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They say the greatest of all conundrums is life.
The reason is this, we must all give it up:
Give up this existence of sorrow and strife,
To taste of the nectar of the Golden Cup.
Yet why is there ought of this to dread?
Why is there one of us to shy
At entering the portals we know as Death,
—Where none shall enter to weep or sigh.

This life is a lesson of God's own hand,
A lesson at which we conquer or fall;
The reason we will some time understand,
Although right now hard seems the Call.
Oh! immortality, we cannot doubt,
A life beyond, of this we're sure,
For our teacher is Nature around about,
Where all points up to Good and Pure.

The caterpillar we deem a crawling pest,
It does its work though slow to endure;
It weaves a house like a casket nest,
We ask a reason, no reward is sure.
When, lo! broken is the ugly haven,
And, lo! we behold a grander sight,
And upward a butterfly soars toward heaven,
Its tiny soul has taken flight.

Lying perchance as we thought dead,
He waited his little judgment day,
When his sepulchre walls were torn to shreds,
And to a higher plane he soared away.
So we our lesson from this shall call,
Though meager our toll shall seem to be;
Our goal is not the casket's walls,
To the grave there is no victory.

So we each shall carry our daily cross,
Our Calvary in Sorrow we shall find,
But glean from this the Gold not Dress,
And at last all pain we'll leave behind.
And our ambitions shall be realized,
In a higher plane where care and strife
Ne'er enters, we shall meet those whom we prized,
In the true existence we call Life.

MAUD GUILD RATCLIFF.

Sunday, Nov. 25, 1906.

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

MY LOST SISTER—PART V.

By AUNT HANNAH

Time rolled on any my little sis-
ter advanced with a sure, firm tread
through Caesar and Virgil, Cicero
and Livy, Sallust and Horace, and
all the way my envious eyes watch-
ed her, for cruel jealousy reigned
in my heart. I was not proud that
my sister kept a firm, steady step
forward with the big boys of weal-
thy families. My family pride was
not gratified. I did not care to
rise on her shoulders. To be eclips-
ed by a child so much younger than
I was humiliating. I assumed a
superiority that I did not feel if
she were concerned. She possessed
a sense of humor that I could ap-
preciate in another, but I assumed
an indifference when she spoke, and
seemed absorbed in other things
never speaking unless it was to crit-
icize or censure.

Fannie was just fourteen when
our father died. My mother, with
her purse released from his penur-
ious grasp, was led by her pride in-
to extravagance. Fannie and I
were placed in an expensive board-
ing school, where a large outlay of
dress was required. Then we were
out to music in accordance with
mother's long-cherished wish.

Then a carriage and a span of
the gray horses were purchased
and soon afterward a piano and a
new outlay of parlor furniture pre-
paratory to my debut as a young
body. A little more than a year
after my father's death the last
payment on the plantation fell due.
My mother, already paying large
interest on borrowed money, sold
one of the slaves to meet the pay-
ment. The husband of the one sold
became dissatisfied and ran away
to Canada. He sent us a letter of
adieu, but not until after mother
had spent several hundred dollars
to recover him. Things kept run-
ning down until about three years
after father's death. The farm and
negroes were sold at auction. Mo-
ther took a small house in the vil-
lage and advertised for gentlemen
boarders—that never came.

About this time Fannie, who had
always been a tiny, delicate thing,
gave indications of having inher-
ited the seeds of consumption from
my father's family. She declined
rapidly and my mother's anxiety
knew no bounds. She grew desper-
ate as she saw the need of the hour
for Fannie, and summoning all of
her courage she said: "Pochahontas,
I suppose you will have to go to
teaching. Some one will have to
do something. Fannie can't and I
don't see what I can do.

Had I been sentenced to the gal-
lows I scarcely could have felt
worse, hearing this from my mo-
ther. Convinced as I was that she
spoke the truth, however, I con-

tinued weeks in irresolution and
inactivity. I felt less a disgrace to
sit there with shabby clothes and
want staring us in the face, and
a sick sister in the house, than to
face the proposition. Such was the
sentimental slavery engendered that
to work was a disgrace.

After weeks of sullen waiting I
made up my mind to answer an
advertisement for a governess for a
small boy and girl. In a few days
I received a reply stating condi-
tions, and I could teach Latin the
position was mine. I wondered
what my father would say. Here
was what promised a pleasant situ-
ation with light labor and good pay,
from which I was shut off by my
ignorance of Latin, which he had
always pronounced useless for me.
On the day that I received the let-
ter Fannie was lying on a couch,
her usually pale face lighted up
by a beautiful flush. I did not ap-
preciate her condition. Every day
she was the same uncomplaining,
pale little creature, up and dressed
and looking well. There was no
open persecution, but I strove to
make her feel my utter indifference
to her comfort or health. I have
not the memory of the slightest
kind sisterly act performed for her
to comfort me.

My mother had informed Fannie
of my disqualification for the place
of governess, for she said Popy in
a shy, timid way. I merely lifted
my eyes toward her. I would not
condescend to speak. She went on:
"You know if you took that place
mother would give up this house
and go to the village and you could
board at home, and I've been think-
ing you could study Latin. You
are very clever and could learn as
much in a week as that little boy
would need in a long while, and
in a few weeks you could acquire
all he would need in a year. Your
mind is so bright you would not
likely find any trouble, and if you
did I—you know I've studied it so
long I might be able to help you."
As I remember now, there was a
pleading of a slighted heart crush-
ed. Then I felt that I could have
walked up to my sister and taken
her life—the little chit of a girl
proposing to teach me Latin!

"Fannie," I said, "if you ever
mention your Latin to me again
I'm afraid I shall kill you. You
have been the bane of my existence.
You've caused me all the unhappi-
ness I ever knew. I hate you! I'd
see you starve before I'd ever learn
anything from you."

I swept from the room, not, how-
ever, before I noticed my sister
cover her face with her hand, close
her eyes and lie quietly as if stun-
ned. The cruel words were the last
I ever spoke to her. I left home
in a few days for a distant State in
answer to a telegram.

(To Be Continued)

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