

means i mustnt neglect anything that mite be of use to me; even if theres very little hope of a particular thing being of any use i cant just throw it away. so everything i have ive put to use in my case. ive taken all the money out of my business, for example, the offices for my business used to occupy nearly a whole floor, but now all i need is a little room at the back where i work with one apprentice. it wasnt just using up the money that caused the difficulty, of course, it was much more to do with me not working at the business as much as i used to. if you want to do something about your trial you dont have much time for anything else. so youre also working at the court yourself asked thats just what i want to learn more about. i cant tell you very much about that, said the businessman, at first i tried to do that too but i soon had to give it up again. it wears you out too much, and its really not much use. and it turned out to be quite impossible to work there yourself and to negotiate, at least for me it was. its a heavy strain there just sitting and waiting. you know yourself what the air is like in those offices. how do you know ive been there, then asked i was in the waiting room myself when you went through. what a coincidence that is exclaimed totally engrossed and forgetting how ridiculous the businessman had seemed to him earlier. so you saw me you were in the waiting room when i went through. yes, i did go through it one time. it isnt such a big coincidence, said the businessman, im there nearly every day. i expect ill have to go there quite often myself now, said although i can hardly expect to be shown the same respect as i was then. they all stood up for me. they must have thought i was a judge. no, said the businessman, we were greeting the servant of his faith, and when it happened that he remained out all day and all night, and came home paler even than usual, she well knew where he had been. just now she vividly pictured to herself the person of this man with his eyes, that now were dull with sleep and now glowed with rage, and she asked herself whether it were indeed possible that of her own free will she had chosen to become his wife. her bosom heaved with quicker breathing as she remembered the ignominy he had subjected her to in rome, and she clenched her small hands. at this instant the little dog sprang from her lap and flew barking to the window sill; she was easily startled, and she drew on her morning gown, which had slipped from her white shoulders; then she fastened the straps of her sandals, and went to look down into the court yard. a smile played upon her lips as she perceived young hermas, who had already been for some time leaning motionless against the wall of the house opposite, and devouring with his gaze the figure of the beautiful young woman. she had a facile and volatile nature. like the eye which retains no impression of the disabling darkness so soon as the rays of light have fallen on it, no gloom of suffering touched her so deeply that the lightest breath of a new pleasure could not blow her troubles to the winds. many rivers are quite different in color at their source and at their mouth, and so it was often with her tears; she began to weep for sorrow, and then found it difficult to dry her eyes for sheer overflow of mirth. it would have been so easy for phoebicius to make her lot a fair one for she had a most susceptible heart, and was grateful for the smallest proofs of love, but between him and her every grown fond of the old man, in spite of all his faults of life and manner. it was he, westray, who had been entirely to blame. in another mans room he had lectured the other man. he, a young man, had lectured the other, who was an old man. it was true that he had done so with the best motives; he had only spoken from a painful sense of duty. but he had shown no tact, he had spoken much too strongly; he had imperilled his own good cause by the injudicious manner in which he had put it forward. at the risk of all rebuffs, he would express his regret; he would go down and apologise to mr sharnall, and offer, if need be, the other cheek to the smiter. good resolves, if formed with the earnest intention of carrying them into effect, seldom fail to restore a measure of peace to the troubled mind. it is only when a regular and ghastly see saw of wrong doing and repentance has been established, and when the mind can no longer deceive even itself as to the possibility of permanent uprightness of life, that good resolves cease to tranquillise. such a see saw must gradually lose its regularity; the set towards evil grows more and more preponderant; the return to virtue rarer and more brief. despair of