

Then autumn came and passed and yet no Gabriel. Evangeline's hope gave place to disappointment, only to be revived again at the whisper of a vague rumor. And this state of her soul continued through the weeks and years that followed.

"Fair was she and young when *in hope* began the long journey;
Faded was she and old when in disappointment it ended."

But the death of earthly hope gave birth to a grander, a heavenly hope, and opened to her the portals of a higher and nobler life. On the horizon of this sublime life, she saw a wider sphere of love--the love of God and of neighbor.

"Thus many years she lived as a Sister of Mercy, frequenting
Lonely and wretched roofs in the crowded lanes of the city,
Where distress and want concealed themselves from the sunlight,
Where disease and sorrow in garrets languished neglected."

But the love of God and neighbor did not lessen her love of Gabriel. Her love was made "god-like,"

"Purified, strengthened, perfected, and rendered more worthy of heaven"
Until it became all-embracing, including God and all His creatures.

"Gabriel was not forgotten. Within her heart was his image,
Clothed in the beauty of love and youth, as last she beheld him.
Only more beautiful made by his deathlike silence and absence.
Into her thoughts time entered not, for it was not.
Over him years had no power; he was not changed but transformed,
He had become to her heart as one who is dead but not absent."

In the hospital in Philadelphia, all the love of her life, all its hope and all its despair return to her at one and the same instant, so that the love, the hope, the pain, the disappointment, all concentrate their united forces upon the one moment of her life. And when she meets the "motionless, senseless, dying," Gabriel, "still she stood, with her colorless lips apart, while a shudder,

"Ran through her frame, and, forgotten, the flow'rets dropped from her fingers

And from her eyes and cheeks the light and bloom of the morning.
Then there escaped from her lips a cry of such terrible anguish,
That the dying heard it and started up from their pillows.

Sweet was the light of his eyes, but it suddenly sank into darkness."