Voltairine de Cleyre at St. John's

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It is December, the prairie broad and buried; last night I saw the moon on all that white.

There must be nothing in me to slow the flood— even the black dog that sat down by me in Brooks Street comes back: how he wanted to lie in my lap, how I carried him upstairs, the awful gulp when he stiffened.

And the little Sister who kissed me when the others frowned—she has a piece I wrote for her and sometimes reads it over.

I judge my life wretched but the Haymarket comrades who bowed to no God, believed in no here-after went triumphantly to the gallows. So.

I walk about and dust as I promised, three snubs of lead in me. The poor boy who fired them did less harm than my body, at forty-three so weak I hear a roaring train passing a window, but inside my head, as in an empty hall.

When I stopped in Port Huron on my way here it seemed the mill had gone backward: discouraged piles of lumber leaning and rank weeds to the rotting backwater. The old convent is sold for apartments.

Mother is sure to be miserable once I pack.
Berkman has written: his book does not go.
I have answered, lie on the grass,
watch the ants—let the sun burn
into you day after day
until the thoughts fill you again;
but I fail to convince myself.

I get hold of a thought. In a few days
it appears foolish.
Then another crops up, then it goes smash.