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IT MATTERS MUCH!

" It matters little where I was born,
 Or if my parents were rich or poor ;
 Whether they shrank from the cold world's Scorn,
 Or walked in the pride of wealth secure ;
 But whether I live an honest man,
 And hold my integrity firm in my clutch,
 I tell you, my brother, as plain as I can,
 It matters much !

" It matters little how long I stay,
 In a world of sorrow, sin and care ;
 Whether in youth I am called away,
 Or live till my bones and pate are bare ;
 But whether I do the best I can,
 To soften the weight of adversity's touch
 On the faded cheek of my fellow-man,
 It matters much !

" It matters little where be my grave,
 Or on the land or on the sea,
 By purling brook or 'neath stormy wave,
 It matters little or naught to me ;
 But whether the angel of death comes down
 And marks my brow with his loving touch,
 As one that shall wear the victor's crown,
 " It matters much !"

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