

He's fifty-five, you know, if he's a day."  
"Aren't you afraid of him? What's that gun for?"  
"Oh, that's been there for hawks since chicken-time.  
John Hall touch me! Not if he knows his friends.  
I'll say that for him, John's no threatener  
Like some men folk. No one's afraid of him;  
All is, he's made up his mind not to stand  
What he has got to stand."  
"Where is Estelle?  
Couldn't one talk to her? What does she say?  
You say you don't know where she is."  
"Nor want to!  
She thinks if it was bad to live with him,  
It must be right to leave him."  
"Which is wrong!"  
"Yes, but he should have married her."  
"I know."  
"The strain's been too much for her all these years:  
I can't explain it any other way.  
It's different with a man, at least with John:  
He knows he's kinder than the run of men.  
Better than married ought to be as good  
As married - that's what he has always said.  
I know the way he's felt--but all the same!"  
"I wonder why he doesn't marry her  
And end it."  
"Too late now: she wouldn't have him.  
He's given her time to think of something else.  
That's his mistake. The dear knows my interest  
Has been to keep the thing from breaking up.  
This is a good home: I don't ask for better.  
But when I've said, 'Why shouldn't they be married,'  
He'd say, 'Why should they?' no more words than that."  
"And after all why should they? John's been fair  
I take it. What was his was always hers.  
There was no quarrel about property."  
"Reason enough, there was no property.