THE GOLDEN CHORD.

glad welcome for its new mistress. As they entered the hall Sanford said :

"Henceforth, with God's blessing, this shall be home," putting tender stress on the last word.

After supper, as they sat by the fire in the library, Sanford said :

"I am glad tonight that, notwithstanding our unaccountable separation, I never lowered my standard of life, or lost my ideal of womanhood, for I realize with the poet :

- "She cannot look down to her lover-her love like her soul aspires,
- He must stand by her side or above her who would kindle its holiest fires."

"I am glad we have grown stronger in those years, not only for our own sake, but for the sake of those whom we have met. Anything sent by the direct will of God should make us better, and we must be weaker than the enemy if we cannot conquer and outlive the cruel intention to injure.. It is only when the wrong is intentionally committed by ourselves that we are driven from the citadel of our ideal of christian perfection."

"Might not our souls have grown stronger united than parted?" he asked.

"That remains to be proved. Perhaps that trial

132