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THROUGH A WINDOW.

BY LOUISE CLANDERIN MOULTON.

I lie here at rest in my chamber,
And look through a window again,
With eyes that are changed since the old
time,
And the sting of an exquisite pain.

'Tis not much that I see for a picture,
Through boughs which are green with the
Spring—
An old barn with its roof gray and mossy,
And above it a bird on the wing.

Or, lifting my head a thought higher,
Some hills and a village I know,
And over it all the blue heaven,
With a white cloud floating below.

In the old days the roof seemed a prison,
My mind and my life were there;
My thoughts with the birds went flying,
And my hopes were a heaven to me.

Now I come from the limitless distance
Where I followed my youth's wild will,
Where they press the wine of delusion
That you drink and are thirsty still!

And I know why the bird with the Spring-
time
To the garbled old tree comes back—
He has tried the bow and the Sarcophagus,
He has felt what the sweet things lack.

So I come with a sad contentment,
With eyes that are changed I see;
The roof means peace, not a prison,
And heaven smiles down on me.

DAVE PEARSON'S COURTSHIP.

"I tell you, Dave Pearson, you shall never call me wife!"
And as these words were uttered,
Dave Pearson gave vent to a little
chuckle, took a huge quid from a capacious
box, and gazed thoughtfully from his
cottage-window upon the craft that
was floating past upon the Metecunk
river.

I, the writer of this sketch, was spending
a few weeks in New Jersey, wild-
fowl shooting along the shores of Squam,
Barnegat, and in and about Little Egg
Harbor Bay.

Dave Pearson had been my mentor
and boatman. On our return one evening
from a long and unusually successful
day's sport, which had put Dave in
an unconsciously good humor, he related to
me the following story of his court-
ship; how he came to do so was in this
wise:

"We had had our supper, and, with
just a drop of something to keep out the
cold," we sat down to the evening
meal. I was sitting at the head of the
table, and Dave with his inevitable
tobacco-box, as he never, under
any circumstances, used the "divine
weed," as somebody calls it, in any other
shape than a chew. Just as his wife was
leaving the room with the remains of
our meal, and was about to enter the
kitchen, I—being an honored guest, I
was assigned the parlor—casually re-
marked, "That's a hard-working wife
of yours, Dave."

"Yes," said Dave, gravely stroking
his chin, with a gratified smile upon his
honest countenance; "and just as good
as she is hard-working. Do you know I
came near not marrying my wife once?"
"You don't tell me! How was that,
Dave?"

"Well, as you're a pretty good sort
of fellow, and as the old woman won't
get through her fixing-up for some time,
I don't mind telling you; but be careful
not to mention it to her, as she's the
kind of diabolical to hear about it."

"I readily gave the promise, and Dave,
again having resort to his box, placed
both arms upon the table, and commen-
ced:

"When I was a young fellow—it was
along among the '40s, then—'nd what
most young fellows do—I fell in love.
And, of course, like all young fellows
in the same condition, at one time I was
as happy as they say a clam is at high
water, and at another, as miserable as a
sick rooster on a wet day.

"But that's neither here nor there;
the gal I was in love with was named
Esther Hettrick. That's her," and Dave
jerked his head in the direction of the
kitchen.

"I nodded understandingly.
"Well, you see, I was mighty poor in
those days, that is, I was nothing but a
lired hand; but if I was mighty poor,
I was working mighty hard, and saving
every penny I could earn, so as to be
able to buy a boat of my own, and fur-
nish a little cabin on shore, in order to
make myself master of the one, and to
make Esther t. e. mistress of the other."

"And you succeeded, I have no
doubt?" I said.
"Hold on, boss—not so fast! If I'm
telling this story, I have to tell it in my
own way."
I mumbled something about sorrow,
and Dave continued:
"Old Obadiah Hettrick—he was
Esther's father—was a pretty 'cute chap,
for a fisherman; had a boat of his own,
a snug farm, besides a comfortable sum
in the bank. Lor' bless you! I never
dreamed of coming as much as Obadiah
did; but I tell you, sir, time makes a
great many changes."

