heaven situated above the earth is an absurdity now for all of us. ' *What is up in Galilee*,' he said, '*would be down at the Antipodes*,' and the '*literal physical departure of a body through trackless space*,' would be perfectly meaningless even if it were not incredible. What then, according to him, was the miracle of the Ascension in reality? It was an optical illusion, he says, to which Christ in his Omnipotence resorted, in order to teach his disciples, who knew nothing of science, that, his temporal work being over, he was returning to the bosom of the Eternal. The utmost the Archdeacon can do in his desperate struggle for orthodoxy is to offer us two alternatives : The Ascension was either a fable or the trick of an Indian juggler. Now, Mrs. Vernon, which do you believe yourself? You asked whether, though we rejected many of our miraculous beliefs, we might not still cling to some. If our belief in the Ascension—the crowning miracle of them all—can be only defended in ways like the Archdeacon's, do you really retain that? Or, how many do you retain of the others ? "

" Not many, I am afraid," said Mrs. Vernon gravely. " But it takes one's breath away to have it all put before one."

After this there was silence for some moments. It was presently broken by Mr. Hancock, who said in his alertest manner, " Well, since it seems that we are all of one opinion, and have answered the question which we set out to discuss, namely, the question of why the world, which apparently includes us all, is no longer able to believe in the traditional religion of miracle, I may, I suppose, declare that our first Conference is ended."

" Alistair," exclaimed Glanville, turning round to Seaton, " why have you said nothing ? Why has the oracle been dumb ? "

" I have said nothing," replied Seaton, " because I agree with all that has been said. But I don't see why Mrs. Vernon need regret the beliefs she has lost. In getting rid of the long legend of miracles, we are only getting rid of a system of sublime symbolism ; and our knowledge that it was merely