

kinswoman who refuses to be won by gold, or to link her destiny with an unsuitable partner. it is a great thing, my dear, that has befallen you, miss joliffe repeated. i wish you all happiness, dear anastasia, and may all blessings wait upon you in this engagement. aunt, interrupted her niece, please dont say that. i have refused him, of course; how could you think that i should marry mr westray i never have thought of any such thing with him. i never had the least idea of his writing like this. you have refused him said the elder lady with a startled emphasis. again a selfish reflection crossed her mind they were not to be parted after all and again she put it resolutely away. she ran over in her mind all the possible objections that could have influenced her niece in arriving at such a conclusion. religion was the keynote of miss joliffes life; to religion her thought reverted as the needle to the pole, and to it she turned for an explanation now. it must be some religious consideration that had proved an obstacle to anastasia. i do not think you need find any difficulty in his having been brought up as a wesleyan, she said, with a profound conviction that she had put her finger on the matter, and with some consciousness of her own perspicacity. his father has been dead some time, and though his mother is still alive, you would not have to live with her. i do not think, dear, she would at all wish you to become a methodist. as for our mr westray, your mr westray, i should say now, and she assumed that expression of archness which is considered appropriate to such occasions, i am sure he is a sound churchman. he goes regularly to the minster on sundays, and i dare say, being an architect, and often in church on week days, he has found out that the order of the church of england is more satisfactory than that of any other sect. though i am sure i do not wish to say one word against wesleyans; they are no doubt true protestants, and a bulwark against more serious errors. i rejoice that your lovers naturally form a cruel and vindictive character. such these islanders seemed to us on our first visiting them. the sight of beings so extraordinary for thus we europeans must have appeared to them excited in their savage minds the greatest wonder; and they thought we were sent as a scourge and an enemy; and though cook, one of their earliest visitors, adopted every method his ingenuity could devise to conciliate them, yet, as they never could thoroughly understand his intentions, they were always on the alert to attack him. hence arose the horror and disgust expressed formerly at the mere mention of the name of a new zealander. i have often tried, in vain, to account for there being such a decided dissimilarity between the natives of new holland and new zealand. so trifling is the difference in their situation on the globe, and so similar their climates both having remained so long unknown to the great continents, and so devoid of intercourse with the rest of the world that one would be led to imagine a great resemblance must be the result. but the natives of the former seem of the lowest grade the last link in the great chain of existence which unites man with the monkey. their limbs are long, thin, and flat, with large bony knees and elbows, a projecting forehead, and pot belly. the mind, too, seems adapted to this mean configuration; they have neither energy, enterprise, nor industry; and their curiosity can scarcely be excited. a few exceptions may be met with; but these are their general characteristics. while the natives of the latter island are cast in beautys perfect mould; the children are so fine and powerfully made, that each might serve as a model for a statue of the infant hercules; help me to reach alexandria. not to day, in any case not to day, replied paulus. first i must find out when a vessel sails for klypma or for berenike, and then i have many other things to see to for you. you owe me an answer to my question, as to what you expect to do and to find in alexandria. poor child the younger and the fairer you are i know all you would say to me, interrupted sirona. wherever i have been, i have attracted the eyes of men, and when i have read in their looks that i pleased them, it has greatly pleased me why should i deny it many a one has spoken fair words to me or given me flowers, and sent old women to my house to win me for them, but even if one has happened to please me better than another, still i have never found it hard to send them home again as was fitting. till hermas laid his love at your feet, said paulus. he is a bold lad a pretty, inexperienced boy, said sirona, neither more nor less. it was a heedless thing, no doubt, to admit him to my rooms, but no vestal need