"Yes, as he said this, glanced com-
placently round the room."
"Now, Obadiah was not a bad sort
of fellow; one of the easy-going sort
of folks, you know; but his wife, Abigail,
she was a stinger."
"Ruled the roost, eh?"
"Dave gave me a wink that expressed
volumes, and resumed:
"She was down on me, she was;
could never abide me near the house,
and I do verily believe she thought me
one of the wickedest chaps in all Ocean
county. But I didn't mind that much,
for Esther had told me, over and over
again, that she loved me, and the old
man, Obadiah, had said, 'Well, Dave,
when you've got a boat of your own,
and want to take my gal, I shall say
nary a word against it.'"
"Then all things, so far, were satis-
factory?"
"Yes, so far. But there was one
thing that was anything but satisfac-
tory, and that was in the shape of Ab-
ner Sanford. Not that Abner was a
bad sort of a chap; for I half believed
then, and know now, that he was a
good, strong, generous-hearted fellow,

and as brave as steel. But what I didn't
like, was his visiting the house of old
Obadiah, and always being made wel-
come by Esther's mother, while I was
scowled at if I came within forty rods of
the gate."

"Ah!" I said, filling another pipe;
"a slight twinge of jealousy, I perceive?"
"Well," replied Dave, with a comical
grin, "I guess that's what you may
call it. And, such being the case, it is
not to be wondered at that Esther and
myself had many a spat about this Ab-
ner. I well remember the time when
we had quite a severe quarrel—that is,
for sweethearts—about this Abner's
Mama; it was on Squam Beach; I was
sitting on a boat, mending a net, when
Esther came along, looking just as spick
and span as a newly painted schooner;
and I thought I saw her looking
prettier in all my life. But, somehow
or other, there's something in the
mending of nets that makes a man
think, and I had been brooding over
Abner, till I was gloomy and savage as
a meat-axe. 'Dear Dave, Esther said,
'I am so glad to see you! I've been to
Martha Swain's with some eggs—you
know, she is so sick; so I thought I
would come round this way home, and
see you.'"

"Which, of course, brightened and
cleared you immediately?"
"I kind o' think it did a little; but
then, you see, when a man is deter-
mined not to be pleased, it is pretty hard
to please him. I answered gruffly, that
Mama Swain was nothing to me, and
maybe if she wasn't a sort o' relation of
Abner Sanford's, she wouldn't be
thought so much of. I knew it was a
lie when I said it, and Esther colored
up a little; but I went on, getting
more and more excited as I continued,
till I finally told her as thought more
of Abner than she did of me."

"All true lovers are fools," I said,
sententiously. Having never been in
love myself, of course I was well qual-
ified to judge.
"I guess you are about right there,
sir. When I said Abner was thought
more of than me, she gave me such a
look, and went off proud as any queen;
and that I have ever seen a queen, but
you know what I mean."
I assented with a nod.

"Of course we made it up again, and
went on loving one another, more, if
possible than ever before. Between you
and me, and here Dave lowered his
voice to a most impressive whisper,
"this falling out and making up again
is one of the chief pleasures of love-
making."
"There is no accounting for tastes,"
said I.

"Well, to make a long story short,
I had saved money enough to buy a
boat, and became owner of the Spark-
ling Foam; and what was more, every-
thing having been settled, I was to be
married to Esther in two months from
that time."

"So the old lady, Mrs. Hettrick, had
said."
"Not much. She saw that things
couldn't be helped, so she kind o' put
the best face on the matter, more espe-
cially as Esther generally had her own
way in the long run; but you had bet-
ter believe there was no love lost bet-
ween us. And it's my private opinion
—and I know it to have been so now—
—the led old Obadiah a deuce of a life,
for ever having given me a kindly word
of encouragement or advice."

"But that did not trouble you much?"
"I don't know about that. You see,
I am a sort o' straight-up-and-down
fellow, I am, and when I don't like any-
body, I must show it. I tried hard to
be civil and polite to the old woman,
but just a streak of ugliness would show
itself now and then. Esther often spoke
to me about it, and begged me to be
kind to her mother, reminding me
that it was her mother I was cross to,
and that a cruel word hurt her more
than it did her mother."

"And your promise was never with-
held," I remarked, unconsciously assum-
ing the air of one who was propounding
a solemn truth.
"Right you are, my boy. Just about
this time I had to run up to York with
a cargo, so, bidding good-bye to Esther,
and promising to return in a few days,"
I said, and I sailed, as the song says,
"You know the old saying about men un-
dertaking to do a thing, and God put-
ting a stop to it; well it was so in my
case. When I got to York, and had
unloaded, I got a chance to run up to
Newburg with another cargo. Money
being what I wanted, and this giving
me the opportunity of making some, I
accepted it. I lost no time, you can bet
your bottom dollar on that; but by the
time I had returned to York—with a
load of bricks, this time—it was quite
four weeks before I again entered the
Maneuquin Inlet."

"And during this time, your true love
was wandering by the sad sea waves all
alone."
Dave paid no attention to my remark,
but continued:
"As soon as I fixed my boat all snug,
and had anchored her securely, I made
my way as quickly as possible to Es-
ther's house, intending to tell her of the
good fortune I had had since I had been
away, and be happy over it together.
As I walked up the road, I saw Esther
standing at the gate, and my heart gave
a great bound of delight; but what
struck me as strange—for I knew she
saw me—she made no movement to come
to me, and I approached nearer, I
started, I exclaimed:
"Why, Esther, darling, what is the
matter?"
"So, Dave Pearson, you have come
at last!" was all the answer she gave
me.

"Come at last!" I said; "and why
shouldn't I come? What is the meaning
of that black dress?"
"I soon understood it. During my
absence her mother had died, and she
thought I had kept away from the fune-
ral on account of my dislike for her."

"If you," said Esther, her eyes flash-
ing, "had no respect for my poor mother,
you might have shown some for me."
"It was no use my telling her I had
heard not a word about it. At this I
got mad, like a great fool; for my ex-
perience tells me it is never any good
arguing with a woman. When two peo-
ple are mad and quarreling, you know,
they don't say exactly what they think.
I suppose I said many things I ought
not to have done, when, all of a sudden,
Esther clenched her fist, and brought it
down violently upon the gate-post—for
though she favored her father, she
still had a spice of her mother in her—
and said:
"I tell you, Dave Pearson, you shall
never call me wife!"

"With this she turned round, and
walked up the garden path toward the
house. My heart relented; I opened
the gate, and followed, calling upon
her to hear me explain. She paid not
the least attention, entered the door,
gave me a look, that I don't like to
think of even now, and she slammed
it in my face."
Dave refreshed himself with a glass
of apple-jack, and continued:
"Well, that got my dander up, so I
just turned round and walked away,
viewing vengeance against all woman-
kind, and Esther in particular. I swore
as my rage, that I would never go near
her house again, and that I would kill
Abner Sanford the first opportunity, for
somehow or other, I laid all the blame
on him, and hugged in the belief to my
heart that he had been poisoning Esther's
mind against me."

"Which was a very sensible thing to
do," said I, knocking the ashes out of
my pipe, and refilling it.
"I neglected my work, and I didn't
care a darn whether school kept or not,
and kept on drinking more than was good
for me. The Sparkling Foam lay idle
at her moorings, and both me and my
belongings were going to rot, and I
didn't know it, till I was told by Abner;
but he told me plainly that he was sorry
for me, and would not quarrel with a
man in misfortune."
"A magnanimous fellow!" I exclaimed.
"There came a Sunday, I remember—
one of those cold, leaden kind of days,
you often see when the weather is
winter, when everything looks dull and
grey, and objects, both on ocean and
shore, oppress you with a sense of great
desolation. Such a day, I need not tell
you, did not make me feel particularly
cheerful, so, to pluck up my spirits and
drown care, I flew to that which, like
me, I had in my very good servant, but a
bad master."
Dave gave the bottle a little fillip
with his thumb and forefinger, and re-
sumed:
"As I was wandering about the vil-
lage, nursing my wrath and hatred
against all mankind, who should I see
but Esther returning from church, with
Abner walking by her side! That was
enough. A feeling that had long been
slumbering in my breast awoke with re-
newed energy, and my whole nature
was filled with hate, revenge and mur-
der. I resolved to waylay Abner on his
return, and kill him on the spot."
"Why, Dave," I said, "I had no idea
you were such a desperate fellow."
"I watched them enter the house, and
then went to the back, where I knew
old Obadiah kept his nets, and, picking
up the handle of a broken oar, went
down the road on the beach with a fury
that I had never known before. I had
been threatening for some time to begin
falling very fast. The wind had also
risen, and it was blowing a perfect hur-
ricane. The drifting and blinding snow
prevented my seeing the sea, but I knew
how angry it was, for I heard it break-
ing and roaring on the beach with a fury
that threatened to swallow up the land.
Though I had murder in my heart, I
pitied the poor fellows off the coast, and
wished they had plenty of sea-room, so
the wind was blowing dead on shore."

Dave paused a moment, gave a sigh
of contrition, and then went on with his
story.
"How long I had waited for Abner, I
don't know; but I had a sense of being
bitter cold, but if it had been ten times
colder, my hate would have kept me
there till morning—when, all of a sud-
den, I heard, nigh on shore, the boom of
a cannon. I knew what that meant—
some vessel in distress—and it was fol-
lowed by another and another in rapid
succession. In a moment Abner was
forgotten, and my only idea was to hur-
ry to the beach, and give what aid I
could to the vessel, which, if not already
on shore, would soon be driven there by
the wild, tempestuous wind."
"When I arrived on the beach, I found
many there before me, all intent upon
the same errand as myself—for you must
know none of us lose much time in hast-
ening to a ship's cry of distress. We had
no life-boat on this part of the coast
then, and even if we had, it wouldn't
have been of much use. I have seen
many a rough sea, but that beat all
I have ever seen. As the waves rolled
on the shore, they scooped deep hollows
in the sand, and went tearing and tum-
bling back with a maddened fury that
was terrible."
"Old fishermen—men who had never
been a day away from the sea in all
their lives—shook their heads, and said
that nothing could be done, the ship
must be left to the mercy of Providence.
All this time, none had seen the vessel,
for the falling snow prevented objects
fifty yards' distance being seen, yet the
steady and incessant fring of the can-
non—heard above the roaring of the
tempest—told us of her deep and dire
distress."
"Women were wringing their hands
and begging, against their own judg-
ment (for they knew as well as any, how
foolhardy would be such an undertak-
ing) the men, for the sake of the moth-
ers, sisters and wives of those on board,
to try and save them."
"At last they sent up a rocket, and
another, and finally they lit a signal-
light, and by its glare we saw her."
"There she lay, not a biscuit's throw
from the shore, beam-ends on, and the
sea making a clean breach over her.
Just at that very moment, I heard an
improving voice, close by my side, say,
'Abner, Abner, pray do try and save
them!'"
"I turned quickly, and there stood
Esther and Abner.

"I didn't speak a word, and I don't
know what possessed me, but a feeling
came over me that I'd have to reach
that ship or die. There were plenty of
lines at hand, so, taking one, and coil-
ing it upon the beach, I commenced to
fasten it around my waist. When it be-
came known that I had made up my
mind to go off, every one tried to dis-
suade me from it, but it was of no use.
I don't believe there was any power on
earth that could have prevented me
from trying. 'It's sure death,' said one;
said he would have had to
use a stronger argument than that to
dissuade me from it."

"When all was in readiness, and with
a lighter line attached to my wrist, I
walked toward the sea, and waited for
a good opportunity in a returning wave
to make the plunge. The opportunity
sprang forward, threw her arms around
my neck, and entreated me, in the name
of the love I used to bear her, not to go.
"That maddened me—I don't know
why, but it did—and I strove roughly
to unclasp her hands from about my
neck. She only clung the tighter, and
said her tears and sobs, called me her
'dear, dear Dave,' and told me that she
loved me dearly."

"Love!" I said, bitterly. "Keep your
love for those that want it—such as Ab-
ner Sanford, there!"
"At these words, she loosed her arms,
turned on a look of reproach, and fell
fainting on the sands. I gave one
glance at her, and then I was battling
with the sea."
"Well, I don't know much about it,
but, anyhow, the poor fellows were
saved—though terribly frost-bitten—
and they do say that I was the man that
saved them. I know that I was, that
when I came to know anything, I was
lying in bed, terribly stiff and sore, with
a big gash upon my forehead, caused
by being thrown violently against the
wreck."

"It was some days before I was able
to leave my bed when I did, and
my chair was rigged up with pillows,
to make me easy and comfortable; for, I
can assure you, I was just as sore all
over as it's possible for a man to be, and
I could make no movement without as-
sistance."
"The second day I was up, I heard
somebody enter the room; but I paid
no attention, as I thought it was old
Martha Swain, who had come to nurse
me when I was found I was hurt, and
had been with me ever since, when I
heard a voice say, 'Dave, Pearson, will
you speak to me?'"

"My heart gave a great jump, for I
knew it was Esther; and my joy was
great, but my foolish pride would not
permit me to own it; so I growled out,
like a great savage brute that I was,
'What do you want?'"
"She came and stood in front of me;
I never saw a woman so changed in my
life; she had the countenance of a
ghost, and I was as if from crying. My
whole soul yearned toward her, but my
brutal obstinacy kept me silent, and I
looked doggedly at her."

"Oh, Dave," she said, 'do, do forgive
me! You are good, kind, generous,
brave, and am but a poor, weak wo-
man; but I love you, and I love you,
and how sore it has made my heart to
be bad friends with you. I was wrong,
Dave, dear Dave! Forgive me! Take
me to your great, loving heart, and let
me be to you as I once was.'"
"I hardly know what I said in reply,
but I mumbled out something about
her being a good girl, and she had better
go to him for comfort."

"At these words she gave a little cry
of pain, clasped her hands in anguish,
and said, 'Dave Pearson, you don't know
what you are doing; you are breaking
my heart, and covering me with kisses.'
She then turned toward the door,
and I heard her say, 'I could stand
it no longer; I tried to follow her; but,
Lor' bless you! I couldn't stir, and, like
a great baby, I commenced to cry—
and blubbered out the word 'Esther!'"

"In another instant she was in my
arms, and covering me with kisses,
and she said, 'I don't like to have it
spoken about.'"
At this juncture, Esther, with her
bright, pleasant face, entered the room,
and said, "Come, Dave, if you have to
catch the first tide in the morning, it is
time you and the gentleman were in
bed, for it is near ten o'clock."

A correspondent of the Evening Post,
writing from California, says that the
ancient river bed from which so much
gold has been taken in this State is in
many places covered with earth to the
depth of two or three hundred feet.
Once, perhaps, the water rose through eight,
two or three, and sometimes even six
feet above the level of the sea, and it
is to be dig down to it and mine it out by
ordinary processes would be too expen-
sive; therefore hydraulic mining has
been invented. Water brought from a
hundred or one hundred and fifty miles
away and from a considerable height, is
led from the reservoirs through eight,
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