

EXCLUSIA

TABLEAU IX. The next moment I was once more amongst the crowd of starving men and women in front of the building. Gradually the light of day seemed to fade away, and in the darkness a great white sheet was dropped over the face of the building. Out of the North a dazzling star appeared; shooting a circle of bright white light right into the centre of the sheet. The crowd ceased their shrieking and stood awe-struck, but I remembered the pictures on the wall of my room, and was not surprised when a wonderful scene was thrown in the centre of the sheet. It represented a great fertile valley, covered with a rich harvest of fruits and cereals, and the people of the land were moving in and out, reaping the harvest, and I saw they were a happy and contented people. In the middle of the valley I noticed a wide river with numerous branches which carried fertility through the whole valley. Suddenly! there was a roar as if all the cannons in the world had been fired off at once. After the smoke and dust had cleared away I saw, at the top of the valley, where the river had entered, a lofty mountain had been thrown up and the river had ceased to flow down the valley. Then the crops and the herbage and the happiness and the content passed away, leaving only a rugged, arid waste; and the people of the valley grew less and less in number until all had disappeared, and a desolate silence reigned; as I saw flashed across the summit of the mountain the words—'Exclusion and its result'—But the people gathered round me could not see the writing, for the Spirit had not touched them. I listened to what they were saying, and one said to the others—'It is a warning to us'—and the others cried out—'Rats! What are you giving us? It is nothing but a moving picture show.' But I remembered what the Spirit of the Night had said about the natural artery, and was glad when the sun shone again and the picture faded away. After this, the Spirit took me back into the