

The hero openly visits the Institution for Novitiates seventy miles from Dublin, and, after some difficulty, persuades the broken-down Jack Gray to give up his calling, on condition of Gertrude sending him a note assuring him of her continued affection. Foolishly, Lancaster stays to dinner with the ecclesiastics, and, though careful not to indulge in drugged wine and cigars, allows himself to be driven by a supposed servant of the institution some miles to the railway station. In a dark part of the road he is pulled down from his seat, chloroformed into unconsciousness, and carried off. He awakes after a long time, a prisoner in a strongly guarded but fairly well furnished room in a religious house, and soon Ritzroom appears to let him know that there he must remain till the fortnight's novitiate of Jack and Gertrude is past, and their vows are irrevocably taken. Lancaster is a brave, even tempered, cool-headed fellow; and not a bad theologian, evincing a supreme contempt for Romish doctrine, practice and pretensions, such as at once irritates Ritzroom and inspires him with respect. The priest longs to gain over this strong man, as he has gained Gray, the scholar and man of social culture, to be a mighty engine in England's perversion. But the Father cannot be constantly with the cheerful prisoner, who discovers two things, first, that he is in the confessional annex to a nunnery which holds Gertrude, and that Father Relly is one of the Father Confessors. Through him he gains out of door interviews with Gertrude, and accidentally with her beautiful, romantic, and cloister-hating confidante, Sister Constance. To the latter he declares his love, which, after much hesitation, is accepted, when Ritzroom appears on the scene, only to be knocked down, while Lancaster gets over the wall and escapes. Jack Gray and Gertrude Winthrop take their vows, and in time he becomes the fashionable preacher of his order, while she becomes abbess of her convent. They have a final meeting, at which, so changed are they in the hard coldness of their air and features, that they survey each other with half indifferent respect, half loathing for their mutual death in life.

Lancaster puts all sorts of machinery in motion to find Constance. He traces her to a conventual house of correc-