

which had wasted a whole life to discover what had led martin originally to believe that he had a claim to the blandamer peerage. he found, perhaps, an additional incentive in an interest which he was beginning unconsciously to take in anastasia joliffe, whose fortunes might be supposed to be affected by these investigations. but in a little while westray noticed a change in the organists attitude as touching the papers. mr sharnall evinced a dislike to the architect examining them further; he began himself to devote a good deal more time and attention to their study, and he kept them jealously under lock and key. westrays nature led him to resent anything that suggested suspicion; he at once ceased to concern himself with the matter, and took care to show mr sharnall that he had no wish whatever to see more of the documents. as for anastasia, she laughed at the idea of there being any foundation underlying these fancies; she laughed at mr sharnall, and rallied westray, saying she believed that they both were going to embark on the quest of the nebuly coat. to miss euphemia it was no laughing matter. i think, my dear, she said to her niece, that all these searchings after wealth and fortune are not of god. i believe that trying to discover things and she used things with the majestic comprehensiveness of the female mind is generally bad for man. if it is good for us to be noblemen and rich, then providence will bring us to that station; but to try to prove ones self a nobleman is like star gazing and fortune telling. idolatry is as the sin of witchcraft. there can be no blessing on it, and i reproach myself for ever having given dear martins papers to mr sharnall at all. i only did so because i could not bear to go through them myself, and thought perhaps that there might be cheques or had before been imagined but one. this strait bears his name, and is often traversed by vessels from new south wales returning home by way of cape horn. in his majestys ship warsprite passed through this strait in company with the volage, twenty eight guns, being the first english line of battleship which had ever made the attempt. a few years since, captain stewart, commanding a colonial vessel out of port jackson, discovered another strait, which cut off the extreme southern point, making it a separate island that bears his name, and now almost every year our sealers and whalers are making additional and useful discoveries along its coasts. these islands lie between lat. ° and ° s. and long. ° and ° e. the opening of the land to which we were now opposite, and which was our destined port, the accurate eye of cook had observed, but did not attempt the entrance; and it is only about ten years since, when the two store ships, the dromedary and coromandel, loaded with spars on the coast, that a small vessel attending on those ships first crossed the bar; but although they took soundings and laid down buoys, the commanders of the large vessels were afraid of attempting the entrance, which proved their good sense, for their great draught of water would have rendered the undertaking more hazardous than the risk was worth. yet during my residence in this country two large vessels crossed the bar, and recrossed it heavily laden, without the slightest accident one the harmony, of london, tons burden; the other the elizabeth, of sydney, of nearly equal tonnage but in proof that it is not always safe, a few you will have the opportunity of showing whether you really are capable of walking on your own feet. first go to railthu and greet the pious nikon in my name, and tell him that i remain here on the mountain, for after long praying in the church i have found myself unworthy of the office of elder which they offered me. then get yourself carried by some ships captain across the red sea, and wander up and down the egyptian coast. the hordes of the blemmyes have lately shown themselves there; keep your eye on them, and when the wild bands are plotting some fresh outbreak you can warn the watch on the mountain peaks; how to cross the sea and so outstrip them, it will be your business to find out. do you feel bold enough and capable of accomplishing this task yes so i expected now may the lord guide you. i will take care of your father, and his blessing and your mothers will rest upon you if you sincerely repent, and if you now do your duty. you shall learn that i am a man, cried hermas with sparkling eyes. my bow and arrows are lying in your care, i will fetch them and then aye you shall see whether you sent the right man on the errand. greet my father, and once more give me your hand. paulus grasped the boys right hand, drew him to him, and kissed his forehead with fatherly tenderness.