Red River Valley
Circa 1870

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

From this [C] valley they [G7] say you are [C] going [C]
For a-[C]las you take [C7] with you the [F] sunshine [Dm]

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]

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 [C7] fond heart you're [F] breaking [Dm]
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]

To the [C] spirit that rules o'er the [G7] world; [G7]
His [C] pathway with [C7] sunshine may [F] cover [Dm]

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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