

this seems, I confess, to me a stronger witness than any actual miracles to the inner reality of the truths which the nature of man thus symbolised. That men should have imagined for themselves the clouds and thunders of Sinai bears witness to the Divine law very much more impressively than the mountain itself could have done had it smoked like all the chimneys of Glasgow. That men could have imagined God dying for their own sins is far more significant than any such actual death; and nothing can show more strongly their affinity to the soul of the Universe than the fact that they invented the story of the Fall themselves, to account for their division from that towards which they are always striving."

"Admirably—grandly said!" exclaimed Mr. Brompton with enthusiasm. "The whole thing is so simple—so straightforward—so nobly and completely satisfying, the moment we escape from theology to the healthy *terra firma* of ethics."

The conference, however, was here finally closed, not by the fact of its having come to its logical conclusion, but by something still more decisive—the advent of the servants with tea; and by another advent also—that of a feminine figure, escorted by Glanville's confidential attendant, Jackson. The figure was graceful in the extreme, and was draped in a coral-coloured dust cloak, which spoke of a recent journey. Glanville at once recognised it. He had seen it at the railway junction not many days ago. "Ah," said Mrs. Vernon, "here is my niece Stephanie." Lord Restormel turned round in his chair, with an indolent look of inquiry, and his eyes, judges of women, made him for the time forget the nature of alleged revelations, and the fate of traditional Christianity.

### XIII

MISS STEPHANIE LEIGHTON, when first she lifted her veil, revealed a face which was older and less beautiful than Glanville had been led to anticipate by his sight of her at