

Their sole occupation is to heap system upon system: hesitating when they should affirm, they are bent upon each other's destruction. And these conflicts of thought have no longer the serenity of olden times. No wonder that the intellectual world is now-a-days a chaos, where all struggle confusedly, the pandemonium of all errors. But why have they spoken of ancient and modern philosophy? Does philosophy grow older? Can truth change? Doubt again takes possession of my soul: Yet I had hoped so much from the presence of the sages! O light! O truth!

—Act 3.—

SCENE 1

[At rising of curtain Faustinus walks in excitedly.]

FAUSTINUS.

They have come the sages of the past, they have been with me; Their words have filled my soul with delight! The bishop and the monk especially, seem to have brought with them the eternal oracles: they were not men, but angels of light. The sun of truth has not yet reached its zenith in my soul, I see but shadows! ... O God! That I may see! That all difficulties may vanish! I wish (Enter Positivus.)

SCENE 2

POSITIVUS

Hang yourself Faustinus! I have seen Trilby and you were not there. Exquisite! Incomparable! an enchantment! a fascination! unrivaled beauties and harmonies! and what I feel in that world that speaks loves and dies before your eyes! Little Billee Mrs. Bagot, Gecho, and especially that fiendish magician Svengali, who hypnotizes Trilby and gives her the gift of song.

But Trilby, Trilby especially is the charm, is the beauty of this grand drama. O if you had heard her sing you would have thought her a heavenly nightingale! She sang even upon her death bed and died in an hypnotic trance crying out, "Svengali Svengali Svengali" That's the sublime, that's the beautiful, friend!

I am really sorry you were not there. We learn more in a night at such a grand drama than in all the old books of philosophers. But how, Faustinus, you do not answer me, you do not even notice me, you look feverish! Tell me what ails you?

FAUSTINUS [warily.]

I have seen them! They have passed before me! They have spoken to me!