

**SONGS OF THE PEOPLE. FORTY-
FOUR FRENCH FOLK-SONGS
AND VARIANTS FROM CANADA,
NORMANDY, AND BRITTANY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649755691

Songs of the People. Forty-Four French Folk-Songs and Variants from Canada, Normandy, and Brittany by Julien Tiersot & Henry Grafton Chapman

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JULIEN TIERSOT & HENRY GRAFTON CHAPMAN

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NORMANDY, AND BRITTANY**



SONGS OF THE PEOPLE



Forty-four
FRENCH FOLK-SONGS
AND VARIANTS
from Canada, Normandy, and Brittany



Collected and Harmonized by

JULIEN TIERSOT

The English Translations by HENRY GRAFTON CHAPMAN

Paper, \$1.00; Cloth, \$2.00



NEW YORK
G. S. SCHIRMER



Preface

CANADA, colonized, evangelized and peopled by the French in the sixteenth century, and called by them "New France," has retained, both in the customs and the physiognomy of its inhabitants, the characteristics of a French province—at least in the province of Quebec.

The language that is spoken there is descended in a direct line from the language of Louis XIV, and Canada's repertory of popular songs is closely similar to what has been preserved by tradition and is still kept alive among the peasants on the other side of the ocean. One may even say that the Canadians are more deeply attached to ancient usages than are the French of to-day, and have more faithfully preserved the treasures of their folk-lore than have their brothers who remained at home.

It has been my privilege, in two visits to Canada which I made in 1905 and 1906, to bring together some interesting observations on this subject. This was all the easier for me to do because French popular song in Canada, far from being despised by the educated classes, has remained in favor with them as much and even more than among the lower classes, to whom it has long been relegated in France.

I was able, therefore, during such time as I was at liberty to spend in Montreal, Quebec, Joliette, Trois-Rivières, and especially in the little town of Beauharnois (where my kind hosts had taken pains to bring together for my benefit everyone there was in the canton in the way of singers who had in their repertory any of the songs of olden times),—I was able, I say, not only to have the pleasure of hearing songs which brought to me, on American soil, a distant echo of my native land, but also to make a methodical study of them, and, in a great many cases, to reduce both words and music to writing. I should state that a similar work had already been undertaken, on the ground itself, by an excellent writer, himself a descendant of an old French family, M. Ernest Gagnon, who was among the first (even counting Frenchmen) to call attention to this subject, by the publication at Quebec, as long ago as 1865, of an interesting and valuable collection of Canadian Popular Songs (*Chansons populaires du Canada*). As this work was purely documentary, the melodies being given without any harmonization, I have, of course, felt at liberty to make use of it, in connection with this musical collection of my own, and to add from it certain things to what I had collected myself, as well as to use it for purposes of comparison and correction.

Finally, in view of the constant analogy that exists between the songs of France and those of Canada, it occurred to me that it would be interesting to place side by side some of these latter, with songs that are still to be found on the lips of the peasants and sailors of our European coasts.

I have, therefore, put in among the Canadian songs some of the songs which have continued to be popular in those two of our provinces which look out over the ocean to the new world, that is, Brittany and Normandy. In this way a single volume will offer to the American public a collection of songs scattered over both shores of the Atlantic.

JULIEN TIERSOT

Paris, November 20, 1907

21800

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«En revenant de nocés»
(Bretagne)

Home from the Wedding
(Brittany)

Arr. by Julien Tiersot

Voice *Moderato*

Piano *mf*

1. En re - ve - nant de
1. Home from the wed - ding

no - ces J'é - tais bien fa - ti - guée; Au bord du - ne fon -
walk - ing, Wear - i - ly did I fare; Close to a pool I

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tai - ne Je me suis re - po - sée. Ah! j'at-tends, j'at-tends, j'at -
 halt - ed, Think - ing to rest me there I a - wait, a - wait, a -

p

tends, Ce - lui que j'ai - me, Que mon cœur ai - me; Ah! j'at-tends, j'at-tends, j'at -
 wait Him that I love so, Him my heart loves so; I a - wait, a - wait, a -

tends, Ce - lui que mon cœur ai - me tant.
 wait Him my heart loves with love so great.

*Pour finir
Last verse*

mf

D. S. %

«En revenant de nocés»

I

EN revenant de nocés
J'étais bien fatiguée;
Au bord d'une fontaine
Je me suis reposée.
*Ah! j' l'attends, j' l'attends, j' l'attends,
Celui que j'aime,
Que mon cœur aime;
Ah! j' l'attends, j' l'attends, j' l'attends,
Celui que mon cœur aime tant.*

II

Au bord d'une fontaine
Je me suis reposée;
L'eau en était si claire
Que je m'y suis baignée.
Ah! j' l'attends, etc.

III

L'eau en était si claire
Que je m'y suis baignée.
A la feuille du chêne
Je me suis essuyée.
Ah! j' l'attends, etc.

IV

A la feuille du chêne
Je me suis essuyée.
Sur la plus haute branche
Le rossignol chantait.
Ah! j' l'attends, etc.

V

Sur la plus haute branche
Le rossignol chantait.
Chante, rossignol, chante,
Toi qui as le cœur gai.
Ah! j' l'attends, etc.

VI

Chante, rossignol, chante,
Toi qui as le cœur gai.
Pour moi, je ne l'ai guère,
Mon amant m'a quitté.
Ah! j' l'attends, etc.

VII

Pour moi, je ne l'ai guère,
Mon amant m'a quitté
Pour un bouton de rose
Que je lui refusai.
Ah! j' l'attends, etc.

Home from the Wedding

I

HOME from the wedding walking,
Wearily did I fare;
Close to a pool I halted,
Thinking to rest me there.
*I await, await, await
Him that I love so,
Him my heart loves so,
I await, await, await
Him my heart loves with love so great.*

II

Close to a pool I halted,
Thinking to rest me there;
So clear it was, I bathed me
All in its waters fair.
I await, etc.

III

So clear it was, I bathed me
All in its waters fair;
Under a leafy oak-tree
Did I to dry repair.
I await, etc.

IV

Under a leafy oak-tree
Did I to dry repair;
Up in the topmost branches
Nightingale sang his air.
I await, etc.

V

Up in the topmost branches
Nightingale sang his air.
Nightingale, sing, keep singing,
Light heart and debonair.
I await, etc.

VI

Nightingale, sing, keep singing,
Light heart and debonair.
No heart have I—my lover's
Left me to my despair.
I await, etc.

VII

No heart have I—my lover's
Left me to my despair,
All for that I refused him
One little rose to spare.
I await, etc.