**Red River Valley**

Circa 1870

**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [C] / [C]**

From this **[C]** valley they **[G7]** say you are **[C]** going **[C]**

I shall **[C]** miss your bright eyes and sweet **[G7]** smile **[G7]**

For a-**[C]**las you take **[C7]** with you the **[F]** sunshine **[Dm]**

That has **[G]** brightened my **[G7]** pathway a **[C]** while **[G7]**

**CHORUS:**

Come and **[C]** sit by my **[G7]** side if you **[C]** love me **[C]**

Do not **[C]** hasten to bid me a-**[G7]**dieu **[G7]**

But re-**[C]**member the **[C7]** Red River **[F]** Valley **[Dm]**

And the **[G]** girl who has **[G7]** loved you so **[C]** true **[C]**

For this **[C]** long, long **[G7]** time I have **[C]** waited **[C]**

For the **[C]** words that you never would **[G7]** say **[G7]**

But **[C]** now my last **[C7]** hope has **[F]** vanished **[Dm]**

When they **[G]** tell me that **[G7]** you’re going a-**[C]**way **[C]**

Oh, there **[C]** never could **[G7]** be such a **[C]** longing **[C]**

In the **[C]** heart of a white maiden's **[G7]** breast **[G7]**

As there **[C]** is in the **[C7]** heart that is **[F]** breaking **[Dm]**

With **[G]** love for the **[G7]** boy who came **[C]** west **[G7]**

**CHORUS:**

Come and **[C]** sit by my **[G7]** side if you **[C]** love me **[C]**

Do not **[C]** hasten to bid me a-**[G7]**dieu **[G7]**

But re-**[C]**member the **[C7]** Red River **[F]** Valley **[Dm]**

And the **[G]** girl who has **[G7]** loved you so **[C]** true **[C]**

When you **[C]** go to your **[G7]** home by the **[C]** ocean **[C]**

May you **[C]** never forget the sweet **[G7]** hours **[G7]**

That we **[C]** spent in the **[C7]** Red River **[F]** Valley **[Dm]**

Or the **[G]** vows we ex-**[G7]**changed 'mid the **[C]** bowers **[C]**

Will you **[C]** think of the **[G7]** valley you're **[C]** leaving? **[C]**

Oh, how **[C]** lonely and dreary 'twill **[G7]** be! **[G7]**

Will you **[C]** think of the **[C7]** fond heart you're **[F]** breaking **[Dm]**

And be **[G]** true to your **[G7]** promise to **[C]** me? **[G7]**

**CHORUS:**

Come and **[C]** sit by my **[G7]** side if you **[C]** love me **[C]**

Do not **[C]** hasten to bid me a-**[G7]**dieu **[G7]**

But re-**[C]**member the **[C7]** Red River **[F]** Valley **[Dm]**

And the **[G]** girl who has **[G7]** loved you so **[C]** true **[C]**

The dark **[C]** maiden's **[G7]** prayer for her **[C]** lover **[C]**

To the **[C]** spirit that rules o'er the **[G7]** world; **[G7]**

His **[C]** pathway with **[C7]** sunshine may **[F]** cover **[Dm]**

Leave his **[G]** grief to the **[G7]** Red River **[C]** girl **[G7]**

**CHORUS:**

Come and **[C]** sit by my **[G7]** side if you **[C]** love me **[C]**

Do not **[C]** hasten to bid me a-**[G7]**dieu **[G7]**

But re-**[C]**member the **[C7]** Red River **[F]** Valley **[Dm]**

And the **[G]** girl who has **[G7]** loved you so **[C]** true **[C]↓**



(Traditional circa 1870. Words and chords (transposed) according to Edith Fowke. Describes the plight of a Métis woman lamenting the departure of her lover, an east-coast soldier, who came west as a member of the 1870 Wolseley expedition sent to put down the first Riel-led Red River Rebellion in Manitoba)

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