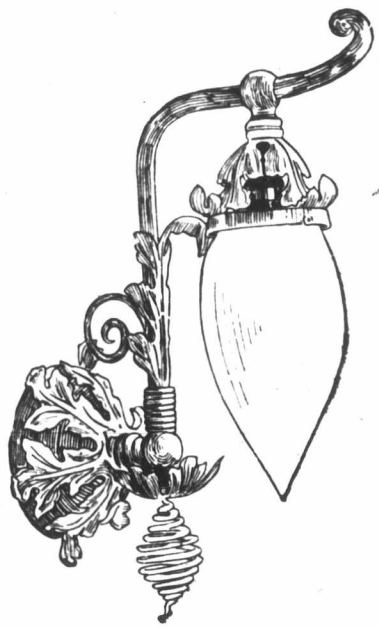


I suppose you all know that butterflies and moths were once caterpillars, but perhaps I can tell you some thing interesting about the way they are "transformed." It is such a beautiful thought, this changing of a crawling worm into a flying, most delicate creature, and it has been used as a symbol of the resurrection of the dead for many hundred years.

Most of you know this, and some of you may know also that the Greeks, people who were not believers in the Christian religion, called the butterfly by a name signifying the soul.

This gray-spotted moth was once a caterpillar, a soft, smooth, green worm, disagreeable to look at. But one day in the summer this caterpillar stopped eating leaves and enjoy-

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ing himself in the sunshine, and went to work to prepare for his transformation. I often wonder if caterpillars know what is going to happen to them, or if they think anything about it. Naturalists say it is instinct which teaches them what to do, but of course that means that the wise and loving Creator makes the little caterpillar understand and prepare for the great change that is coming over him.

The first thing this caterpillar did was to find some quiet, sheltered place, under a bush, or in a crack in a log or the under side of a fence-rail. There he stretched himself out, and then spun a little web of silky fuzz all over himself, so as to cover him and fasten him to the fence, that the wind might not blow him away. Then he went to sleep or died; that is, the caterpillar part of him died, but inside of that caterpillar part was a little moth, all folded up closely in a narrow space.

When the caterpillar part died and became only a dry brown shell, this moth became alive; and when it was strong enough to bear the light and air, the chrysalis, or case it was packed in, cracked all down the back, and the moth came out.

At first it did not try to fly, but sat perfectly still, waiting for strength to come; and soon, very soon, in a few hours, the little wings grew larger and stronger, and then the perfect moth flew away to join other moths and live its little life.

You can hardly believe how quickly insects grow. From the time they are hatched till they are full-grown is sometimes only one day; and one kind, called the "Day Fly," lives only two hours after its transformation, that is, after it comes out of its chrysalis case. Is not that, indeed, a "little life"? Yet it is perfect, a perfect life of only two hours. Should we not try to live our lives well, and as God wishes, even if we should live only a few years? Think how much more we are in His sight than these little insects, which are yet so beautifully made and tenderly cared for by our Heavenly Father.

You must try and see for yourselves, dear children, how wonderful is every little wing and leg and eye, and how beautiful are the colours that often ornament them. Even worms are sometimes handsome. The green

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caterpillar which makes the hawk-moth has all over his back little shiny spots that look exactly as if garnets or some other jewel-stones had been set in it. I have never been able to learn if these spots are of any use to the caterpillar, so perhaps they are just ornamental, like curly hair and long eyelashes on boys and girls.

The wings of moths are covered with fine down, sometimes of many different shades of brown, and underneath the down they are made something like the wings of grasshoppers, only the moths do not make any