

Banks of Champlain

With free rhythm (felt in one) ♩. = 46

1. 'Twas ^D au - tumn and 'round me the leaves was des - cend - ing, And
^D nought but the drum - ming bird tapped on the tree, ^{Bm} Whilst
^G thou - sands their free - doms and rights were de - fend - ing; The
^G din of their arms sound - ed dis - mal to me.

2. For Sandy, my love, was engaged in the action.
 His death would have ended my life in distraction.
 Without him I valued this world not a fraction
 As mournful I strayed on the banks of Champlain.

3. Then turning to list to the cannon's loud thunder,
 My elbow I leaned on a rock near the shore.
 The sound nearly parted my heartstrings asunder;
 I thought I should see my dear Sandy no more.

4. But soon an express all my sorrows suspended;
 My thanks to the Father of mercies ascended.
 My shepherd was safe and my country defended
 By freedom's brave sons on the banks of Champlain.

5. I wiped from my eye the tear that had started
 And hastened the news to my parents to bear,
 Who sighed for the loss of relations departed
 And wept at the tidings that banishes care.

* There are many rhythmic variations in this first measure.
 Change the rhythm to fit the best declaration of the text
 for each verse.

** Sing the notes in parentheses on verses 2, 4, 6 and 8.

6. O the cannon ceased firing; the drums were still beating;
 The foes of our country far north were retreating.
 The neighboring damsels each other were greeting
 With songs of delight on the shores of Champlain.

7. They sang of the heroes whose valor had made us
 Sole nation on earth independent and free,
 And thus will remain, with kind Heaven to aid us,
 In spite of invaders by land and by sea.

8. New York, the Green Mountains, Macomb and MacDonough,
 The farmer, the soldier, the sailor, the gunner,
 Each party united hath pledg'ed their honor
 To conquer or die on the banks of Champlain.