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SAVED FROM THE HAMMER.

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The day was drawing to a close one of those glorious June days, the pride of our Canadian summer; the sun was just sinking behind the tall steeple of a neighboring church, but before bidding adieu to the busy city it sent a soft kindly ray through the latticed window of a lowly looking cottage, and rested on the flushed and wasted features of a little girl, apparently about 9 years of age, whom we will introduce to our readers as Ella Linden. Beside the bed stood a tall dignified looking lady with handsome features, but whose face was sadly marred with mental suffering. As she bent over the little sufferer a stranger could easily read in the careworn affectionate face the relationship that existed between nurse and patient, Mrs. Linden, for she was the child's mother, looked like a person who had seen better days. In fact, she had been reared in comparative luxury.

In order to give our readers a brief history of the interesting personages who form our brief sketch we will have to go back a few years. Two brothers, Edgar and Walter Linden, had been left orphans. In England provision had been made for their maintenance and education. Rev. Mr. Lockwood who had been appointed

their guardian, and who had been an intimate friend of their parents, spared no pains in giving the boys a good English education. While their holidays were spent at his house their companion and playmate a lovely little girl who was under the tutelage of a resident governess. Many happy days were spent with her new found companions during vacation roaming over the commons and through wooded grove under the care of her governess in search of botanical specimens. Her companions were intense lovers of nature, and many were the specimens of insect life which found their way into Mr. Lockwood's library where he had prepared cabinets for their reception. Thus developing a practical knowledge of the natural sciences that could not otherwise be obtained. But when the weather rendered those out-door amusements impracticable their chief pleasure consisted in philatelic research. In this Mr. Lockwood lent his encouragement for well he knew that in this occupation they would combine valuable knowledge with amusement, and ever on the alert to develop the minds of his beloved charge, he allowed them to devote a part of their pocket money in purchasing the postage stamps of the different countries and assisting them in learning the history and data of each. They proved apt pupils and in time amassed a mind of general know-