

to arches than to arched eyebrows. westray coloured again, and put his hand in his breast pocket. could he have been so foolish as to leave those half finished lines on his desk for lord blandamer or anyone else to see no, they were quite safe; he could feel the sharp edge of the paper folded lengthways, which differentiated them from ordinary letters. we shall just have time to go up to the roof space, if you care to do so, he suggested, changing the subject. i should like to show you the top of the transept groining, and explain what we are busy with at present. it is always more or less dark up there, but we shall find lanterns. certainly, with much pleasure. and they climbed the newel staircase that was carried in the north east pier. clerk janaway had been hovering within a safe distance of them as they went their round. he was nominally busy in putting things straight for the sunday, before the church was shut up; and had kept as much out of sight as was possible, remembering how he had withstood lord blandamer to the face a week before. yet he was anxious to meet him, as it were, by accident, and explain that he had acted in ignorance of the real state of affairs; but no favourable opportunity for such an explanation presented itself. the pair had gone up to the roof, and the clerk was preparing to lock up for westray had a key of his own when he heard someone coming up the nave. it was mr sharnall, who carried a pile of music books under his arm. hallo he said to the clerk, what makes you so late i expected to have to let myself in. i thought you would have been off an hour ago. well, things took a bit longer to night than usual to put away. he broke off, for there was a little noise somewhere above them in the scaffolding, and went on in what was meant for a whisper: mr westrays taking his lordship round; theyre up in the roof now. dye hear back a few months ago. but i need not bother you with all this; what i really wanted was to ask you if you would give me some idea of the scheme of restoration which it is proposed to undertake at the minster. until last week i had not heard that anything of the kind was in contemplation. his tone was measured, and a clear, deep, voice gave weight and sincerity to his words. his clean shaven face and olive complexion, his regular features and dark eyebrows, suggested a spaniard to westray as he spoke, and the impression was strengthened by the decorous and grave courtesy of his manner. i shall be delighted to explain anything i can, said the architect, and took down a bundle of plans and papers from a shelf. i fear i shall not be able to do much this evening, lord blandamer said; for i have to catch the train to london in a short time; but, if you will allow me, i will take an early opportunity of coming over again. we might then, perhaps, go to the church together. the building has a great fascination for me, not only on account of its own magnificence, but also from old associations. when i was a boy, and sometimes a very unhappy boy, i used often to come over from fording, and spend hours rambling about the minster. its winding staircases, its dark wall passages, its mysterious screens and stalls, brought me romantic dreams, from which i think i have never entirely awakened. i am told the building stands in need of extensive restoration, though to the outsider it looks much the same as without opening it said, youll be wanting to hear how things turned out. ive already got the contract in my pocket, almost. hes a charming man, your deputy director hes got his dangers, though. he laughed as he shook k.s hand and wanted to make him laugh with him. but to it once more seemed suspicious that the manufacturer did not want to show him the papers and saw nothing about his comments to laugh at. chief clerk, said the manufacturer, i expect the weathers been affecting your mood, has it youre looking so worried today. yes, said raising his hand and holding the temple of his head, headaches, worries in the family. quite right, said the manufacturer, who was always in a hurry and could never listen to anyone for very long, everyone has his cross to bear. had unconsciously made a step towards the door as if wanting to show the manufacturer out, but the manufacturer said, chief clerk, theres something else id like to mention to you. im very sorry if its something thatll be a burden to you today of all days but ive been to see you twice already, lately, and each time i forgot all about it. if i delay it any longer it mite well lose its point altogether. that would be a pity, as i think what ive got to say does have some value. before had had the time to answer, the manufacturer came up