learned this folk song when I was young, in early elementary school. It is a traditional French Canadian song about loss and solidarity. I so appreciated Bob learning the french to be able to sing harmony. It is one of my favorite songs from my Canadian heritage, even though I am not French Canadian. Also, there is a version of this song that is sung as « Un Acadien Errant », the wandering Acadian. Given Bob's mother's Acadian heritage, this seems a fitting song for us to sing together.

English translation (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant)

A wandering 'Canadien'
Banished from his homeland
Travelled, weeping,
through foreign lands.

One day, sad and thoughtful,
Seated on the river's bank
To the fleeing current
He spoke these words:

"If you should see my home,
My sad unhappy land.
Go, say to all my friends
That I remember them

"O days once so full of charm.
You are all gone away.
And my homeland, alas!
I'll not see her again.

"No, but with my last breath,
O my dear Canada!
My sad gaze
Will go to you."