

RED RIVER VALLEY

The popular song In the Bright Mohawk Valley went through changes in the seaboard and mountain states of the South. It became The Red River Valley; it went west and became a "cowboy love song," the end line speaking of "the cowboy that's waiting for you" or "the half breed that's waiting for you." The version here is from Gilbert R. Combs as he heard it on Pine Mountain. Three final stanzas are added from the R. W. Gordon collection. I have heard it sung as if bells might be calling across a mist in a gloaming.

Arr. H. F. P.

From this val - ley they say you are go - ing, We will
Come and sit by my side if you love me, Do not

The first system of music features a vocal line in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "From this val - ley they say you are go - ing, We will Come and sit by my side if you love me, Do not". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line.

miss your bright eyes and sweet smile, For they say you are tak - ing the
has - ten to bid me a - dieu, But re - mem - ber the Red Riv - er

The second system continues the melody in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "miss your bright eyes and sweet smile, For they say you are tak - ing the has - ten to bid me a - dieu, But re - mem - ber the Red Riv - er". The piano accompaniment continues with a consistent harmonic structure.

sun - shine That bright - ens our path - way a - while. . . .
Val - ley And the girl that has loved you so true. . . .

The third system concludes the piece in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "sun - shine That bright - ens our path - way a - while. . . . Val - ley And the girl that has loved you so true. . . .". The piano accompaniment features a final cadence.

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1 From this valley they say you are going,
We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile,
For they say you are taking the sunshine
That brightens our pathway awhile.

Refrain:

Come and sit by my side if you love me,
Do not hasten to bid me adieu,
But remember the Red River Valley
And the girl that has loved you so true.

2 For a long time I have been waiting
For those dear words you never would say,
But at last all my fond hopes have vanished,
For they say you are going away.

Refrain:

3 Won't you think of the valley you're leaving?
Oh how lonely, how sad it will be.
Oh think of the fond heart you're breaking,
And the grief you are causing me to see?

Refrain:

4 From this valley they say you are going;
When you go, may your darling go too?
Would you leave her behind unprotected
When she loves no other but you?

Refrain:

5 I have promised you, darling, that never
Will a word from my lips cause you pain;
And my life, — it will be yours forever
If you only will love me again.

Refrain:

6 Must the past with its joys be blighted
By the future of sorrow and pain,
And the vows that was spoken be slighted?
Don't you think you can love me again?

Refrain:

7 As you go to your home by the ocean,
May you never forget those sweet hours,
That we spent in Red River Valley,
And the love we exchanged 'mid the flowers.

Refrain:

8 There never could be such a longing
In the heart of a pure maiden's breast,
That dwells in the heart you are breaking
As I wait in my home in the West.

Refrain:

9 And the dark maiden's prayer for her lover
To the Spirit that rules over the world;
May his pathway be ever in sunshine,
Is the prayer of the Red River girl.

Refrain:

