

GOING

I sort of kaint git reconciled to that one thought at all,
The thought of you a-bein' growed an' slim an' sweet an' tall,
An' I can't put it from me, hard as ever I kin try,
An' a lump comes up an' chokes me an' my eyes git full o' cry,
An' that's the reason, honey, that I love an' hug you so,
An' snuggle you the closer ever' day that sees you grow.

That's just the reason, honey, you're as sweet as you kin be,
'Cause in my heart's a feelin' that you're growin' 'way f'm me,
An' my heart keeps clutchin' 'at you an' my soul calls you to stay,
But you don't pay no attention, just keep driftin' fur away;
Just keep driftin', driftin', driftin', like a peach bloom on the wind
Drifts away a-dancin' gaily leavin' the old tree behind.

An' that's why I tiptoe to you when you're lyin' fast asleep,
An' that's why I join with you prayin' God your soul to keep,
And that's why I hold you to me tight as ever I kin hold
With my cheek held close to your cheek, and the flyin' tangled gold
Hidin' from me all the gladness in your dancin' eyes o' blue,
And a-hidin' the rebellion in my dimmin' eyes from you.

Life's a windin' long procession with both ends plum' out o' view
But I like its twists and turnin's, all its blossomed ways, I do,
And I like the trees above it archin' cool across the way,
And I like the little children and their gladness and their play,
And I like the hazy mornin's and the nights all red and gold,
Like it better I've a notion 'cause I know I'm gittin' old.

An' I loved you as a baby an' a half grown awkward girl,
Loved each little way about you, loved each little sassy curl,
Loved each dimpled, pudgy knuckle, and the pinkness of your feet
When you kicked 'em of a mornin' and I kissed and called you sweet,
And you used to think of daddy just of him the livelong day,
And it hurts to see you growin' and to watch you drift away.

—J. M. Lewis, in Houston, Texas, Post.

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