

**RAISE THE FLAG, AND
OTHER
PATRIOTIC CANADIAN
SONGS AND POEMS**

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Raise the flag, and other patriotic Canadian songs and poems by E.G. Nelson

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E.G. NELSON

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PATRIOTIC CANADIAN SONGS

AND POEMS.

" 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!"

—LESPERANCE



Toronto
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1891.



CANADA ! Maple-land ! land of great mountains !
Lake-land and river-land ! Land 'twixt the seas !
Grant us, God, hearts that are large as our heritage,
Spirits as free as the breeze.

Grant us thy fear that we walk in humility,
Fear that is rev'rent—not fear that is base—
Grant to us righteousness, wisdom, prosperity,
Peace—if unstained by disgrace.

Grant us thy love and the love of our country ;
Grant us thy strength, for our strength's in thy name ;
Shield us from danger, from every adversity,
Shield us, Oh Father ! from shame !

Last born of nations ! The offspring of freedom !
Heir to wide prairies, thick forests, red gold !
God grant us wisdom to value our birthright,
Courage to guard what we hold !

PREFACE.

IN February last a deputation consisting of a large number of influential men, of all parties and creeds, waited upon the Minister of Education, to advocate the raising of a flag on the school houses on national anniversaries. The Toronto School Board had already taken steps towards the same end, and the movement has since been spreading throughout the Province. The anniversary of the battle of Queenston Heights was most successfully commemorated in all the public schools of Toronto, on the 13th October last, large numbers of essays upon the battle being written in all the schools. The *Empire* newspaper has also offered a large flag to the school in each county which produces the best essay on the subject of "Raising the Flag."

As an encouragement to the children, who have written the best essays in each school, and who would otherwise receive no recognition of their success, a few loyal Canadians have compiled (and subscribed the cost of producing) this little collection of Patriotic Songs and Poems, as the most appropriate remembrance to be given to the scholars who have written the best essays on these subjects.

The songs and poems selected, although few in number, strike the keynote of Canadian history and sentiment. Among them may be found the romantic and touching story of the foundation of this Province by the United Empire Loyalists; who, driven from their homes in the revolted colonies, disappeared in the gloomy recesses of the unbroken wilderness of Upper Canada, and amid the most terrible hardships, privations, and trials,

" Won from the Canadian wild
A home on British lands."

The guiding principle of these men was contained in the text " Fear God, honor the King." Piety and loyalty and steadfast endurance being their distinguishing characteristics.

From the pathos of this period we come to the war of 1812, when once more these men and their sons had to take up arms to defend the humble homes they were carving out of the forest. A scant people, then only 70,000, they faced enormous odds, and in three long years of incessant war,

drove back invasion after invasion of vastly superior numbers. The triumphant martial spirit of a victorious people breaks out exultingly in the poems of this war—Queenston Heights, the Capture of Detroit, and the brave exploit of Laura Secord being described in stirring verse.

There is nothing so striking in Canadian poetry as the great change that has come over it during the last few years. The tone of confidence in our country, the buoyant faith in our great future, the deep feeling of loyalty to Canada and the Empire, that is shown in all the fugitive pieces of the last five years is most remarkable. Mr. Wm. D. Lighthall, to whose excellent collection of "Songs of our Great Dominion," this work is indebted for several extracts, notices this fact in his introduction, but since he wrote, the change is even more marked. Still we notice the same dominant idea of fearing God and honoring the king. The piety of the later poems is as marked as the loyalty.

Canada has been compelled to defend her frontiers in open war in 1775 and in 1812-15, and from filibusters in 1837 and 1838, and again in 1866 and 1870. Every generation of our people for one hundred years has seen Canadian lives given up freely in defence of her soil and institutions. Our territory has been diminished by unfair treaties; and trade regulations and restrictions, and fishery disputes, have been used to retard our progress or coerce us into annexation. Yet with it all our poems are singularly free from unfriendliness. There is no tone of aggression, but a steadfast determination to trust in God and stand firm for the right. The only tinge of bitterness that is shown, here and there, is towards those of our own people who lack faith in our future. The feeling towards our neighbors is shown in Mr. Cockin's lines:

"Peace, an' they will, nay more, a friendly hand,
But not one foot of our Canadian land."

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby given to the authors, whose poems are here published with the object of spreading among the children of our land those loyal and patriotic sentiments which animated our fathers and helped them to defend and hand down to us the rights and privileges which we now enjoy.

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RAISE THE FLAG

AND OTHER

Patriotic Canadian Songs and Poems.

RAISE THE FLAG.

BY E. G. NELSON.

RAISE the flag, our glorious banner,
O'er this fair Canadian land,
From the stern Atlantic Ocean
To the far Pacific strand.

Chorus.

Raise the flag with shouts of gladness,
'Tis the banner of the free !
Brightly gleaming, proudly streaming,
'Tis the flag of liberty !

Raise the flag o'er hill and valley,
Let it wave from sea to sea ;
Flag of Canada and Britain,
Flag of right and liberty !—*Chorus.*

Raise the flag, and with the banner
Shouts of triumph let us raise ;
Sons of Canada will guard it,
And her daughters sing its praise.—*Chorus.*

Raise the flag of the Dominion,
That the world may understand,
This will be our ensign ever
In our broad Canadian land.—*Chorus.*

Raise the flag : who dare assail it,
Guarded by the Empire's might ?
Raise the flag of our Dominion,—
Stand for country, God, and right !—*Chorus.*