"**Un Canadien errant**" ("A Wandering Canadian") is a song written in 1842 by [Antoine Gérin-Lajoie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoine_G%C3%A9rin-Lajoie) after the [Lower Canada Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Canada_Rebellion) of 1837–38. Some of the rebels were [condemned to death](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment), others forced into [exile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exile) to the United States[[n 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-nA-1)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-canadianencyclopedia.com-2) and as far as Australia.[[n 2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-nB-3) Gérin-Lajoie wrote the song, about the pain of exile, while taking his classical exams at the Séminaire de [Nicolet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolet%2C_Quebec).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-canadianencyclopedia.com-2)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-biographi.ca-4) The song has become a [patriotic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriotic) anthem for certain groups of Canadians who have at a point in their history experienced the pain of exile. In addition to those exiled following the Lower Canada Rebellion, it has come to hold particular importance for the rebels of the [Upper Canada Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Canada_Rebellion), and for the [Acadians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acadians), who suffered mass deportation from their homeland in the [Great Upheaval](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Upheaval) between 1755 and 1763. The Acadian version is known as "Un Acadien errant."

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| **Original French lyrics**:[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Un_Canadien_errant#cite_note-canadianencyclopedia.com-2)Un Canadien errant,Banni de ses foyers,Parcourait en pleurantDes pays étrangers.Un jour, triste et pensif,Assis au bord des flots,Au courant fugitifIl adressa ces mots:"Si tu vois mon pays,Mon pays malheureux,Va, dis à mes amisQue je me souviens d'eux."Ô jours si pleins d'appasVous êtes disparus,Et ma patrie, hélas!Je ne la verrai plus!"Non, mais en expirant,Ô mon cher Canada!Mon regard languissantVers toi se portera..." | **English translation**A wandering ‘Canadien’Banished from his homelandTravelled, weeping,through foreign lands.One day, sad and thoughtful,Seated on the river’s bankTo the fleeing currentHe spoke these words:“If you should see my homeMy sad unhappy landGo, say to all my friendsThat I remember them"O days once so full of charmYou are all gone awayAnd my homeland, alas!I'll not see her again"No, but with my last breathO my dear Canada!My sad gazeWill go to you." |