

Nature and Life.

I stood in a shady glade,
 On a hot Mid-Summer day,
 I drank from a clear, cool spring
 That washed all care away.
 The shade trees grew straight and tall,
 The sun's fiercest rays defied,
 And breezes soft and cool
 Played in the ferns on every side.
 And I compared this nook with life,
 A life that is free from care,
 Where we sit in the calm of peace
 And the future seems bright and fair.
 But I passed from that shady dell,
 To one where the briars grew rank,
 I had left behind the trees,
 And the spring from which I drank.
 The path I traveled was rough,
 As I pushed my way through the maze
 I compared *this* dell with life,
 A life that had seen better days.
 Ah! how often in life
 The future seems filled with delight!
 We suddenly emerge from the dream
 Into darkness where it was light.
 Thus we find it in Nature,
 Thus we find it in life,
 Our lives when full of pleasure
 May suddenly turn to strife!
 We may journey awhile mid rapture.
 The future looks joyous and fair,
 But ere long the path is broken,
 And we find it filled with care.
 But when the pathway smoothens,
 And we enter a peaceful glade
 We know all about the hot sunshine,
 And now can be thankful for shade.
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