

by our human affections! You alone suffice to shatter into dust the haughty creeds of the misanthrope and Pharisee. And your fidelity to my erring self has taught me ever to love, to serve, to compassionate, to respect, the community of God's creatures to which — noble and elevated though you are — you yet belong!"

He ceased, overpowered with the rush of his own thoughts. And Alice was too blest for words. But in the murmur of the sunlit leaves, in the breath of the summer air, in the song of the exulting birds, and the deep and distant music of the heaven-surrounded seas, there went a melodious voice that seemed as if Nature echoed to his words, and blessed the reunion of her children.

Maltravers once more entered upon the career so long suspended. He entered with an energy more practical and steadfast than the fitful enthusiasm of former years; and it was noticeable amongst those who knew him well, that while the firmness of his mind was not impaired, the haughtiness of his temper was subdued. No longer despising man as he is, and no longer exacting from all things the ideal of a visionary standard, he was more fitted to mix in the living world, and to minister usefully to the great objects that refine and elevate our race. His sentiments were, perhaps, less lofty, but his actions were infinitely more excellent, and his theories infinitely more wise.

Stage after stage we have proceeded with him through the MYSTERIES OF LIFE. The Eleusinia are closed, and the crowning libation poured.

And Alice! — will the world blame us if you are left happy at the last? We are daily banishing from our law-books the statutes that disproportion punish-