

Whose Bible's so confused up in marriage counsel?
The sister had not come across this Laban;
A decent product of life's ironing-out;
She must not keep him waiting. Time would press
Between the death day and the funeral day.
So when she saw him coming in the street
She hurried her decision to be ready
To meet him with his answer at the door.
Laban had known about what it would be
From the way she had set her poor old mouth,
To do, as she had put it, what was right.

She gave it through the screen door closed between them
"No, not with John. There wouldn't be no sense.
Eliza's had too many other men."

Laban was forced to fall back on his plan
To buy Eliza a plot to lie alone in:
Which gives him for himself a choice of lots
When his time comes to die and settle down.

1923 "New Hampshire".

Примечание.

Русских переводов стихотворения «Place for a Third» в интернете не обнаружено.



Топорище

Порой взнесёшь топор над головой,
как он уж схвачен там ольховой веткой.
Со мной такое было уж в лесу.
Теперь, когда рубил ольховый комель,
решил, что вновь мешается ольха,
но это мой сосед Батист подкрался