

ably happy the tiny buds gathered to adorn our father's mansion, ere the slightest, faintest breath of earth and sin be felt. * * * My friend was early an ardent lover of nature, of which frequent testimony was given by the aprons full of wild flowers strewn about the house, in search of which no fence was ever found too high to climb, and tattered dress in consequence was ever fashionable. Sometimes, too, her bloated, blistered hand bespoke some unfriendly weed amid her cherished treasures—oftener her bruised and bleeding feet bespoke her 'rose's thorn'. Nothing received a frown amidst nature's tribes, except the snake and spider, these were ever odious; even the little toad has often found a carriage in her apron. * * * * Never a truer proverb written than, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Proverbs, however important, are not always taken as law and abided by. In the case of either sister, certainly not, but the same cause often produces widely different effects. In the first instance, a thoughtful, careful woman was developed before the sands of childhood half were run. The anxiety betrayed at every new household arrangement, for every inmate's comfort, reproofs given to careless servants, when 'Mother' was away; efforts to guide the wilful, heedless sister, all spoke the sad words, "a woman before a child." And how with little Vic.? Rebellious still. Every effort to control from any source too often roused the slumbering will. Though compelled to the discharge of duty, duty became more and yet more intolerable. And this in turn awoke the bitter feeling and prompted the utterance of those words so deeply painful to her recollection in after years. * * * The common school had ever received patronage where the children were always treated as prodigies; *why*, I have never been able to learn. Here were spent, oh! such delightful hours—no matter if the 'sums' were hard, the older girls would always help, and then, 'twas so delightful to hear the 'Master' tell his idle boys how much more diligent were the girls on such a seat. And then at noon, what 'scampering' after lunch. In winter, down the old hill side,—beside, Vic.'s party had a 'cutter,' which commodiously seated five, for the twin boys were old enough now to go to school, and old Blossom was so gentle or stupid that 'any body could drive her.' * * Thus were childhood's early hours spent."

She was born in the township of Cavan, on the 27th of October, 1838. Her early education was not neglected, and on her part there seems to have been an ardent desire, from the first dawns of intelligence, to store her mind with useful knowledge. Recording