

from all that may lend a zest to the ambitions of natural men. Dynasties may rise and fall; kingdoms may pass from hand to hand, like wine decanters; battles may be lost or won, but I neither know nor care.

"Look on me as I now am, and then choose. Shall your fate be this of mine? Or shall it be that other, which you are even now dreaming? I have brought you here to save you from yourself, from that which I have become and endured. Deny yourself this one curiosity, and you gain love, life and happiness with a woman worthy to be a queen, your equal, your mate in every respect, your superior in the experience and heredity necessary to battle with the New World conditions on this continent. Deny yourself this, and you win a future, and perchance, honor and achievement. What if you remain in ignorance of your origin! Thousands on this continent know not, and care not who their grandsires and great grandsires were. It is true that to you this means immeasurably more; but this is the one sacrifice that Fate asks of you.

"If you refuse, you will lose what I believe to be more than life—your love for a good woman. I can say no more. I have told you what no other mortal could have drawn from me. Why I do this for you, I cannot say. It is a part of the mystery, which I had determined should die with me. If to-night you decide to risk all, and become as I am, you alone shall know all which it is my doom to experience; and believe me, there is a kind of misery in this world known to a few, but which is more acute than the common woes of mankind. I would save you, I repeat. The world knows me only