



When last I strayed

Robert Lucas Pearsall
(1795-1856)

When last I strayed

R. L. Pearsall

S *p* When last I stray'd in - to the glade,

A *p* When last I stray'd in - to the glade,

T *p* When last I stray'd in - to the glade,

B *p* When last I stray'd in - to the glade,

S ⁵ *f* > All things were green and bloom - - - ing. The *p*

A *f* > All things were green and bloom - - - ing. The *p*

T *f* > All things were green and bloom - - - ing. The *p*

B *f* > All things were green and bloom - - - ing. The *p*



When last I strayed

9

S ros - es there _____ were blush - ing fair,
A ros - es there were blush - ing fair,
T ros - es there _____ were blush - ing fair,
B ros - es there were blush - ing fair,

13

S All that lay round _____ per - fum - - - ing. I
A All that lay round per - fum - - - ing. I
T All that lay round per - fum - - - ing. I
B All that lay round per - fum - - - ing. I

17

S drew _____ me near a foun - tain clear Which
A drew me near a foun - tain clear Which
T drew me near a foun - tain clear Which
B drew me near a foun - tain clear Which

When last I strayed

21

S fresh _____ and gay _____ was play - - - ing, And

A fresh and gay _____ was play - - - ing, And

T fresh _____ and gay was play - - - ing, And

B fresh and gay _____ was play - - - ing, _____ And

25

S there _____ I saw my own _____ true love, And

A there I saw my own true love, And

T there I saw my own true love, _____ And

B there I saw my own true love, And

29

S she _____ for me _____ was stay - - - ing.

A she for me was _____ stay - - - ing.

T she for me was stay - - - ing.

B she for me was stay - - - ing.

When last I strayed

S *p*
I can - not tell _____ how _____ it be - fell

A *p*
I can - not tell how it be - fell

T *p*
I can - not tell _____ how _____ it be - fell

B *p*
I can - not tell how it be - fell

37
S *f* > *p*
That she should kind - ly greet _____ me, For

A *f* > *p*
That she should kind - ly greet _____ me, For

T *f* > *p*
That she should kind - ly greet _____ me, For

B *f* > *p*
That she should kind - ly greet me, For

41
S
I might say, _____ be - fore that day,

A
I might say, _____ be - fore _____ that day,

T
I might say, _____ be - fore that day,

B
I might say, _____ be - fore that day,

When last I strayed

45

S Most hard - ly did she treat me. But

A Most hard - ly did she treat me. But

T Most hard - ly did she treat me. But

B Most hard - ly did she treat me. But

49

S let that be, she's dear to me, Yet

A let that be, she's dear to me, Yet

T let that be, she's dear to me, Yet

B let that be, she's dear to me, Yet

53

S love I not as broth - - - er, And

A love I not as broth - - - er, And

T love I not as broth - - - er, And

B love I not as broth - - - er, And

When last I strayed

57

S if she lay in her cold clay, I

A if she lay in her cold clay, I

T if she lay in her cold clay, I

B if she lay in her cold clay, I

61

S ne'er could love an oth - - er.

A ne'er could love an oth - - er.

T ne'er could love an - - oth - - er.

B ne'er could love an oth - - er.

Novello, Ewer and Co.
(1860-1885)

Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795-1856) was born at Clifton Hill, Bristol, into a wealthy Quaker family. His father was an army officer and amateur musician. He was privately educated and practiced as a barrister in Bristol. In 1825, after suffering a stroke, he took his family to live abroad. He sold the family estate in Willsbridge and, in 1842, bought the Schloss Wartensee, a ruined medieval keep near Rorschach in Switzerland and spent several years restoring it. He remained there until his death. Pearsall was an amateur composer and many of his compositions were not published until after his death. He is best remembered for his part-songs and madrigals but also wrote orchestral works, anthems, services, musical treatises, and edited a Catholic hymnal. He kept in touch with his home city of Bristol and wrote many pieces for the Bristol Madrigal Society. He also composed poetry, some of which he used for his madrigals, such as 'Why Do the Roses' and 'Why should the cuckoo's tuneful note'. The particle "de" often spelled in his name is a feature added after his death by his daughter Philippa.

When last I strayed into the glade,
All things were green and blooming.
The roses there were blushing fair,
All that lay round perfuming.

I drew me near a fountain clear
Which fresh and gay was playing,
And there I saw my own true love,
And she for me was staying.

I cannot tell how it befell
That she should kindly greet me,
For I might say, before that day,
Most hardly did she treat me.

But let that be, she's dear to me,
Yet love I not as brother,
And if she lay in her cold clay,
I ne'er could love another.

R. L. Pearsall

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