

within the hero's soul. The valiant warrior has his reward at last, but it is ten years in coming—ten long years! With a heroine who needs ten years to find out the state of her feelings, and a hero who takes as long to come to the important point, it is little wonder if the modern, busy reader is in danger of losing patience. But Savage Keith Rickman is not an ordinary hero but a strange, wonderful character, and Miss Sinclair has drawn him with a masterly skill and a rare combination of delicacy and power. He is the possessor of the "divine fire," that mysterious, heaven-born gift men call genius; he possesses, too, that inexplicable something termed magnetism, but he is a complex construction,—exceedingly complex,—and he is six different things besides a poet. Although having given manifestations of extraordinary genius at an early age, the divine fire burned unsteadily; the poet element was in danger of being crushed by the conflicting forces that went to make up this very interesting human medley. Like many another youthful poet and dreamer, Keith Rickman was inclined to seek for inspiration in strange places, and to offer the incense from his sacred fire on altars by no means divine. But the erring prodigy met his fate, as the prosiest do sometimes, and for him fate brought salvation. The glare of the crowded London streets, through which he was wont to chase the Fugitive Joy, ever alluring, ever eluding, was forgotten in the clear, steady light of Lucia Harden's eyes, magnetic, like his own, but softly revealing the beauty of a soul whose unconscious mission was to lead men "onward and upward"; while the low music of the Variety Theatre, where he had sought for "life," died away forever in the exquisite melody of Beethoven's Sonata Appassionata, played by the woman who had enthralled his soul; even recourse to champagne was no longer necessary, since a cup of innocent black coffee offered by Lucia, and drunk in her company, produced the sublimest kind of inspired intoxication. The wonderful effect on the young poet's life of the entrance into it of this woman, whose chief beauty was "from within," how it transformed him, how it helped him to rise superior to the accidents of birth and environment, how, inspired by it, he triumphed over all obstacles, and even conquered a cockney accent, how he shivered and starved in a miserable garret, repelling all temptations while he paid a debt of honor that separated him from the goal of his desires, how his