

boy's words would have been blasphemy. Now they merely express what nine-tenths of every class are thinking."

"Do you remember, Restormel," said Glanville, "that, when you and I were at Rome together, you used often to dip into the folios of the scholastic philosophers? People who have never read them laugh at these men to-day: but all the knowledge that was then within human reach found its highest and most logical expression in their doctrines of God and man. Knowledge then overarched life like a firmament, which reverberated the humblest word of faith which the peasant faltered. But now matters are turned upside down. The firmament now reverberates, not faith but denial. The most ignorant blasphemer in the street, or the youngest little infidel in the dock, however unable to defend his doubts himself, knows that he need merely shout them in the first words that come to him, and all the heaven of knowledge will murmur his words back again."

"You're still at it, I see," said a rich lazy voice which seemed to drag heavily under a load of sluggish good-nature. The speaker was Captain Jeffries. "I've come," he said, "to ask for a cigar. I don't want to interrupt you. But, all the same," he continued, sinking into a chair, "I thought about something just now which reminded me of what was said at dinner. It's to do with dogs and horses. You know, Rupert, I can't say that I go with you—not altogether anyhow—in what you said about Marcus. Whatever else a man can't help doing, I maintain that a gentleman *can* help cheating at cards. But," continued Captain Jeffries, having enunciated this new psychological doctrine, "I've had hounds that were born wrong 'uns—it's the oddest thing in the world—surly brutes from the very day they were littered. The rest of the pack hated them. And then mares too—I daresay you all of you know this—you have mares sometimes that won't look at a horse. I suppose my wife," said Captain Jeffries, exhibiting an opinion of her not shared by his intimates, "I suppose, if they were women, my wife would regard them as saints, and have a