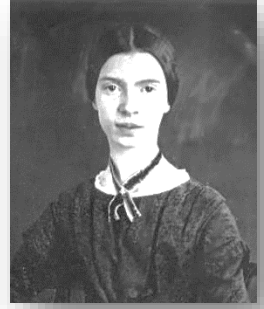


EMILY DICKINSON

1830-1886



The Whole of it came not at once (Fr485, J762)

The Whole of it came not at once –
'Twas Murder by degrees –
A Thrust – and then for Life a chance –
The Bliss to cauterize –

5 The Cat reprieves the mouse
She eases from her teeth
Just long enough for Hope to tease –
Then mashes it to death –

'Tis Life's award – to die –
10 Contenteder if once –
Than dying half – then rallying
For consciouser Eclipse –

c. late 1862

Papa above! (Fr151, J61)

Papa above!
Regard a mouse
O'erpowered by the Cat!
Reserve within thy kingdom

5 A "Mansion" for the Rat!

Snug in seraphic Cupboards
To nibble all the day,
While unsuspecting Cycles
Wheel solemnly away!

c. 1860

