

nineteen I never knew what fear was. A sudden momentary start, such as people often term 'a great fright,' I had often known; but never until then did I know what it really was to feel dread sickening terror fix its cold grip upon my very heart, taking from me for ever the reckless hardihood of ignorance, and making courage, in future, the steady reasoned action of practised self-control.

Apart from hereditary influences I have always regarded myself as a sort of incarnate French revolution; not, however, a revolt against oppression and exaction strained to the breaking point, but against repression and extinction of freedom and independence, strained beyond endurance by the demands of society. It is difficult in these days of comparative freedom and gradual effacement of social distinctions to picture clearly, even to oneself, what the life of the so-called upper classes was when I was a child; especially that life as exemplified within the precincts of such a cathedral close as that of Wichborough.

The Chapter of Wichborough was not a specially wealthy one, but it had rare attractions for men of a certain stamp, if they chanced to possess fortune enough to render them careless about a few hundreds more or less of income. The neighbourhood was beautiful, the number of good country houses within easy range exceptionally large, the Cathedral itself was magnificent, and the Canons' houses were large, well-built, and commodious. For a man possessed of private fortune, and that sort of refinement which shrinks from the jolting and friction of the working world, and contact with vulgar, common-place troubles and worries, no more charming sojourn in this vale of tears could have been found, or one from which the christian duty of bearing one another's burden could be inculcated with more perfect certainty of an absolutely unbiassed view of the subject.

These were not days of undisturbed calm in the Church of England. The Liberal movement, the Hampden storm, the Tracts for the Times, had all ruffled, or were ruffling the serene calm of ecclesiastical repose. Of these things I, of course, knew nothing, but I am inclined to think they were only heard of in