

mother power more precious and helpful. So intense and well directed was it that friendships formed afterwards and the many important features of a busy life developed nothing comparable to the quiet power which gently and firmly held the child during those years of farm life. Other things also were an offset to the many disadvantages of the early home. The farm was situated amidst charming scenery. There were hill and dale and woodland, wild as need be to awaken a love for nature's grander work, and placid enough at times for all her delicate operations. The mighty trees of the grand old forest, and the meadows traced with the silver line of the running brook—these could not lie invitingly to a child upon whom nature had laid her wand, without enkindling an inspiration that must be life-long in its effects. And the happy child, when freed from home duties or the pastime of the district school, would be found out on the hill side, down by the brook, wandering in the meadows or deep in the forest shade, holding converse with bird and flower and insect; listening to the story of the whispering wind, and watching the artist work of the glorious sun upon sky and leaf and water. There were books also to be had in the neighborhood and periodicals of various kinds. Not many perhaps, nor perhaps always of a character that one would choose for a young girl's reading; but there was thought of some kind; and the child's mind was hungry, and she read her way through the entire literature of the community. Poetry especially delighted her. It became her passion. Commonplace or otherwise, it was devoured with never sated appetite. Wonderfully guided the child must have been, and very early indeed must correct taste have been fashioned within her, for of the mass that she read only the good was assimilated, as the writings of her maturity so abundantly show. No mean advantages then did the farm put in her way. And what should be said of her childhood must not end before allusion is made to her early religious life. The Saviour brought her to himself when she was seven years of age. It need not be wondered at that she was so early the subject of serious impressions. Her passion for nature and her seclusion from so many of the temptations to forget God, her mother's tender guidance, and above all God's word, which from her earliest years was to her indeed His very voice, all point in this direction. She loved