

Still I wandered on, not heeding where my footsteps led me. My mind was peaceful though my heart was torn. On the morrow I was to return to my life of obscurity and bondage, but this night, so peaceful and so calm, I would be happy.

"O flowers and trees and sky!" I said, addressing them aloud in the transport of my

awakened me and stirred in my heart a love I could not hide.

"Do not turn aside, do not misunderstand me," continued that dear voice noting my foolish blushes. "From the very first moment when I saw your sad pale face you interested me, and I pitied you; but when I got to know you more, and heard you talk and

happy one, if you can love me!" If I could love him!

A faint breeze rising suddenly sighed around us through the open window, the moon poured down her flood of burnished light, till every tree and blade of grass seemed silver.

I plucked a sprig of creeper climbing over the house and offered it him in silence.



THE WINDOW-SEAT.

admiration. "Voiceless, yet beautiful companions, I love you! O Nature, infinite and sublime, if I must part from you tomorrow, let me at least on this last night be glad!"

"What an artistic, ardent soul you have!" said a voice close by me as I finished my rapture.

I turned away. That voice had suddenly

witnessed your actions full of modest grace, you charmed me, and my pity turned to love and admiration."

The tears welled to my eyes, but I could not speak as I returned to the house and sat on the window seat.

"Yes, dear, I love you," he continued, "and I want you to be my wife and make me happy. Our life will be a peaceful one, but a

He took it from me gently and pressed it to his heart.

So after all it was my design that won. Little indeed did I dream, whilst painting in the petals of my scarlet flower and creeper, that a prize so dear, so great should be awarded.

[THE END.]