

appearance of innocence and industry so continually displayed by these people, when i was called upon to witness a sight which exhibited their character in its worst light, and confirmed all my horrible suspicions regarding their alleged cannibalism. the new zealanders have been long charged with cannibalism; but as no person of importance or celebrity had actually been a witness to the disgusting act, in pity to our nature such relations have been universally rejected, and much has been written to prove the non existence of so hideous a propensity. it was my lot to behold it in all its horrors one morning, about eleven oclock, after i had just returned from a long walk, captain duke informed me he had heard, from very good authority though the natives wished it to be kept a profound secret, that in the adjoining village a female slave, named matone, had been put to death, and that the people were at that very time preparing her flesh for cooking. at the same time he reminded me of a circumstance which had taken place the evening before. atoi had been paying us a visit, and, when going away, he recognised a girl whom he said was a slave that had run away from him; he immediately seized hold of her, and gave her in charge to some of his people. the girl had been employed in carrying wood for us; atois laying claim to her had caused us no alarm for her life, and we had thought no more on the subject; but now, to my surprise and horror, i heard this poor girl was the victim they were preparing for the oven captain duke and myself were resolved to witness this dreadful scene. we therefore kept our information as secret as possible, well knowing that if we had manifested our wishes they would have and judgment was immediately pronounced against him, on the strength of his masters accusation and his own admissions. it would have been sheer waste of time to listen to the romances with which this audacious rascal who forgot all the respect he owed to his teacher and benefactor wanted to cram the judges. two years of reflection, the protectors of the law deemed, might suffice to teach this dangerous fellow to respect the property of others and to keep him from outbreaks against those to whom he owed gratitude and reverence. pollux, safe in the prison at canopus, cursed his destiny and indulged in vain hopes of the assistance of his friends. these were at last weary of the vain search and only asked about him occasionally. he at first was so insubordinate under restraint that he was put under close ward from which he was not released until, instead of raging with fury he dreamed away his days in sullen brooding. the gaoler knew men well, and he thought he could safely predict that at the end of his two years imprisonment this young thief would quit his cell a harmless imbecile. titianus, pontius, balbilla and even antinous had all attempted to speak of him to the emperor, but each was sharply repulsed and taught that hadrian was little inclined to pardon a wound to his artists sanity. but the sovereign also proved that he had a good memory for benefits he had received, for once, when a dish was set before him consisting of cabbage and small sausages he smiled, and taking out his purse filled with gold pieces, he ordered a chamberlain to take it in his name to doris, the wife of the exicted gate comfortable with the widow. the ground had long burnt under his feet, and the money in his pocket, he was now possessed of ample means to acquire a good new slave, perhaps, if he threw old sebek into the bargain, they might even suffice to procure him a handsome greek, who might teach the children to read and write. he could direct his first attention to the external appearance of the new member of his household, if he were a scholar as well, he would feel justified in the high price he expected to be obliged to pay for him. as keraunus approached the slave market he said, not without some conscious emotion at his own paternal devotion: all for the credit of the house, all, and only, for the children. arsinoe carried out her intention of staying with selene; her father was to fetch her on his way home. after he was gone, hannah and mary left the two sisters together, for they supposed that they must wish to discuss a variety of things without the presence of strangers. as soon as the girls were alone arsinoe began: your cheeks are rosy, selene, and you look cheerful ah and i, i am so happy so happy because you are to fill the part of roxana that is very nice too, and who would have thought only yesterday morning that we should be so rich today. we hardly know what to do with all the money. we yes, for father has sold two objects out of his collection for six thousand drachmae. oh cried selene