

finger tips and modelling tool were busy with the mouth, nose, cheeks, and eyes, and his own eyes took a softer expression, which gradually grew to be a gaze of ecstatic delight, as the features he was moulding began to agree more and more with the image, which at this time excluded every other from his imagination. at last, with glowing cheeks, he had finished rounding the soft form of the shoulders, and drew back once more to contemplate the effect of the completed work; a cold shiver seized him, and he felt himself impelled to lift it up, and dash it to the ground with all his force. but he soon mastered this stormy excitement, he pushed his hand through his hair again and again, and posted himself, with a melancholy smile and with folded hands, in front of his creation; sunk deeper and deeper in his contemplation of it, he did not observe that the door behind him was opened, although the flame of his lamps flickered in the draught, and that his mother had entered the work room, and by no means endeavored to approach him unheard, or to surprise him. in her anxiety for her darling, who had gone through so many bitter experiences during the past day, she had not been able to sleep. polykarps room lay above her bedroom, and when his steps over head betrayed that, though it was now near morning, he had not yet gone to rest, she had risen from her bed without waking petrus, who seemed to be sleeping. she obeyed her motherly impulse to encourage polykarp with some loving words, and climbing up the narrow stair that led to the roof, she went into his room. surprised, irresolute, and speechless she stood for some time behind the young man, and looked at the strongly illuminated and assumption that would have been intolerable in anyone else, and you know that i love you dearly. it was a proper compliment to her perspicuity that she should know already that he loved her, but his mind smiled as he thought how insufficient sometimes are the bases of knowledge. i love you dearly, and am come to ask you to be my wife. she heard what he said, and understood it; she had been prepared for his asking anything save this one thing that he had asked. the surprise of it overwhelmed her, the joy of it stunned her; she could neither speak nor move. he saw that she was powerless and speechless, and drew her closer to him. there was none of the impetuous eagerness of a lover in the action; he drew her gently towards him because it seemed appropriate to the occasion that he should do so. she lay for a minute in his arms, her head bent down, and her face hidden, while he looked not so much at her as above her. his eyes wandered over the mass of her dark brown wavy hair that mrs flint said was not wavy by nature, but crimped to make her look like a blandamer, and so bolster up her fathers nonsensical pretensions. his eyes took full account of that wave and the silken fineness of her dark brown hair, and then looked vaguely out beyond till they fell on the great flower picture that hung on the opposite wall. the painting had devolved upon westray on mr sharnalls death, but he had not yet removed it, and lord blandamers eyes rested on it now so fixedly, that he seemed to be thinking more of the trashy flowers and of the wriggling caterpillar, than of the girl in his arms. his mind came back to the exigencies of the situation. will you marry me, anastasia will you marry me, dear anstice the natives, in hopes of finding something new for my pencil in their peculiar and picturesque style of life. i left them with opinions, in many respects, very favourable towards them. it is true, they are cunning and over reaching in trade, and filthy in their persons. in regard to the former, we europeans, i fear, set them a bad example; of the latter, they will gradually amend. our short visit to kororarika greatly improved them in that particular. all took great pains to come as clean as possible when they attended our evening tea parties. in my opinion, their sprightly, free, and independent deportment, together with their kindness and attention to strangers, compensates for many defects. on looking round upon their country, an englishman cannot fail to feel gratified when he beholds the good already resulting to these poor savages from their intercourse with his countrymen; and they themselves are fully sensible of, and truly grateful for, every mark of kindness manifested towards them. they have stores full of the finest indian corn, which they consider a great luxury, a food which requires little trouble in preparing, keeps well, and is very nutritious. it is but a few years since this useful grain was introduced amongst them; and i sincerely hope this introduction may be followed up, not only by