

mildly desirable, became of singular value when he believed that another was trying to possess himself of it; jealousy had quickened love, duty and conscience insisted that he should save the girl from the snare that was being set for her. the great renunciation must be made; he, waystray, must marry beneath him, but before doing so he would take his mother into his confidence, though there is no record of perseus doing as much before he cut loose andromeda. meanwhile, no time must be lost; he would start this very night. the last train for london had already left, but he would walk to cullerne road station and catch the night mail from thence. he liked walking, and need take no luggage, for there were things that he could use at his mothers house. it was seven oclock when he came to this resolve, and an hour later he had left the last house in cullerne behind him, and entered upon his night excursion. the line of the roman way which connected carauna carisbury with its port culurnum cullerne is still followed by the modern road, and runs as nearly straight as may be for the sixteen miles which separate those places. about half way between them the great southern main line crosses the highway at right angles, and here is cullerne road station. the first half of the way runs across a flat sandy tract called mallory heath, where the short greensward encroaches on the road, and where the eye roaming east or west or north can discern nothing except a limitless expanse of heather, broken here and there by patches of gorse and bracken, or by clumps of louselled and wind thinned pines and tender affection; and he was no inexperienced boy, but a right earnest man, whose busy and useful life now appeared to her in a quite different light to that in which she had seen it formerly. how willingly now would she have allowed herself to be supported and guided by polykarp but how could she reach him no even from him there was nothing to be expected; she must rely upon her own strength, and she decided that so soon as the morning should blush, and the sun begin to mount in the cloudless sky, she would keep herself concealed during the day, among the mountains, and then as evening came on, she would go down to the sea, and endeavor to get on board a vessel to klysmia and thence reach alexandria. she wore a ring with a finely cut onyx on her finger, elegant ear rings in her ears, and on her left arm a bracelet. these jewels were of virgin gold, and besides these she had with her a few silver coins and one large gold piece, that her father had given her as token out of his small store, when she had quitted him for rome, and that she had hitherto preserved as carefully as if it were a talisman. she pressed the token, which was sewn into a little bag, to her lips, and thought of her paternal home, and her brothers and sisters. meanwhile the sun mounted higher and higher: she wandered from rock to rock in search of a shady spot and a spring of water, but none was to be found, and she was tormented with violent thirst and aching hunger. by mid day the strips of shade too had vanished, where she had found shelter from the rays of the sun, which now beat down unmercifully on her utterly hollow and empty. i could stand gazing for hours at the sea, and as the waves rose only to sink again and vanish, i often reflected that i was like them, and that the future of my frivolous present must be a mere empty nothing. our gods were of little account with us. my mother sacrificed now in one temple, and now in another, according to the needs of the moment; my father took part in the high festivals, but he laughed at the belief of the multitude, and my brother talked of the primaeval unity, and dealt with all sorts of demons, and magic formulas. he accepted the doctrine of iamblichus, ablavius, and the other neoplatonic philosophers, which to my poor understanding seemed either superhumanly profound or else debasingly foolish; nevertheless my memory retains many of his sayings, which i have learned to understand here in my loneliness. it is vain to seek reason outside ourselves; the highest to which we can attain is for reason to behold itself in us as often as the world sinks into nothingness in my soul, and i live in god only, and have him, and comprehend him, and feel him only then that doctrine recurs to me. how all these fools sought and listened everywhere for the truth which was being proclaimed in their very ears there were christians everywhere about me, and at that time they had no need to conceal themselves, but i had nothing to do with them. twice only did they cross my path; once i was not a little annoyed when, on the hippodrome, a christians horses