

THE LAND OF THE SPIRIT

her famished soul. Like her, she had been betrayed, and, like her, at the instance of society had been dropped back into perdition with her child by that child's father, whoever he might be. In her despair she had destroyed herself. This child is the daughter of despair.'

"He stood away from her and left her in a space all by herself—a pitiful, little, shrunken wisp of a girl. 'There she sits,' he said, with his eyes on her, 'the embodiment, the incarnation of all the wrongs of womanhood throughout the ages—image of the holiest creation of God; born with the innocence of the babe, stamped with beauty, formed for motherhood. Abandoned by her father. Soiled, defiled by man for his mere pleasure; victim of his brutality; ruined for his lust; cast out for his selfishness, trampled on for his hypocrisy, and at last slain for his revenge. You may take her; she is wholly in your power. You may bind her little feet with irons, and strangle her poor voice with your instruments of vengeance, but by the justice of God, which